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THE NEAR EAST.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 426.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

All doubts whether Germany would at the eleventh hour decline to sign the Treaty of Peace were set at rest on Saturday afternoon, when her representatives attached their signatures to the document, which was afterwards duly signed by the delegates of all the Allied and Associated Powers, with the exception of China. From the spectacular point of view the ceremony would appear to have been somewhat disappointing, but the importance of the event has been, perhaps, more justly appraised throughout the world than was the case with regard to the Armistice, and this country at least has hailed it with a sober satisfaction in marked contrast to the ebullition of last November. It is satisfactory to be able to add that Herr Muller and his fellow Delegates, so far from attempting any imitation of Count Brockdorff-Rantzau's truculence and ill-manners, were studiously correct in their bearing; that they put forward no protest during the ceremony; and that they subsequently stated that they had signed the Treaty without any reservations, and that Germany would do her best to fulfil its terms.

The full text of the historic document, now available to the public, adds little or nothing to what was already known regarding the effects of the Treaty on the Near East. It may be noted, however, in passing, that the stipulation that only representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, and Roumania shall constitute the European Commission of the Danube is expressly stated to be "a provisional measure." For the rest, the arrangements regarding Egypt, Morocco, and other parts of the regions with which THE NEAR EAST is solely concerned, call for no further detailed examination at present. Now that the Treaty is signed it is to be hoped that it will speedily be ratified; and that the work of completing the Treaty with Austria and settling the terms to be offered to Bulgaria and to Turkey will proceed more rapidly than has been the case with the first, and by far the most important of the series. Not till then shall we be in a position to judge how the Balkans, Arabia, and other parts of the Near East will regard the new map of the world that is now being drawn: not till then shall we know how far certain States will allow themselves to be carried by disappointment of their hopes, or whether certain contingent threats that have been made are to be translated into action.

In view of the past record of South-Eastern Europe, it would no doubt have been almost impossible for the Paris Conference to give even approximate satisfaction to all the States of that region; and it is not surprising, therefore, that there is a good deal of soreness already over decisions taken. Neither, perhaps, is it surprising that the proposed distribution of mandates for portions of the Turkish empire should be regarded with undisguised hostility by those who consider themselves able to dispense with the advice of any mandatory Power, and who declare that if they must have a tutor at all they would prefer one of their own choice. What is important in regard to such points is that the Council of Ten should make up its mind once and for all to avoid any ostrich-like policy of pretending that such unpleasantness does not exist, and that they should grapple with the difficulties courageously. By this time they should surely be in a position to know what remedies to apply to disease with such clearly marked symptoms: if the knife is called for it should be used; but if the surgeon is the only person likely to benefit by attendance on the patient, it would seem to be a good opportunity for the exercise of that self-sacrifice of which the world has heard so much of late. In any case it is to be hoped that nothing will be done that may leave a rankling sense of injustice behind, and that if sacrifices have to be made they will not all be asked from the smaller States.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, Mr. Ronald McNeill elicited from the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs a statement regarding Montenegro, which is reported on another page. It throws no blinding light upon the situation, but it serves the useful purpose of making it clear that the fate of Montenegro has not yet been definitely decided. The selection of Count de Salis to conduct the inquiry would appear to be a happy one, for he was formerly British Minister at Cettinje, and his knowledge of the country and its people should enable him to collect really trustworthy information.

The Turkish Delegates in Paris have been politely informed by M. Clemenceau, on behalf of the Allied and Associated Powers, that nothing could be gained by their longer stay at the present time in the French capital; and they have accordingly taken their departure. Their visit has not been in vain, since it has served to show that the Allies draw a very clear distinction between the Turk and the German. A cynic might be tempted to add that it may even have served to enlighten the Conference regarding the situation

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in Turkey. Be that as it may, Damad Ferid Pasha and his companions succeeded in obtaining a hearing, in setting out the Turkish case at some length, and in obtaining a reply from the Allies. If the latter appears to allow itself a little mild irony, the Turks, who are shrewd diplomatists, are not likely to display any resentment at the presence of a phrase or two that will have served to put their authors in good humour with themselves.

The text of the statement read on June 17 by Damad Ferid Pasha to the Council of Ten has now been published, and shows that the Turk has not lost his old skill in putting forward his defence—in which, to be sure, he has had plenty of practice. In effect, it puts all the responsibility for Turkey's joining in the war upon the inner ring of the Committee of Union and Progress, hinting that since the secret agreements between the Committee and the Kaiser's Government were unknown to the French and British Ministers at Constantinople, the Turks can hardly be blamed for not knowing of their existence. It points out that the Committee condemned 3,000,000 Moslems to death, besides massacring the Armenians; and it sums up the situation by likening the condition of the Turks under the Committee to that of the Russians under the Terrorists. It also refers to "the most deplorable excesses which have been committed to the hurt of the defenceless Moslem population" of Smyrna in the course of the Greek occupation. And it concludes with a strong plea that "a fresh parcelling out of the Ottoman Empire" may be avoided, as it "would entirely upset the balance in the East."

The most interesting portions of the Allies' reply to this memorandum are those in which they express their goodwill towards the Turkish people and their regret that considerations based on supposed religious rivalries should be introduced into the question of the fate of the various populations of the Ottoman Empire. The Council declares that it admires the excellent qualities of the Turkish people, but "it cannot admit that among those qualities are to be counted capacity to rule over alien races. The experiment has been tried too long and too often for there to be the least doubt of its result." This at least is definite, and it would seem that here we have a case of one coming event casting a very clear-cut shadow before. The Council's deprecation of the introduction of religious sentiment into discussions upon what are in essence purely temporal concerns will be widely shared. Unfortunately, however, the harm has been done, and the factor, having been introduced into the calculation, cannot be ignored.

Yet another seizure of seditious literature in Cairo is reported by *The Times* correspondent. It took place at a "secret" printing press, and incidentally it resulted in the destruction of a quantity of similar stuff at Azhar University. In the latter case, the destruction appears to have been the work of the plotters themselves, who desired to prevent its seizure. It is unfortunate indeed that El Azhar should have been mentioned so frequently in connection with these disturbances, and that its students cannot employ their time better than in the production of such "literature" as that of which our Cairo Letter this week contains a specimen.

India may fairly be said to have been "out of the bill" last week so far as this country is concerned, and the information which reached the public was limited to a few items concerning Afghanistan, and to those official telegrams regarding the progress of the monsoon which enlighten the expert meteorologist but leave the ordinary reader cold. In regard to Afghan matters we are prepared to be patient: Oriental diplomacy has canons of its own, and the *coup manqué* must be followed by the tedious procedure designed to save the faces of its authors. Meanwhile, the numerous political deputations from India are busily engaged on spade-work, but so far they have secured little recognition in the Press: the country agrees that a new Constitution is wanted, but at present we can detect no signs that it is interested in the details of the reforms.

This attitude is reflected in the small amount of attention devoted by the Press to Lord Curzon's speech on Monday, when he moved the resolution required to enable the Joint Committee to be set up. We could wish that more people had been given an opportunity of reading what the ex-Viceroy had to say, for he has undoubtedly a right to be heard. It is, of course, the fashion just now for Indian politicians to abuse him and all his works, but by and by when the peasants come to their own it will be remembered that he gave the impetus to that development of agriculture and co-operation which in the eyes of the future historian will bulk even more largely than the achievements of Lord Morley or Mr. Montagu. He still thinks of the peasants first, and his contention that they must not be disappointed or deserted will, we hope, be kept prominently before the Joint Committee throughout its strenuous labours.

Apart from that point, Lord Curzon presented the case of India very fairly. He stood firmly by the principle of progressive realisation of responsible government: he did not stultify the Joint Committee by binding his colleagues in advance to any particular machinery for bringing that principle into action; and he recognised fully that India is on the move, and that his experience gained fourteen years ago is not directly applicable to the present situation. We welcome in particular his warning against vain hopes of an immediate advent of the millennium: a period of unrest and fermentation may well, as he said, lie before India, and indeed before most of Asia, but that is a reason for acting wisely, not for sitting still. The problem of the moment is to provide institutions by means of which the new and powerful forces may be exerted for the benefit of the country; we cannot hope for perfection, but we are bound to seek for something which will work for the time being, and lead the way to a rather brighter future.

In an interlude of Lord Curzon's speech the Marquess of Crewe mentioned that the report of his Committee on the India Office is now complete. The Committee was appointed in January last, and its members have thus devoted approximately as much time to a single institution as Lord Southborough and his colleagues spent on the constitution of electorates for the whole of India; let us hope that the time has been well spent, and that the result will be to provide an India Office of the type required by the new conditions. It is improbable that any office in this country could do much to help forward the work which Lord Chelmsford will shortly take in hand, but it might well make his task altogether impossible, and from this point of view the report is at least as important as those which have already seen the light.

The letter from Sir Valentine Chirol which we published last week may serve as a warning of the dangers of speaking in parables. We entirely accept the truth of the view urged by him that the powers granted to Indian Ministers must be closely correlated with the capacities of the electorate to which Ministers will ultimately be responsible: the protest to which he takes exception was not aimed at this correlation in itself, but rather at what seems to us the excessive insistence on administrative convenience in the settlement of its details, which bulks so largely in the constitutional discussion. The Dyarchy, if and when it comes, is bound in any case to be much less convenient than the system now in force; some formidable critics hold that it will prove to be unworkable in practice, and while we dissent from this view, we are bound to admit that its working will call for a certain amount of good-will on the part of all concerned. We want this to be clearly recognised from the start: no one can hope to be quite comfortable under the temporary constitution, and in our judgment it is a mistake to insist unduly on all the possible discomforts of the future. Let us all start on the journey determined to make the best of it, and perhaps we shall find that the discomforts will not be so great as some of us anticipate.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 9.

Nationalist Propaganda.

The extremists of the Nationalist Party have been far busier during the past week with their pens than with any open acts of aggression or defiance, and with the exception of an occasional futile attempt at getting up a demonstration, consisting of, perhaps a hundred young students and vagabonds, who hastened to disappear at the faintest alarm of a police patrol, there has been no disturbance of the public peace to speak of in Cairo, or, indeed, anywhere else. It is true that the Azhar still remains a centre for the meeting of the disaffected, and principally for the distribution of the leaflets daily issued by the Party.

The question has several times been mooted either of shutting the Azhar for the summer, or of making a raid and arresting the leaders of the various committees that hold their sessions there, as well as some of the most notorious of the regular speakers; but various considerations have led to what seems to many a mistaken toleration of undisguised seditious propaganda. Whether there is a mistake or not, a European can, perhaps, scarcely judge as well as an Egyptian. There can be little doubt that, if called upon by the Ministry, the British authorities would not hesitate to back it up with severe measures against the Azharist camarilla. The conclusion that we must come to, therefore, is that Mohammed Pasha Said is not disposed to employ force at present, but believes that he can defeat the revolutionaries by other means. And if the Premier is of this opinion, it would be presumptuous to criticise such an experienced, strong, and skilful fighter until we have seen the situation develop more distinctly. At first the committees were extremely insolent and threatening, and published death sentences even on the Sultan and the whole Ministry, if there was not a resignation within forty-eight hours. The following may be taken as a specimen of the fly-sheets disseminated every day from the Azhar. It is only of medium vigour, and others are more pungent and scathing in abuse:—

A "Literary Gem."

You howling wolves! You slaves of the stick! You likenesses of human beings! You traitors! You pillars of trouble! Have you forgotten that Egypt has smothered you with its blessings, has brought you up upon its soil and under its sky, and has given you the water of its Nile to drink? Have you no heart that feels, or eye that waters, or ear that hears? Fear God for yourselves' sake and for the sake of your children and country, and remember that a day will come when you will go back to God (to render your account). Do not make a bargaining market of this world. Vanities will not last long. Fear God, and know that the nation is watching you, and will expose and make public your deeds, so that everyone should know them. He, therefore, who does one atom of good or of evil will be compensated proportionately.

And you, children of Egypt! Call upon them to account for every little or big matter. Demand of them that which you demanded of the Rushdi Ministry, so that their Cabinet may fall and end where its predecessors ended. Do not be deceived by its declarations, for its promises are like a mirage which a thirsty man mistakes for water until he approaches it and finds it nothing.

And here we are, expecting what the future will bring in its train and what it is holding for us in store:

"Are they not timed for the morning,
And is not the morning near at hand?"

If, therefore, the Ministry atones for its past faults, upholds our efforts, strives for our interests, and stands firm against our enemies, we will testify to its patriotism and forget the past. But if that past is repeated and things made worse, we will fight the Ministry with sharp weapons and black hands, and it will become an example for others and a lesson to its like, for the Egyptian nation to-day is not the same as yesterday; events have waked it up. It will not allow the Ministry to go on erring for ever. Watch it, therefore, very strictly; dog its steps, and demand of it everything which you think is in the interests of the nation. Unite to protect your country and save it from the abyss into which it has fallen. Let there be no distinction between an employee and an agriculturer, for you are all the children of Egypt and the happy Nile. Remember that Egypt is now in a most critical situation, and you must save her. Egypt is in a deep abyss; pick her out. Egypt is in very narrow straits; give her larger room. Egypt is in a great calamity; dispel her griefs. Egypt is in a great sorrow; sympathise with her. Egypt is weighed down under a heavy burden; lift up her weight. Egypt is fighting a great fight; stand by her. Egypt is is in the grasp of the enemy; save her. Egypt is demanding independence; support her. Egypt wants freedom; back her up. Egypt is appealing to you; help her. Egypt turns to you; aid her. Egypt seeks shelter with you; show her hospitality. Egypt is proud of you; do not humiliate her. Egypt is happy in you; do not make her miserable. Egypt hates slavery; liberate her. Egypt now loves demonstrations; revive them. Egypt rejoices in strikes; do not make her sad. Egypt refuses to recognise the spies; kill them. Egypt hates the present (Anglophil) Ministry; make it fall. Egypt refuses the Protectorate; refuse it you too. Egypt suffers at the mere mention of the English (Inquiry) Commission; do not receive it. Egypt conjures you, in the name of God, not to betray her. Egypt prays for those interned, for they are her children, who have sacrificed themselves and their property for her, and have immortalised a good name which will last for ever.

Up, therefore, you Egyptians! Support Egypt, and respond to her call. This is the time for thinking heads and wise advisers. This is the grave hour, the critical time:

"This is the time of hard pulling:
Be severer, O hardships!"

Do not sleep, for your enemy sleeps not. Watch him, and do not hesitate to demand independence, and frustrate the efforts of the English. Fight against them until you drive them out, and Egypt will be given to the Egyptians.

The style of these leaflets is very varying. Some of them are written in the purest and most scholarly Arabic, and, side by side with these, is often, from a literary standpoint, very poor stuff. But, generally speaking, they are very much to the point, and easy for those who run to read. The authors are probably practised penmen, such as lawyers and journalists, or theologians and pundits from the Azhar.

This form of propaganda is comparatively new, although it was tried by Mustapha Kamel and Sheikh Abdul Aziz Shawish. In the last decade, however, the Press Law has placed an iron heel on every species of anti-Governmental literature, and the diurnal volley of abuse levelled at the Ministry, the British, and all the "spawn of Satan" that hinder Egypt from achieving sudden independence is supposed to be "secret," although it is distributed wholesale, or bought and sold in the streets and the big *cafés* and *patisseries* with very little attempt at concealment.

Counter Propaganda.

A certain number of other fly-sheets has also recently been noticed about Cairo which look like Governmental counter-propaganda, as they are mostly devoted to telling the Nationalists real home truths concerning Turks and Germans, and the benefits Egypt has received from the British Occupation. At least, such are rumoured to be circulated, though in proportion to the Committee fly-sheets the numbers of these seen are comparatively small. It is David with a sling and a stone against the Goliath of the Nationalists, gorged with money and applause, and rampant over the whole of Egypt. David, however, was the ultimate winner, and though it may or may not be with fly-sheet propaganda that he is wounded, there are pretty clear signs that the enemy is by no means so strong and confident as he would like to have the world believe. Mohammed Pasha Said and his colleagues are not at all boycotted,

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but, on the contrary, are being more and more assiduously waited upon, and their Court is steadily increasing at the Ministries, and especially at their own houses during the Ramadan nights. There is no longer ferocious talk of murdering anybody, and the foreign encouragement that was more than suspected of being always forthcoming in support of "independence" has grown suspiciously cold of late.

A More Hopeful Outlook.

It is too soon yet to predict complete victory for the new Cabinet, but it seems to have passed successfully through the first and the most difficult stage. A good start goes a long way in Egypt, where the tide turns quickly, where the herding instinct prevails, and where the power of the seated strong is worshipped by the muddled millions of the weak. It is because hitherto the strength has appeared to be on the other side, that there was not sufficient show of it in the policy or action adopted against the movement, that the masses so rapidly gathered round its reckless, neck-or-nothing leaders and swamped the country. If, however, a better man arises and proves himself to be such, the brief day of the new "independence Nationalism" will soon draw to a close. The return one by one of members of the Said Pasha delegation, and particularly of the foreign secretaries and the special correspondents of the Cairo Press, from Paris augurs anything but well for the high hopes with which it deluded the people.

ATHENS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, June 13.

Echo of 1916.

The trial of those responsible for the 1916 outrages is still proceeding, and a host of witnesses continues to be examined daily. Up to the present only the witnesses for the prosecution have been heard. Some of these could only speak from hearsay or by common report, while others—those who were actually imprisoned in December, 1916, have given a mass of damning detail and facts. These have proved up to the hilt the fact that the Venizelists were attacked on December 2 without the slightest provocation, and in many cases brutally treated while in confinement. The Prosecutor for the Crown has made one or two speeches in which he used phrases that have given rise to a storm of criticism; in fact, one of the accused dared to rebuke him for these speeches, as also for the supposed discourtesy of addressing the prisoners in the singular. The prisoner in question is to be indicted afresh, as his rebuke is taken to mean that he is ill-disposed to the existing Government. The trial promises to be a long one, in spite of the fact that the Court sits until late every night.

The Visit of the Deputy Patriarch.

The Deputy Patriarch, his Grace M. Dorotheus, the highest dignitary in the Eastern Church and whose post has at all times exercised considerable influence in the politics of the Near East, arrived in Athens, coming from Paris, on June 7. He was given a splendid welcome by the representatives of the Government and the Church of Greece. A grand doxology was chanted on the day following his Grace's arrival at the Metropolis or Cathedral of Athens. His Grace has been entertained by both the Metropolitan and Holy Synod of Athens and by the Government. On Sunday last his Grace attended a review in the Stadium of the Public Schools of Athens. His Grace blessed the boys and girls, and also addressed a few words to them. The visit of his Grace ended yesterday, when he left on board the Greek cruiser Elli. He was attended on board by M. Dingas, Minister of Education and Public Worship, as representing the Government, and by the Metropolitan of Athens, with his Bishops, and was welcomed with a royal salute of twenty-one guns.

The Anniversary of the Fall of Constantinople.

On May 29-June 11, the anniversary of the taking of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453, a solemn Requiem Mass was chanted in the Church of Saint Constantine at Athens, in memory of the last Christian Emperor of Constantinople, Constantine Paleologos XI. His Grace the Metropolitan of Athens officiated, and afterwards addressed the congregation, comprised of representatives of the Government, the Municipality, and of the Associations of Greeks under Turkish rule, saying that this anniversary was not to be considered a day of ill-omen, but rather as a most holy one, since the last Christian Emperor of Constantinople had on that day preferred, like his predecessors, to die in defence of his faith and country.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 19.

The Question of the Minorities.

The Austrian Peace Terms contain clauses which the Roumanians are not inclined to accept with a good grace. The first of these refers to the parental solicitude of the League of Nations for the minorities. It should be remembered that the minorities accepted their incorporation in the State without any sign of reluctance. The full text of the proclamations of adhesion, of the Saxons of Transylvania, for example, has been accessible to readers of The Near East. These proclamations proffered the loyal collaboration of the minorities subject to certain terms and stipulations being respected, terms and stipulations already foreseen and recognised in the Acts of Union of the newly united provinces, by which equality of rights are assured to all without distinction of race or creed. They therefore provide for the satisfaction of the rightful claims of the minorities. Indeed, equality of political and civic rights was the dominant note of all these acts of union, and it is only natural that this thought should have been uppermost in the minds of the Roumanians beyond the boundaries of the old kingdom, who, in Transylvania, for example, suffered too much from inequality of treatment in the past to desire a persistence of the old conditions. They are not a Balkan people, nor are they endowed with a Balkan mentality.

At the present time, when reorganisation is proceeding throughout Transylvania, the rights of the minorities have been strictly respected. A great part of the wealth of Transylvania is in the hands of the Saxons, who enjoyed special privileges under the Hungarian Government. None the less, not one of these has been made to feel that circumstances have changed. The same applies to the Magyars, not one of whom has been deprived of his office or functions, provided that he has taken the oath of fealty.

It is unlikely that any clauses providing for the extension of a special protection of the minorities on the part of a League of Nations can improve existing conditions. The principle, as such, is considered offensive in Roumania, and derogatory to the sovereign rights of the nation. Much would, of course, depend upon its form and manner of application. Meanwhile it is certain that no good can come from uncalled-for meddlesomeness. It is, further, most undesirable that the foreigner should enjoy special privileges conferred by the League of Nations, such as the right of appeal to its tribunals or representatives, in addition to the rights which he shares equally with every Roumanian citizen. Any measure calculated to emphasise or create differences or distinctions between any of the citizens or groups of citizens of the New Roumania, or of any State, for the matter of that, can only be characterised as odious. And the minorities would not be the last to subscribe to this opinion.

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 18.

Present Condition of Bulgaria.

After the two catastrophes that overtook her—the first when, at the close of the Turco-Balkan War, she had to fight her former allies, Serbia and Greece, and subsequently Roumania and Turkey, losing, as a result, the fruits of her former victory over the Turks; and the second when she joined in the Great War—and especially at the end of last year, Bulgaria could not have a stable Government. The Cabinet of the three Liberal groups, headed by Dr. Radoslavoff, followed a policy of servility towards the Central Powers. Their extreme corruption and degeneration after the separate peace of Brest-Litovsk, when Germany, intoxicated by her apparent success, began to neglect Bulgaria, and to withdraw all favours granted to her as the price of her alliance with the Central Powers, suddenly alarmed the nation, which began to realise that it was to be treacherously treated by its Allies. The insolent Turkish claims, which were backed by Germany, to the restitution of territory along the Maritza valley, exasperated the Bulgarians to such an extent that revolts took place not only in the rear of the Army, but also at the front.

These demonstrations greatly alarmed King Ferdinand, and in order to appease the wrath of the people he had to part with his favourite, M. Radoslavoff, and M. Malinoff was called upon to form a Cabinet. This the leader of the Democratic party succeeded in doing, drawing only on his own party and on the Radicals. Notwithstanding M. Malinoff's discretion and the excellence of his intentions, he was not able to cope with the treachery of Bulgaria's Allies and the policy of King Ferdinand; and consequently he was unable to satisfy the hopes of the nation and to save it by an immediate break with the Central Powers and the conclusion of a peace with the Entente. He was, indeed, obliged at the end of September (last year) to sue for a separate peace; but it was too late—the Macedonian front was smashed. His delegates, however, accompanied by Mr. Murphy, the American Minister at Sofia, succeeded in concluding an armistice with the Allied commander on comparatively good terms—the inviolability of the old territories of the kingdom and the administration of the Dobruja until its final fate should be decided by the Paris Conference.

What was regarded by the Bulgarians as the violation of the last-named stipulation compelled M. Malinoff to resign. He was succeeded by the famous and very able leader of the Narodniak party, M. Theodor Theodoroff, who became Prime and Foreign Minister, co-operating with two Democrats, one Zankovist, one Radical, two Moderate Socalists, and three Agrarians, to form a Cabinet. This Cabinet continued in office till April of this year; then a crisis broke out, which resulted in some uncertainty for about a fortnight; and finally M. Theodoroff succeeded in forming another Coalition Cabinet, which is still in existence. It does not include the Democratic Ministers, and the Left parties preponderate, with two Moderate Socialists, two Radicals, and three Agrarians. The last-named cannot, perhaps, be classed with the parties of the Left, being more akin to the *bourgeois* parties, the majority being well-to-do, and all of them possessing land. The new Government declared its foreign policy to be a *rapprochement* with the Great Entente Powers, and its internal policy to be the dissolution of the old Radoslavoff Chamber, the holding of fresh Parliamentary elections, and the punishment of those responsible for the war.

The Party Congress.

Almost all the political parties held their congresses at the beginning of this month, the majority being held in this city. The Liberals, M. Radoslavoff's party, adopted a resolution approving the Germanophil policy, which they have hitherto pursued; the Young Liberals, under the leadership of M. Toncheff, former Finance Minister under M. Radoslavoff, likewise endorsed their former Germanophil policy, and had the hardihood to add that they left to their successors a big and united Bulgaria! The Radicals pronounced in favour of a republic; while the Democratic congress adopted a resolution in favour of the present constitutional monarchic rule. The Moderate Socialists declared themselves in favour of democratic, republican rule; and the Extreme Socialists are conducting a propaganda in favour of a Soviet Republic on Russian lines. The Agrarians are ready to support the rule that responds to the wish of the majority of the nation, a general stabilisation of both the country's foreign and internal policy, and reparation of its ruined economic and financial conditions.

The activity of the congresses came to a close last Sunday, with the sitting of the congress of a new, small group, detached from the Extreme Socialists, and calling themselves Communists, or Anarchists, under the leadership of Harlakoff. This mysterious group held its sittings behind closed doors, and nobody is acquainted with the decisions reached.

Election Prospects.

Although the old Radoslavist Chamber has not yet been dissolved, and the date of the elections for the new Parliament has not yet been fixed, preparations for the first stages of the electoral campaign have already been begun. The leaders of the various parties are busily delivering orations to large gatherings of their supporters, and the party struggles are already very keen. In some places discreditable scenes have taken place, and meetings have been broken up by Extreme Socialists; but generally the campaign is going smoothly, and throughout the country order and tranquillity are preserved by the civil administrative authorities, and also by the local military garrisons.

Bulgaria and Peace Prospects.

General feeling here regarding the prospective Peace is very depressed. All sorts of rumours are being spread by unscrupulous Germanophils and *agents provocateurs*, specially sent by Bulgaria's neighbours; and the result is that everybody is nervous, and feeling is excited. Public opinion follows the proceedings of the Paris Peace Conference with the liveliest interest; and awaits with extraordinary impatience the decisions regarding Balkan problems, and especially, of course, the delimitation of the frontiers of the future Bulgaria. The bulk of the people, however, confidently expect that the sentence of the Paris areopagus will be clement and render justice to the national aspirations for the union of the whole Bulgarian race.

King Boris and the Nation.

The new and youthful occupant of the Bulgarian throne is very popular with his subjects. His purely Bulgarian upbringing and education, his attractive personality, his democratic sympathies, and the great interest he is displaying in the good government of the country have already made him a national favourite. On various occasions the masses have spontaneously manifested their good feeling for, and their admiration of, him, and the relations between King and people could not be more harmonious than they are.

GIFT OF THE KING OF THE HEJAZ.

The thoroughbred Arab horses which the King of the Hejaz presented to the King and the Prince of Wales have arrived in this country and been sent to the stables at Windsor, where they will be kept until they become accustomed to the climate. The animals, both with pedigrees of indisputable merit, bear the names of Soueidan and Soueidan-el-Saghir. The first is presented to the King and the other to the Prince of Wales. His Majesty's horse is between seven and eight years old, and stands about fifteen hands, while the Prince's horse, about four years of age, is slightly smaller.

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MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, June 17.

Restoration of Order.

Thanks to the prompt and stern action of the new Governor, General Plumer, coupled with the efficiency and moral effect on the agitators of the presence of armed naval forces, matters have settled down somewhat. There is, however, a smouldering feeling of discontent, bordering on danger point. The city of Valletta, usually gay from the presence of the naval and military, is now guarded and glum.

Immediately on his arrival the Governor issued a proclamation, detailing the seriousness of the deeds which had been done, the lawlessness which had been exhibited, and all this without any sign of a national protest. Amongst these specific offences he laid special stress on the hauling down of the British flag from the top of the Meteorological Station and the unwonted attack on the Military and Naval Union Club.

The ample provision of armed troops, pickets stationed at all the important points of vantage (which troops, by their very appearance, show that they are ready for the worst possible commotions or revolts), and a full enforcement of military law have cowed those who would so dearly desire to go on with their juvenile efforts of a species of undisciplined local "Bolshevism."

It is now possible to give further details of the damage which was done in the short time allowed the vandals when the trouble first broke out. As we have stated before, the offices and plant of the Daily *Malta Chronicle* were converted into a perfect wreck. Malta is in the unique and unfortunate position of possessing no complete English daily newspaper; its temple of learning, the Lyceum, is damaged and closed, as also are the Courts of Justice! Perhaps the greatest local loss of all has been the destruction of the fine flour mills belonging to Farrugea and Sons. These were first looted by the mob and then fired. Attempts are being made to secure some of the personal belongings stolen from other places, but up to the present time they have met with only slight success.

Dame Rumour has no fairer field to practice in than the island of Malta, and she naturally has been very busy during the past few days. It is common talk here that when a proper inquiry is instituted into the cause of the present discontent there will be some startling revelations. This remains to be seen. Several of the local notabilities, whose names are said to have figured on a hastily drawn-up "black list," have either fled or are in close local hiding. One thing is patent: no lasting political good can come of such disturbances, and this is being recognised by the various factions here, who are all attempting to saddle the blame on each other. To a certain extent the island is being chastised for its own folly. Commercial conditions locally have been critical for some time, but now, with hundreds thrown out of work owing to the late destruction, and with the leave of both the Army and Navy stopped, the shoe is pinching tighter all round.

The Turkish Prisoners.

H.M.S. Princess Ena has arrived from Constantinople, having on board two officers, twenty-four military escort, and 100 naval ratings, all British. She also carried sixty-six Turkish prisoners for detention in the island. Among these sixty-six Turkish prisoners were included several well-known political personages and high officials arrested by the British and Ottoman Governments. It is reported that among them are practically all the Ministers under the old regime, responsible for the Armenian massacres and other crimes and intrigues when the Young Turks reigned supreme.

Shipping Movements.

Despite local squabbles, the harbour is approaching its normal state, and the old liveliness and noise of the "Marina" is daily more in evidence. Among the chief movements is the arrival of the Benbow with relief crews for ten motor launches on the Danube. The Senator is expected at any moment, and so is the 20th Sweeping Flotilla, which is proceeding here from Harwich. The Rowan has left for Marseilles.

Russian Refugees.

The Russian refugees are still here, although a few have been enabled to leave for England and some Continental ports. At present there does not seem to have been any decision as to the matter of exchange, with the consequence that many of the refugees are poor in pocket though in reality rich.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Proposed Incorporation.

The party for "union with Greece" has begun to realise "with regret" that there is some opposition to the cry for incorporation in the Hellenic Kingdom, and that all "Greek" Cypriots do not by any means share in the view that Greek administration, in exchange for British, would be for the material advantage of the people. That this is so is indicated by recent articles in the Press, which, while still expressing confidence in the success of Greek aspirations, show a distinct and nervous modification in the tone of exultation which letters from the Deputation in London have done so much to encourage. Readers are warned to give no heed to such dissentient views, as they emanate from members of alien communities, or are due to the sinister influence of unpatriotic individuals. The writers proceed to impress upon all Greek Cypriots the need of a studied moderation in speech and demeanour, and of an attitude which will show how worthy the Hellenic nation everywhere is to rule alien communities, as has been proved by the example of Greek administration in Crete, in Thessaly, Macedonia, and Thrace, where Greek impartiality and justice have been welcomed. Let them, therefore, be prepared to act as worthily as their compatriots in those regions when put to the test And let the Moslem community in Cyprus be assured that they would have no cause to regret a change which they still continue so strenuously to oppose.

AMERICAN COMMISSION AT JAFFA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Jaffa, June 15.

The American Commission, under the presidency of Mr. Charles Crane, arrived at Jaffa on June 10, with the purpose of ascertaining the wishes of the inhabitants of Jaffa respecting the future Government. It has learnt that all Christian communities at Jaffa have unanimously asked that not only Palestine but Syria also should be under the British administration. The Mayor of Jaffa, Assem Bey El-Said, and members of his Municipal Council, together with the president and members of the Moslem-Christian Committee, have submitted to the said American Commission written statements containing their demands, the principal of which are the following:—1. Annexation of Palestine to Syria. 2. Restriction of Jewish emigration into Palestine. 3. That Great Britain should be the mandatory power to administer both Syria and Palestine.

The Commission left for Jerusalem yesterday to continue their work. They have left a good impression on the place.

A Lloyd's telegram dated Corfu, June 21, says:—On the occasion of the Allies' early departure from Corfu, their respective flags were hauled down last evening and the Greek hoisted this morning with military honours. There was tremendous enthusiasm and repeated cheers were raised for the British and Allied representatives who were present. The Greek flag was saluted by the French flagship.

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How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

An officer who was with our Salonika forces during the war, and who, now that the war is ended or ending, has returned to Greece, writes to me from Athens in a doleful strain. He says that the outskirts of Salonika, where once he was wont every morning to take a walk out of the city, are now infested with bandits, and that it is quite impossible to move outside the precincts of the town. Well, well! things are changing, and I confess that my old brigand blood is stirred not unpleasantly by this news. Was not the world growing too respectable? The ordered security of life was robbing it of its picturesqueness, and this modern echo of the pirates' call awakens coloured fancies which I had thought long dead. We must, I suppose, endure for a time those who cry loudly for nationalisms and internationalisms, but long live those, say I, who give not a fig for either!

***

It is pleasing news indeed to know that the famous tramp steamer, the River Clyde, is coming home, and that soon it will be open to public view. Of all Dardanelles relics this surely is the most precious. For was it not this old collier which landed the Dublins, Munsters, and Hampshires of the 29th Division at "V" Beach? All the world knows of these men, and how they fought at Sedd-el-Bahr. The River Clyde grounded on April 25, 1915, and was left on January 9, 1916. Those battalions who left Cape Helles at the evacuation thought never to see her again; for them she would be but a memory of splendid sadness. . . . But events proved otherwise. It was found by our Admiralty last June that the battered vessel could be refloated, and she was taken into Mudros Harbour, whence four years before she had set out for the Gallipoli operations. And it appears that, despite holes made by shells and removal by the Turks of everything valuable, she still is seaworthy. In all the war there have been few ships more full of magnificent memories than the River Clyde, and to all of the British race she will always be a priceless relic.

***

In the course of unveiling a memorial tablet to Lord Kitchener recently, at Debenham, in Suffolk, whence the great soldier's mother came, General Sir H. Rawlinson said the public had regarded "K." as a hard, stern man; but he was not. This statement will assuredly be supported by all who were privileged to know the big man, who hid a very tender heart under an appearance of coldness and sternness, as shy men so often do. I remember a lady who knew him very well telling me of a pretty incident which she herself witnessed. It was at a garden party, which Lord Kitchener had been induced to attend, and he was talking to one or two ladies, when suddenly there was a child's cry; and through a hedge close by came running a very little girl, followed by a dog, of which she was obviously much frightened. She swept the company with one terrified glance; then dashed straight up to Lord Kitchener—whom she did not know—and clung to him for protection. The soldier threw an arm round her at once, and then glancing at the ladies, and, perhaps fancying that he detected some amusement in their eyes, reddened. One of the ladies suggested, prettily, that the little girl had not taken long in choosing her defender, and Lord Kitchener, with a smile, replied: "I think she has paid me one of the prettiest compliments I have ever received." And afterwards he confessed that the little incident had afforded him extraordinary pleasure.

CORSAIR.

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As half of the School consists of pupils on the £15 foundation, which includes both board and education, a deficiency of about £2,500 a year has to be met by contributions, which are earnestly solicited. Donations of £5 5s., giving one vote for life, or subscriptions of 10s. 6d., giving one vote for the year, may be sent to

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Smyrna Massacres. June 26.

Lieut.-Colonel AUBREY HERBERT asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he had any official information to the effect that the Greeks massacred their prisoners in Smyrna in full sight of the Allied warships; and, if not, would he consider the advisability of investigating the actual facts?

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH (Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs): I regret to say that, in view of official information that has reached us, there can be no doubt that a number of Turkish officers and men lost their lives in the circumstances indicated in the question. The matter is engaging the earnest attention of the British Delegation in Paris. I have every reason to believe that the Greek Government deplore these excesses, and are taking all steps to prevent a recurrence.

Lieut.-Colonel A. HERBERT: Is it not the fact that the policy of the Allies in having sent the Greeks to Smyrna is a direct blow to the elements favourable to us in Turkey, and a direct encouragement to our enemies, who are the Committee of Union and Progress?

Colonel BURN: Is it not the fact that part of our Navy was at Smyrna at that time, and could it not have done something towards preventing this occurrence?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: As I said, the whole matter is being investigated; I should not like to venture an opinion of what the Navy should do in this or that circumstance.

Lady Interned in France. June 30.

Lieut.-Colonel MALONE asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he was aware that Miss May Kathleen Ydlibi, British subject, is interned by the French authorities at 82, Rue des Tisons, Alençon (Orne), France, whether he was aware of the circumstances; whether he would state the charge under which she is interned; whether he is aware that solicitors have been obstructed from proceeding to France by the French authorities, although they have received passports from the British Foreign Office; and whether he will take steps to have the matter inquired into immediately, with a view to the speedy release of this woman?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: The lady referred to in the question is interned in France, but I am not aware of her present address. Inquiries were made of the French Government in December last, and his Majesty's Government have been informed that Kassib Ydlibi, father of this lady, was arrested by the French authorities at Jibouti as an Ottoman subject, and sent to France in order to undergo punishment for an offence against the common law in having assisted the enemies of the Allied Powers. The French Government stated that after his condemnation, being considered an enemy, he was interned with his wife and daughter in a concentration camp, and that he has never furnished to the French authorities proof that he is an Egyptian or a Cypriot under British protection. Miss Ydlibi, it was added, was associated with her father in the activities for which he was convicted. I have no evidence to the effect that solicitors have been obstructed by the French authorities from proceeding to France, although passports have been issued to them. In answer to the last part of the question, the French Government have announced that the question of the liberation and deportation of interned Ottoman subjects in France was receiving their consideration, and that they proposed to permit Ydlibi and his family to benefit by any arrangement which might be made in that direction.

Great Britain and Montenegro. July 1.

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH, in reply to Mr. R. McNeil, said: Since the time of King Nicholas's departure from Montenegro, a movement has spread among important and numerous sections of the population which favours the union of their country with the new State in a form which would be incompatible with the maintenance of the present Montenegrin dynasty. In the eyes of this party, King Nicholas and those Ministers whom he has himself nominated from among his personal adherents do not represent the wishes and feelings of the Montenegrin people. His Majesty's Government have for some time past had grounds for thinking that this is the case, and it was in order to arrive at a clear understanding of the situation that they dispatched a special Commissioner to Montenegro in the hope that he would be able to ascertain the real desire of the Montenegrin people as to their own future. His Majesty's Government have the most sincere sympathy for and confidence in the Montenegrin people, and their action in sending Count de Salis to Cettinje was dictated solely by the desire to obtain a popular rather than a merely dynastic appreciation of the Montenegrin desiderata. Up to the present, only telegraphic summaries of his conclusions have been received from Count de Salis, but I shall be prepared to consider the suggestion that the final report when received should be laid before the House.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official Report.

PERSIA (BRITISH FORCE). (June 24.)

INDIA (REFORMS). (June 25.)

RUSSIA: Evacuation of Odessa. EGYPT: Imprisoned soldiers. —Army Officers. INDIA: Afghanistan (Peace Negotiations). (June 26.)

MALTA (DISTURBANCES). BALKANS (ARMS). TROOPS IN MESOPOTAMIA (SICKNESS). INDIAN COMMUNITY, SOUTH AFRICA. CEYLON (CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS). INDIA: Army Pay and Allowances. Rupee (Value).—Afghanistan. NEAR EAST (DISCUSSION). (June 30.)

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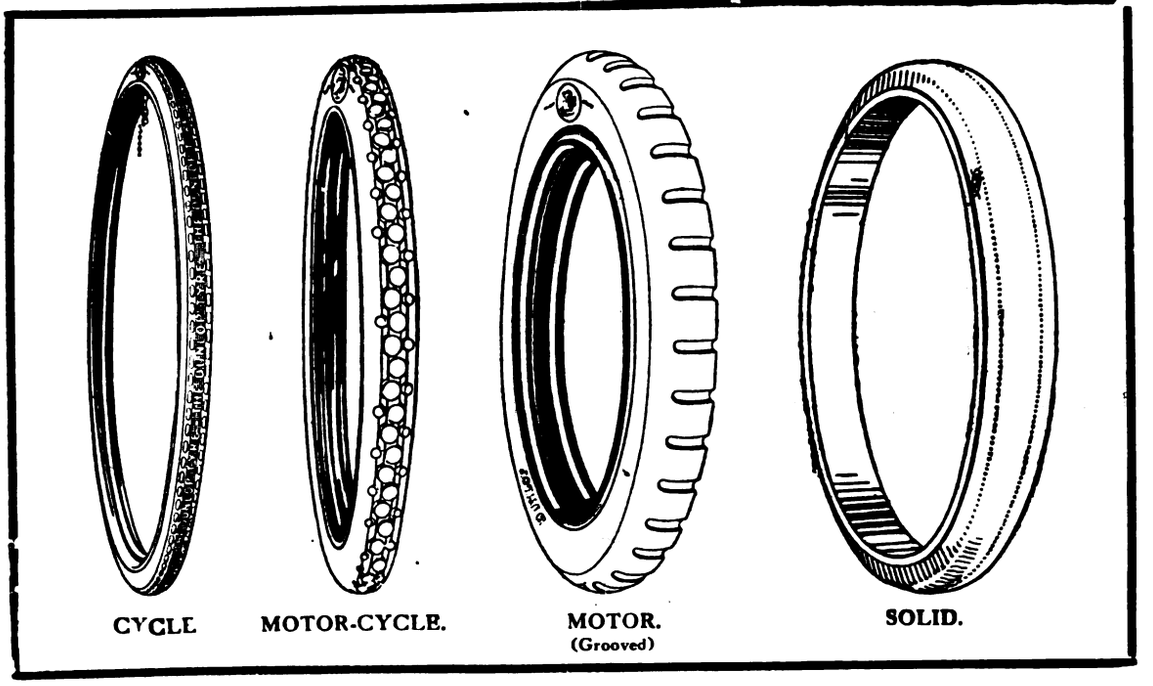

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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THE PARLOUS STATE OF EGYPT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The condition into which Egypt has lapsed, after a generation of British influence, requires more explanation than the authorities have vouchsafed. Time was—and that within my own memory—when the fellaheen were cruelly fleeced, and kept to heel by the *Kurbash*. Why are they now the most prosperous of peasant communities? Because we have given them a reign of law and sound finance; because our engineers have restricted the vagaries of the Nile, which used to make the Delta:

"A land which either drowns or burns,
A desert and a swamp by turns."

In the teeth of these undoubted facts the recent upheaval seems quite inexplicable. Its origin must be sought in that world force which we vaguely style "Nationalism," meaning the realisation by subject peoples that they have developed a collective soul; and the resulting demand for self-government. This movement is active in countries as far apart as Ireland and India. Nay, the Javanese, after enduring a paternal yoke for more than a century, have compelled their Dutch masters to concede the elements of popular representation. The geographical position of Egypt renders its people peculiarly susceptible to a mysterious impulse, which the study of collective psychology may one day enable us to forecast. A train of causation led up to the crisis of May, 1919. The self-styled "National Party" has been active since Arabi Pasha's insurrection in 1882; and the unrest created by its wire-pullers was kept alive by the vacillations of the British Government. Lord Dufferin's Constitution, promulgated in the spring of 1883, and Sir H. Drummond Wolff's Convention with Turkey in 1885 were rendered nugatory by foreign intrigue. Lord Cromer's regime strengthened the ex-Khedive's inveterate hostility to his protectors. The great Proconsul believed the Egyptians to be quite incapable of conducting their own affairs—not without reason, for no "intelligentsia" in the world is so abysmally ignorant of practical politics as the product of the Azhar University and of so-called "English education." It is at least arguable that Lord Cromer ought to have given a trial to native statesmen. One cannot learn to swim without taking to the water. However this may be, the fact remains that his masterful control rendered the British protection absolutely indispensable; while foreign influences were working to sap its foundations. The exotic element in Egypt's heterogeneous population has consistently fanned the flames of revolt, and used the Nationalists as a catspaw to secure their aim—the withdrawal of British troops from the Delta. There is ample evidence that the recent upheaval was, in large measure, engineered by European advisers. They flooded the country with incendiary literature, organised secret societies, planned a simultaneous outburst of blind hatred, which was attended by unmentionable horrors. Their hand was seen in the systematic destruction of railways and other public works, which could never have been compassed by the ignorant and inflammable fellaheen. It may well be asked why anarchy descended on Egypt as a bolt from the blue? Because the police force had been denuded of its British stiffening by the exigencies of war. Thus the Protectorate lost touch with popular feeling and with the sinister efforts of wirepullers to force it into anti-British channels.—I am, etc.,

F. H. S.

June 30.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The "Cyprus Deputation" are valiant and persevering advocates of their cause, but do not meet the main arguments against the handing over of Cyprus to the Government of Greece.

The contention that about 230,000 "Greeks" (214,000 at the last census)—less than the population of some large towns in the Levant—constitutes a "nation" is hardly admissible. Malta, with a population of over 212,000 (though the island is only about one-fortieth the size of Cyprus), might equally claim to be a nation.

My reference to Cyprus as a sanatorium was merely thrown in as an additional, but not important, reason. The allusion to Switzerland and Davos is hardly to the point. As regards Heligoland, it was not handed over, as the Deputation thinks, in the midst of a quarrel with Germany. When the Government of Lord Salisbury bartered it most persons in England did not anticipate a conflict with that country.

Several other statements are incorrect: (1) Cyprus *does* possess strategic value, and *was* useful during the late war. The allusion to Napoleon is unfortunate, for that militarist held Cyprus to be of strategic value, and a stepping-stone to Egypt; (2) No suggestion was made that Greece might be a "rival" to Great Britain, but it was hinted that the island might be used for hostile purposes, as Greece was very nearly used under King Constantine, who also allowed Corfu to be carefully prepared to help Hun submarines. It is true that Cyprus has been sometimes described as a "white elephant" by a few British politicians, but this description has not been approved by the general public.

I deny emphatically that the maintenance for the present of British rule would be an injustice, or that it would be "a breach of Britain's plighted word." I would repeat that, much as Europe admires M. Venizelos, Greece is not yet in a position to rule Cyprus for the benefit of its inhabitants. I concur in the view of your correspondent "Cypriot." The sole argument for union is that a majority of the people are Greek in language and religion; whereas there are many weighty arguments against it. Let Greece set her own house in order and win a place which may in the future justify further expansion in the Eastern Mediterranean. For the present, in these troublous times, the island should remain in the hands of a strong naval power.—I am, etc.,

June 30.

FORESIGHT.

A PLEA FOR ALBANIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In September, 1914, Mr. Asquith declared that England entered into the war for the defence of small nationalities, and in the following year Sir Edward Grey said that the reason for which England was at war was the liberty of all states, great and *small*. Since then the two great liberal nations of Europe, Great Britain and France, have repeated that they were fighting for right, justice, and the respect of Treaties. The United States of America and their President, Mr. Wilson, entered into the gigantic struggle only for the defence of the same principles.

Albania was recognised as independent in 1913 in London by the representatives of all the Great Powers. Since then it has been recognised that two-thirds of the soil and the population of Albania (Kossovo, South Epirus, and the regions of Uskub and Monastir) have been detached from Albania by the said Conference of London, and subjected to a foreign domination (Serb and Greek).

It has been further shown (and the British Parliament has been often made aware, and the Albanian Society of London has pointed out) that this foreign domination for Albania means, in fact, systematic extermination and annihilation.

The Peace Conference at Paris will soon have to pronounce upon our country. But not only is there as yet no question of the reparation of the territorial losses sustained by Albania, but a further enormity comes to light. Italy has put forth demands upon Valona, and so forth. This is an attack upon the independence of Albania. Albania is the object of persecution, and is surrounded by silence and darkness. If, after four and a-half years of struggle, men who have trembled in trench and town for their own lives and for the lives of their children, mothers, wives—if after all this, I say, these men do not understand, or pretend they do not understand, the agonies and sufferings of Albania, they must be entirely heartless, they must be cynics and hypocrites to whom nothing in the world is sacred.

If justice be not done this time to Albania, one is forced to confess that "justice" and "equity" are words which are meaningless in the eyes of our contemporaries.—I am, etc.,

LUMO SKENDO.

Lausanne, June 7.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Future of Constantinople.

In the *Times* of June 26 is an article on "Some Turkish Problems," which seems to get near the root of the matter. The writer, who is obviously acquainted with the facts of the case, declares:—

It is quite true, as M. Venizelos has pointed out to the Peace Conference, that a considerable proportion of the Turkish population is composed of parasitic elements—the hangers-on and poor relations of officials, wealthy landlords, and Court functionaries. These hangers-on are mostly idlers who intrigue furiously for the sinecures which are at the disposal of every Turkish notable who is in favour with the powers that be. With these are to be reckoned a swarm of redundant officials of the class whom the French term "budgetiveres." But there are other Turks who work, even though they often belong to the official class, and who are not so obsessed by religious or national prejudices that their views do not deserve some consideration. Such Turks admit that since the Talaats and Envers have completely demoralised the public services a long period of Western control will be necessary in every Department of State in whatever Turkey is left by the coming Treaty of Peace, if the Turkish State is to survive at all. But they urge that, given such control, the Turkish State should retain Constantinople as its capital, even if its sovereignty there be but nominal. They argue that such a solution would be an act of political wisdom and of justice on the part of the Entente Powers.

He then gives his partial support to the following argument of enlightened Turks:—

Leave us under any form of control you will at Constantinople, and we shall at least have a chance of development. Banish our Court, our Government, and a large proportion of our educated classes to Konia or some other Anatolian city, and you make of Turkey a poor peasant State peopled largely by semi-barbarians, whose progress will be intolerably slow.

The article is concluded with an ingenious argument:—

There is another argument in favour of the retention of some form of Turkish sovereignty at Constantinople, which Turks for obvious reasons do not adduce. So long as a Turkish Government remains at Constantinople the West can always henceforth bring the maximum of political pressure upon a city which will have lost its two bulwarks—the forts of the Dardanelles and those that guard the Bosphorus. But if Turkey be reduced to an Anatolian peasant State governed by resentful *effendi* with little to lose there is always the risk that the Talaats, or those like unto them, may return and continue to promote Near Eastern disorder. It is one thing for the League of Nations or the mandatory Power to send a few warships to lie off Seraglio Point; it is quite another to have to send a military expedition to the interior of Asia Minor.

Greek and Turk.

In the *Times* of June 27 the same writer continues his examination of some Turkish problems. Some incidents of the constant feud between Greek and Turk throw a curious light on the extreme difficulty of fixing a settlement for these people:—

Press polemics often lead to race hostilities, and the Aidin Province, of which Smyrna is the capital, has consequently been the scene of several political crimes. Two typical instances which have occurred may be cited. The inhabitants of a Greek village near Sokia, south of Smyrna, indignant at the marriage of one of the women of their community to a Turk who was, moreover, a tax-collector, beat the Turk soundly, stripped the woman naked, and rode her round the village upon an ass to the accompaniment of stone-throwing and mockery. Gendarmes sent to arrest the criminals found that the villagers had been reinforced by refugees who had returned to their homes after service in the Greek Army, and were compelled to retire with loss. Later a Turkish band attacked some Greek labourers and peasants near Burnova, almost a suburb of Smyrna, shot eight of them dead, and decamped unmolested by the gendarmerie. The victims of this outrage were all unarmed and mostly old men.

On the future of Smyrna the writer puts forward views that are worth careful attention:—

A solution by which Greece obtained the Smyrna Sanjak, that is Smyrna itself and the region immediately north and south of the Gulf of Smyrna, where the Greeks are certainly in a majority, would be opposed by the Turks, and not only by the large number of Turkish ground landlords in Smyrna, but by Turkish exporters throughout the great part of Western Anatolia, for whose produce Smyrna is practically the sole outlet. They argue that the cession of Smyrna would put Greece in a position to strangle the export trade of Anatolia at any moment. On the other hand, the Greeks of the purely Greek town of Aivali and other centres of Hellenism on the coast north of the Smyrna district would be justly aggrieved at being left under Turkish rule, and would not cease agitating for annexation to Greece. At present there can be no doubt that the annexation of the Smyrna-Aidin region or any part of it except a few useless headlands to Greece would be forcibly opposed by the Moslem population. Even if the Turkish Government could hold the Turkish troops now in this area it could not prevent the bulk of the population from rising in revolt against the decision of Europe. There could, of course, be but one end to the struggle. Greece, in the writer's opinion, is militarily far stronger than partially disarmed and totally exhausted Turkey. But such a war waged in the one area in Turkey which has not suffered overmuch during the last four years would be accompanied by wholesale devastation and massacre and after the conquest the Greek Government, which still lacks a sufficient number of capable provincial administrators, would be compelled to devote large sums, which it could ill afford, to repairing the ruin wrought, and would have the utmost difficulty in rapidly creating an efficient administration. On the other hand, to leave the Ottoman Greeks as they are under uncontrolled Turkish administration would inevitably lead to a series of conflicts and to a persecution of the surviving Greek population which would invite and justify Greek military intervention.

Articles to Note.

"The Afghan Claims to Descent from Israel," by Colonel Sir Thomas Holdich, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., C.B.; "England and Islam," by Sir Theodore Morison, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.; and "Franchise and Functions in India," by Sir J. D. Rees, Bart., K.C.I.E., C.V.O., M.P., in the *Nineteenth Century*. (July.)

"The Passing of Old Fez," by Major A. J. A. Douglas; and "Eastern Nights—and Flights," Chaps. III., IV., by "Contact" (Captain Alan Bott, M.C.) in *Blackwood* (July).

"Cause and Effect in India," by Bruce Mitford, F.R.G.S., in the *Fortnightly* (July).

"The Fate of Macedonia," by James D. Bourchier, F.R.G.S., in the *International Review* (July).

"The Eastern Settlement," by H. N. Brailsford; "Albania and the Powers," by M. E. Durham; "Constitutional Reform in India: Possibilities and Pitfalls," by H. A. A. Cotton, L.C.C.; and "Our Relations with Afghanistan," by Demetrius C. Boulger, in the *Contemporary Review* (July).

"The Last Crusade, VI. The Glory of Lebanon," by Lieut. Donald Maxwell, in the *Treasury* (July).

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE Y.M.C.A. IN EGYPT AND ELSEWHERE.*

"Sir James Barrett tells how the Young Men's Christian Association originated, and he describes its organisation, objects, and methods—especially with regard to its work in Egypt. His book is of absorbing interest, and the reader is filled with admiration and gratitude towards the organisers and administrators of this vast undertaking." So writes Sir Edmund Allenby in his short preface, and readers of this volume will endorse his opinions. The author gives first of all a terse account of what the Y.M.C.A. is, and the account of the American developments in the direction of training its workers will be new to many English readers. At the Y.M.C.A. College at Springfield, Massachusetts, young men who are preparing to become Y.M.C.A. secretaries receive a four years' course of specialised instruction, after a previous four years' training at a high school. The details of the course as given here show how thoroughly the training for this special work is undertaken.

In later chapters the author graphically narrates how the Egyptian Y.M.C.A., suddenly confronted with enormous possibilities for extended usefulness with the development of the war, rose to its opportunities. The Y.M.C.A. in Cairo before 1914 consisted of a "fairly extensive flat," which provided residential quarters for about thirty men, a small billiard room, a library, and a small lounge. The Association also had procured the lease of a fine piece of land at Gezireh as a recreation ground. From this small local beginning there budded off, as it were, dozens of branches all over the delta, out in the desert of Sinai, and, as our armies advanced, in Palestine and Syria. The illustrations of Y.M.C.A. centres in various places, including "dug-outs," from the Sudan and Jerusalem, show better than writing how varied and widespread are its activities. There is a chapter on "Physical Exercises" and another on "Finance," while two appendices give the names of all the helpers of the Y.M.C.A. in Egypt during the war. The volume is a most interesting appreciation of most excellent work, by one who writes from intimate outside knowledge.

BENGALI VERSE.†

"The verse collected in this volume represents about one hundred years of poetical effort; and has its origin in England's introduction into India of western education." With these words the compiler of this anthology commences his Introduction. He has done a very useful service in thus making public the mental connection between India (or rather Bengal) and England, even if he has not discovered to us much than can accurately be called poetry. It is scarcely fair to suppose that the manacles on thought, which a foreign language imposes can be broken but after many years' practice; but the progress towards freedom of ideas and expression as shown in this book is quite obvious. The best poets of this anthology are Toru Dutt (1856-1877), and Sarojini Naidu and Manmohan Ghose, who are both still living. It is curious how, in imitating English metre, all these poets have succumbed to the tendency to imitate English thought; and their failure to preserve identity is the thing which has robbed the book of real poetic interest. However, once or twice this veil of impersonation is rent, as in "The Pardah Nashin" (by Sarojini Naidu); and it is such occasions as these which give bright promise to the future of English in Bengal.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Hohenzollerns in America," by Stephen Leacock. (London: The Bodley Head. 5s. net.)

"Histoire des Roumains de la Peninsule des Balcans," by N. Iorga. (Bucharest: 4 francs.)

"Temporary Crusaders," by Cecil Sommers. (London: The Bodley Head. 4s. net.)

"La Serbie et L'Europe (1914-1918)," par des Publicistes Serbes. (Geneva: 8 francs.)

We are frequently asked by our readers for the best means of learning the languages of the Near East. We think, therefore, that a list of books dealing with the subject will be found useful. The "Self-Taught" Series, published by Messrs. E. Marlborough and Co., 51, Old Bailey, E.C.4, provide a simple and direct method of acquiring a practical knowledge of the desired language. The following books are published with Naval and Military Terms:—Egyptian, French, German, Hindustani, Italian, and Russian. The Modern Greek book has photographic and Archæological Terms. The Persian book is published with Commercial and Trading Terms, the Tamil with Planting and Commercial Terms, and the Turkish with an English and Turkish Dictionary. Others are the Arabic (Syrian) and the Spanish books. All the above-mentioned volumes are within the reach of the humblest linguist, as their prices vary from 1s. 9d. to 4s.

* "The War Work of the Y.M.C.A. in Egypt" By Sir James W. Barrett. (London: H. H. Lewis and Co.)

† "The Bengali Book of English Verse." Selected by T. D. Dunn. (Longmans, Green and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

DISTRESS IN INDIA.

The following telegrams from the Viceroy (Revenue and Agricultural Department), dated June 20, have been received by the India Office:—

Our telegram dated June 13. Famine has been declared in part of Bankura and Bhagalpur Districts of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa respectively. Distress prevails in Ranadha Estate Ganjam District, Madras Presidency, and apprehended in part of Murshidabad in Bengal. Scarcity reported from one circle in Chittagong Hill Tracts. Numbers on relief decreasing owing to rainfall in Angul District of Bihar and Orissa and in Bombay Presidency, and owing to agricultural operations in some districts of Central Provinces and in Bankura District of Bengal. Recent rain has improved water supply in many places in Bombay Presidency. Prospects of standing crops are hopeful in United Provinces where distress slight except in Etawah. Numbers relieved:—

Bengal.—Relief works, 7,077; test works, 2,650; gratuitous relief, 18,074. Bihar and Orissa.—Relief works, 1,885; test works, 6,395; gratuitous relief, 13,953. Feudatory States, Orissa.—Test works, 2,617; gratuitous relief, 20,618. United Provinces.—Test works, 20,423; gratuitous relief, 17,441. Rajputana, last week revised figures.—Relief works, 2,910; test works, 5,582; gratuitous relief, 2,451. This week's figures.—Relief works, 1,718; test works, 4,647; gratuitous relief, 2,400. Ajmer-Merwara (incomplete figures).—Gratuitous relief, 37. Central India, Bundelkhand.—Relief works, 14,200; gratuitous relief, 9,500. Baghelkhand report not received. Central Provinces.—Relief works, 18,438; test works, 18,232; gratuitous relief, 47,206. Bombay.—Relief works, 31,610; dependents, 18,939; village works, 5,860; test works, 929; gratuitous relief, 94,189. Madras.—Relief works, 46,278; test works, 1,495; gratuitous relief, 85,518.

Our telegram dated June 6. Distress spreading in Bankura District, Bengal. Scarcity operations closed in Garhwal District, United Provinces, owing to recent rains. Emigrants returning to their homes to undertake agricultural operations in the Poona and Satara Districts, and water supply has improved in some districts of Bombay Presidency. People also reverting to agricultural operations in Central India. Numbers relieved:—

Bengal.—Test works, 9,725; gratuitous relief, 17,331. Bihar and Orissa.—Relief works, 2,927; test works, 7,684; gratuitous relief, 10,106. Feudatory States of Orissa.—Test works, 24,000; gratuitous relief, 18,809. United Provinces.—Test works, 18,641; gratuitous relief, 16,147. Rajputana.—Relief works, 20,964; test works, 5,582; gratuitous relief, 24,000. Ajmer-Merwara.—Test works, 194; gratuitous relief, 369. Central India, Bundelkhand.—Relief works, 14,000; gratuitous relief, 9,200. Baghelkhand.—Relief works, 546; gratuitous relief, 59. Central Provinces.—Relief works, 17,553; test works, 22,569; gratuitous relief, 59,459. Bombay.—Relief works, 45,876; dependents, 28,336; village works, 8,369; test works, 1,153; gratuitous relief, 94,345. Madras.—Relief works, 20,021; test works, 1,641; gratuitous relief, 65,742. Damages by flood to stock of foodstuffs reported from Travancore.

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

The decisions of a Selection Board held under the authority of the Civil Service Commissioners on May 27 and following days for positions in the Indian Civil Service have been published. The following are recommended by the Civil Service Commissioners to the Secretary of State for India for acceptance as selected candidates for the Indian Civil Service, subject to their being found eligible in point of health, and on the result of any other inquiries he may desire to make. The names are given in order of merit, a proportion of the younger candidates having been given preference in this competition:—Kindersley, J. B.; Dodd, R. J. S.; Wood, E. R.; Hutchings, R. H.; Lander, A. J. M.; Beevor, R. B.; Tennant, W. R.; Clee, C. B. B.; Wilkie, H.G.; Walker, R. L.; Mullan, C. S.; Lee, D. J. N.; Smith, F. J. K.; Ardagh, L. V.; Weightman, H.; Shoobert, W. H.; Warren, D. D.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

Under a Royal Warrant notified in the *Gazette* of July 1 the ages at which officers of the Indian Medical Service holding administrative appointments with the undermentioned ranks shall be placed on the retired list are altered as follows:—The director-general shall be placed on the retired list at sixty instead of sixty-two as hitherto; colonels, brevet-colonels, and general officers at fifty-seven instead of sixty. In special cases the Governor-General of India may retain a general officer in his employment "for not more than one year" after the age limit. The retiring age of lieutenant-colonels and majors remains unaltered at fifty-five.

The Postmaster-General announces that parcels may now be sent to places in Syria as far north as Alexandretta, but not east of Aleppo. The principal places included in the service are: Alexandretta, Aleppo, Beyrout, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Latakia, Rayak, and Tripoli. The postage is: 3 lb., 2s. 4d.; 7 lb., 3s.; 11 lb., 3s. 8d. The postage on parcels for Palestine has been reduced to: 3 lb., 1s. 11d.; 7 lb., 2s. 7d.; 11 lb., 3s. 3d.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. July	1919. June		1337. Shawal	5679. Tamuz
4	21	Friday	6	6
5	22	Saturday.....	7	7
6	23	Sunday	8	8
7	24	Monday	9	9
8	25	Tuesday	10	10
9	26	Wednesday	11	11
10	27	Thursday	12	12

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rey sailed on June 27 for Abyssinia.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania left Brighton on July 2 for Eton.

The Thakore Sahib of Limbdi left London on June 29 to return to India.

M. Protitch, the Serbian Premier, and three other Ministers have left Belgrade for Paris.

Among the delegates in the Galérie des Glaces at Versailles on June 28 was the Maharaja of Kapurthala.

M. Diamantidi, Greek Under-Secretary of State and President of the Commission for Transport, has come to London from Paris.

Count de Salis, the British Minister at the Vatican, has left Rome (temporarily) for Cettinje and Albania on a special mission.

Alexander, Prince Regent of Serbia, left Belgrade on June 21 and proceeded, with Voivode Mishitch and other officers, to visit the French Army of Hungary.

Mr. Morgenthau, former United States Ambassador to Turkey, has been placed in charge of the American Mission to investigate pogroms in Poland.

General Bonnier, Director-General of the Greek Ministry of War, accompanied by Colonel Nicolas Broumais, Paymaster-General to the Greek Army, has arrived in London.

The Indian Empire Club will hold an "At Home" at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, on Thursday, July 10, 4-7 p.m. Applications for tickets should be sent to the hon. secretary, 5, Nevern Square, S.W.5.

The marriage was celebrated on June 25, at Lymington Parish Church, by the Rev. C. Bostock, between John Norman Wilson, late 8th Hussars, and Ethel Charlotte, daughter of the late Alfred Brasher, India Office.

The Mission from Abyssinia left London on June 28 for America. Sir Robert F. Synge and Major Dods, who has been in attendance on the emissaries during their visit, were at the station to bid them farewell.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain H. W. Goldfrap, M.C., Indian Army, third son of Frederick Goldfrap, and Edith, second daughter of Major C. R. B. Thorne and Mrs. Thorne, of Beggearnhuish Manor, Washford, Somerset.

The marriage was celebrated on June 25, at Little Marcle, Ledbury, by Rev. J. M. Philpott, assisted by Rev. T. Holland, of Captain Francis Other Philpott, M.C., 4th S.W.B., to Marion Edythe Phillips, widow of Robert Phillips, of Bombay.

The marriage was celebrated on July 1, at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, between Clifford Carver, Lieutenant, U.S.N.R.F., son of Amos Carver, of Locust Valley, Long Island, New York, and Helena Philae, only daughter of Lieut.-General Sir John Maxwell, formerly G.O.C. in Egypt.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, entertained at luncheon on June 26 M. Titulesco, Roumanian Minister of Finance, and Mme. Titulesco, Colonel Capitaneano, Chief of the Roumanian Military Mission in Paris, Mr. and Mrs. Madge, and M. George Boncesco.

The marriage was celebrated on June 26, at Christ Church, Chorley Wood, by the Rev. C. Hughes and the Rev. R. C. B. Clarke between Robert, son of Mr. Robert Hamilton, of Halberton, and Nora, daughter of Mr. B. P. Standen, I.C.S., of the Central Provinces Commission, India.

At a meeting of the Indian Church Aid Association on June 24, at the Church House, Westminster, the Bishops of London and of Bombay, both urged our great responsibility in India, and pleaded for more freedom and faith in dealing with the great problem of Christianising India.

Sir Walter Townley, who has just returned to England, is understood to be about to resign his post as Minister to Holland, and to retire from the Diplomatic Service. Before he went to Holland he was British Minister at Teheran, and before that held a similar position at Bucharest.

An engagement is announced between Owen Meredith Rees, Indian Civil Service, son of the Rev. George Edward and Mrs. Rees, of Harwood Vicarage, Bolton, and Laura Fernanda Morison, daughter of the late Alexander Joseph Morison, of Havana, and of Mrs. Morison, of 67, Queen's Gate, S.W.

Sir William Jameson Soulsby, C.B., C.I.E., private secretary to the Lord Mayor of London, has received the Royal licence to wear the Cross of Commander of the Order of the Crown of Italy, conferred upon him by the King of Italy in recognition of valuable services rendered by him during the war.

The marriage was celebrated on June 28, at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Paddington, by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Grantham, assisted by the Rev. Cecil White, between F. P. G. De Smidt, Surveyor-General, Cape Colony, and Pearl, elder daughter of Major Hugh Hiddingle Jephcoat, Indian Army.

The engagement is announced between Leonard William Reynolds, C.I.E., M.C., fourth son of the late Thomas Reynolds and of Mrs. Reynolds, of Totteridge House, High Wycombe, and Blanche Mortlock, daughter of the Rev. Chancellor and Mrs. Lias, of Broomfield, Haywards Heath, Sussex.

The marriage was celebrated on June 28 at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Kensington Gore, by the Rev. H. B. Coward, M.A., between Jack St. Aubyn, only son of the late F. St. Aubyn King, of Calcutta, and Jeanne, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Demuth, of 74, Kensington Gardens Square, W.

The marriage of Lieut. James Charles Powell, M.C., Royal Artillery, only son of Mr. James Charles Powell, Amballa Cantonment, India, and Violet Eileen Anning, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anning, Temple Dinsley, Bournemouth, W., took place on Wednesday, June 25, at St. George's, Hanover Square.

The marriage was celebrated on May 10, at Beyrout, Syria, by Major the Rev. R. E. Young, between Captain Sir Robert J. Paul, Bart., Ballyglan, Waterford, and Eveline, daughter of the late Count Gorkiewicz de Habdank, and great-niece and adopted daughter of the late Edgar Whitaker and Mrs. Whitaker, of Constantinople.

The marriage was celebrated on June 25, at Meole Brace Church, Shrewsbury, by the Rev. W. H. Bather, Vicar, between Arthur Herbert Conway Jackson, I.C.S., I.A.R.O., only son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Jackson, College Hill, Shrewsbury, and Margery Ruth Heitland, only child of Mr. J. R. Carless, Colkirk, Kingsland, Shrewsbury.

A Reuter message from Belgrade states that Prince Alexander received Sir Charles des Graz (the British Minister to Serbia under the old regime) in special audience on June 25. Sir Charles presented his credentials and letters of appointment as Minister Plenipotentiary to the Prince Regent of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

At Westminster Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. on Monday, July 7, will be held a celebration of the Feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius. A Mass of Thanksgiving and Intercession for the reunion of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes will be given in the presence of H.E. the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster; and a sermon will be preached by the Rev. Adrian Fortiscue, Ph.D., D.D.

The Crown Prince of Roumania, who was accompanied by Sir Henry and Lady Mainwaring, visited the Handley Page aeroplane works at Cricklewood on July 1, and was shown over the establishment by Mr. Handley Page. The Crown Prince and Lady Mainwaring afterwards had a trip in a two-engine Handley Page Rolls-Royce aeroplane.

The Serbian Minister and Madame Yovan Yovanovitch and the Chairman and Council of the Serbian Red Cross Society in Great Britain held a reception on June 28 at 9, Ennismore Gardens, South Kensington, in memory of Kossovo Day. The speakers included the Serbian Minister, Sir Edward Carson, Mr. F. Hastings, Chairman of the Society, and M. Popovic.

M. Gennadius, formerly Greek Minister in London, received last week from the Greek community an address expressing regret at his retirement and admiration for his services to Greece during nearly fifty years. The address, enclosed in a silver casket, was presented at his house, 14, De Vere Gardens, by a deputation headed by Sir Lucas Ralli and the Wardens of the Greek Church.

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The marriage was celebrated on May 15 at Bombay Cathedral, by the Rev. F. W. M. Hamerton, M.A., Senior Chaplain, between Seymour Mowbray, younger son of the late Mowbray Gray and Mrs. Gray, "Wongalee," Surbiton, and Dorothea Isabel Emily, only daughter of Mr. William Exhall Tempest Bennett, C.S.I., late P.W.D., India, and Mrs. Bennett, and great-granddaughter of the late Colonel Hugh Gore-Edwards, Raveagh, County Tyrone.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—

Lieut.-Colonel Gallagher, Chief Commandant of Police, who has been absent from Cyprus from September 12, 1915, to April 30 last on active service, has been granted three months' leave from May 1.

The Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, Dr. R. McInnes, now in Cyprus, has exchanged visits with the Greek Bishop of Papho, who acts as archbishop.

The office of the Chief Secretary to the Cyprus Government moved to summer quarters on Mount Troodos on June 6.

Mr. C. D. Fenn acts as Chief Secretary, as he has done during several previous periods.

Mr. E. Heidenstam has been appointed assistant to the Chief Secretary. He is a son of the late Dr. Heidenstam, C.M.G., who was long Chief Medical Officer in Cyprus.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—Mr. W. Francis, Government Analyst, has been appointed to act as Island Postmaster.

Mr. A. L. Stuart, Puisne Judge, has been appointed a member of the Executive Council.

Mr. T. Greenwood, Local Commandant of Police, has been appointed Commissioner of Pappo. This officer has had long service in Cyprus, and has on many occasions acted as Commissioner.

Retired Indian Army officers, preferably residents in London, who have served in the present war, and are interested in the amelioration of the Pensions scale, are invited to communicate with the General Secretary, Comrades of the Great War, 8, Grosvenor Crescent.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on June 2, at Aden, of malaria, of Lieut.-Colonel Jay Gould, C.B.E., I.M.S.

Mr. Joseph Clayton, who has died at Quendon, Essex, aged 93, held the Mutiny Medal, with bar for the Battle of Banda.

The death is announced in a Reuter message from Jassy, Moldavia, of M. Carp, a former Roumanian Premier. He was eighty-two years of age.

The death occurred on June 30 at the Moat House, Sharnbrook, Beds, of George Herbert Weller, Colonel Indian Army (retired), late 14th (Jat) Lancers, in his sixtieth year.

The death occurred on June 24 at Frant, Sussex, of Lieut.-Colonel Carles Herbert, C.S.I., (late) Indian Political Department, eldest son of the late Major-General Charles Herbert.

The death occurred on June 9, at Bombay, of Captain Gerald Maltby, on the Staff, Indian Army, Bombay, the youngest son of John Briggs Maltby, Calton Road, Dulwich, London.

The death occurred on June 22 of Colonel Sydenham Clarke. He was appointed to the Madras Engineers in 1862, serving as Executive Engineer at Mysore till 1867, and subsequently, under the Government of India, in Beluchistan during Sir Frederick Roberts's campaign in Afghanistan.

The death occurred on June 24 at Rowley, Lansdowne Road, Torquay, the residence of his father-in-law, Mr. William Gilhespy, of Horace George Barwell, O.B.E., Superintendent of the Eastern Telegraph Co., Malta, son of the late Major-General C. Barwell, C.B., Indian Army, aged 54.

The death occurred at Cairo on June 15 of Mr. Henry Kastner, for many years editor of the Cairo edition of the *Bourse Egyptienne*. He was an Alsatian by birth, and had been a University professor before taking up journalism. He used to write a great deal for the Parisian newspapers before he came to Egypt.

The announcement is made of the death, at Minehead, Somerset, of Colonel Suene Grant, late R.E. Colonel Grant saw service in the Afghan War from 1878 till 1880, when he was twice mentioned in despatches, and in 1888 he was with the Hazara Expedition, when he received a further "mention" and was awarded the brevet of major; while in 1896 he accompanied the expedition to Dongola, and was field engineer with the force at Suakin.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—Great regret is felt in all communities on account of the death, at Larnaca, on June 9, of Mr. E. H. Hore, the Island Postmaster. Mr. Hore has been a loyal servant of the Government for forty years, during the greater part of the time as head of the Department. He was married to a Greek Cypriot lady, and was a keen and successful purchaser of objects of antiquity discovered in Cyprus, of which he formed a fine collection.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Belgium has formally resognised Yugoslavia.

An additional division of Greek troops has been sent from Macedonia to Smyrna.

The *Basrah Times* states that post offices have been opened at Tel Kaif (Mosul Division), Belid, and Dair-ez-Zor.

General Milne has sent a letter to Greek Boy Scouts expressing his satisfaction with their services to British troops during the war.

Skoplie (Uskub), the ancient capital of Serbia, has celebrated, with great solemnity, the anniversary of the publication of the Emperor Dushan's Code, promulgated 570 years ago.

A deputation has reached Paris to plead the cause of the Syrian Christians, 20,000 of whom had to flee to Tiflis and Transcaucasia, where they are being terribly ill-treated by the Bolshevists.

By virtue of the powers conferred on Greece by the Greco-Turkish Peace Treaty of 1913 Moslems in Greek territory are to be given every possible facility to renounce their Turkish nationality.

A wireless message from Petrograd reports that the two British airmen who were forced to make a landing at Astrakhan, and were made prisoners, are the aeronautical officers Lieut. Ingram and Lieut. Mantle.

The Montenegrin Government has addressed to the Great Powers a protest against their refusal to give Montenegro representation at the Peace negotiations, although she was among the first to declare war on Germany.

Parcels can now be accepted for transmission by post to Trentino, Istria, and Dalmatia at the rates of postage and under the general conditions applicable to parcels addressed to Italy. Insurance is, however, limited to £12 per parcel (300 francs).

Some of the Russian States, which are endeavouring to free themselves from Bolshevism, have issued some new varieties of postage-stamps. One specimen from the trans-Caucasian Government of Georgia bears a rough representation of the national arms, surmounted by the inscription, "La Georgie." Another series is from the Republic of the Cossacks of the Don, where the former Imperial stamps of Russia are in use, surcharged with new local values. A similar stamp is issued by the Soviet Government of Kherson in South Russia.

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FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1919.

PEACE.

Peace has been signed, and the end of the war has been celebrated with appropriate rejoicings in the Allied capitals. The German delegates have stated that they signed without *arrière-pensée*, and there is no particular reason to disbelieve them; the real opposition to the Treaty in Germany comes from other quarters, who are already proclaiming their desire to work and watch for the day of revenge. If this party gains the upper hand, there will be no alternative but to prepare for a renewal of the conflict on our side, but for the time at least we need cherish no such pessimistic forebodings, which would imply the end of the hopes of a new order in Europe. Those hopes may indeed have no very solid foundation, not merely on account of the social unrest and economic unsettlement which are the inevitable outcome of so long a war, but on account of a certain seemingly ineradicable pugnacity in human nature itself; but at least there are recognisable factors which make for Peace for some years ahead. All the European combatants are more or less exhausted, not so much by the loss of man-power, grave though that has been, as by the diminution of strength among the survivors. All have long awaited internal reforms to attend to, which simply cannot be postponed any longer, unless the world is willing to pay the price of accepting Bolshevism, which seems a singularly unpleasant but thoroughly effective way of committing suicide. In the case of Germany the reasons for keeping the hotheads in check who would renew preparations for war at the very moment when the Treaty of Peace is being signed are still more pressing. Her losses have been greater than ours; if they have not been greater than those of gallant France, our neighbours at least have the consciousness of victory and a restoration of their lost provinces, which will help to restore the balance of Continental Power. Further than this, the French political system, which every German derided as the very type of instability, has weathered the five years' storm, whereas the German Empire, which was vaunted from Königsberg to Köln as the type of immutability, lies trodden in the dust. The collapse of authority in Germany seems to have shaken the popular nerve at least as much as those sacrifices of war which are now seen to have been made in vain; nor is this surprising when we remember that the German character relies on authority, and that it trusted in weapons which it thought invincible, but which have broken in its hand. So complete and absolute a catastrophe to the material faith in which a whole people trusted implicitly cannot have occurred without grave psychological reactions. From these reactions may result, as some of our more optimistic statesmen profess to hope, the desired "change of heart"; we shall be satisfied if it results in a change of head, an admission that war does not pay, and the further recognition that the treaty between Britain, France, and America for defence in the event of a renewal of the German desire for world-dominion will make it less likely than ever to pay in the future.

The Peace Treaty has been attacked, sometimes by those who have not read it, as imperfect. The same criticism could be applied to every work of man since the Creation; what is more to the point is that it is incomplete. The departure of Mr. Lloyd George and President Wilson from Paris has been taken as a signal that the Conference is over; but in fact its work is only begun. Certain of the details of the German settlement have yet to be adjusted; the Austrian terms are still no more than a draft; Bulgaria has apparently been forgotten at Versailles; and the Turkish delegates, who calmly suggested a restoration to the *status quo* during their brief sojourn at Paris, have returned home after an exchange of civilities that appears to have accomplished next to nothing. It cannot be pretended that these results are satisfactory. It has taken precisely six months to arrange the terms with Germany; yet the difficulties to be surmounted in this case were certainly not greater than those which surround the construction of new States out of what once was the Austrian Empire, or the disposition of the Turkish Empire—the latter a problem which raises grave questions both European and Asiatic, and which may even have some repercussion on Islam in Africa. With the best will in the world, it will prove impossible to secure these settlements before the opening of 1920; and meanwhile anarchy and disorder spread in the Balkans, the national rivalries of Italy, Greece, and the Yugoslavs are inflamed still further in the Adriatic and the Levant by delay, and the work of reconstruction which is so urgently required in Asia Minor cannot be begun, since nobody can risk capital or time when there is no assurance for even a few weeks ahead. It must unfortunately be recognised that the forces of disorder are likely to take advantage of the delay, to the further harm of such civilisation as has survived east of Vienna.

Despite some of the criticism of the Treaty with Germany and the draft Treaty with Austria these documents do in fact recognise the broad results of the war, in limiting Germany's power of offensive against her neighbours, in setting up the new States of Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia, whose claim to national sovereignty could not be denied. It is true that there is room for dissatisfaction in the boundaries devised for Poland, which not only cut Germany in half—that could hardly be avoided in view of the position of East Prussia—but do not secure Poland an adequate corridor to the sea. This is certain to be one of the storm-centres of future politics, and the League of Nations, which is to act as a kind of benevolent guardian to Danzig, is likely to have its attention frequently directed from Geneva to the Vistula. Of the neighbouring new State of Lithuania, which also cuts off part of Germany by the inclusion of the seaport of Memel, little can as yet be said, since it scarcely has an independent existence at the moment; but its influence in Baltic politics will not be negligible. To the south of Germany, the new Republic of Bohemia, which is fortunate in possessing a statesman of the calibre of Professor Masaryk at its head, is naturally more wealthy and its people are more experienced in modern industry; their prospects are in some ways the brightest of the new States. Yugoslavia has never been united before, it is notoriously subject at the moment to internal differences of opinion which may, we hope, be composed by moderate politicians intent in their country's good; and it is likely to enter into an unfortunate and probably prolonged controversy with Italy over Adriatic issues. These difficulties are not merely the legacies of the past war, but of past centuries, and it would perhaps be unreasonable to expect the Peace Conference to have settled them, since no possible settlement could have satisfied everyone, and it has unfortunately been discovered that Chauvinism is not confined to the Great Powers. In the meantime the new States and the old have to make the best of the peace, if civilisation is to be rebuilt; and in some ways the most unfortunate provision is not in the document itself, but in the appendix which declares that its conditions are subject to revision. Theoretically this may be good to redress possible injustice; in practice we fear it will be used, as it is already being used by Germany and by her faithful echoes, the pacifists everywhere, to emasculate the terms which have been arrived at, and to keep alive an atmosphere of agitation and contention during the very years when the first necessity for all is certainty, security, and stability.

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THE BALKANS AND AN ANALOGY.

By JANUS.

The Balkan situation is no particular concern of mine, but as I have never set foot in the Peninsula I can at least lay claim to the impartiality which visitors to those regions are apparently compelled to discard, and I feel it may be worth while at the present juncture to draw attention to a rather striking analogy which is very commonly overlooked. To an outside observer the position in the Balkans to-day resembles very closely the situation which existed in India a century or two ago, and the mechanism of the change which has been brought about in India may possibly have some interest for the statesmen by whom the modern problem must be solved. In the eighteenth century most of India was divided up into independent States, differing in race, language, religion, and civilisation, and harmonised only by universal discontent. No single State was ever satisfied for long; the lust for territory was a powerful factor of unrest, but old grievances and the point of honour counted for still more. Stable policy there was none; open and secret alliances changed like the pictures in a kaleidoscope; to be peacefully disposed was merely to invite aggression; the drain of blood and money was steadily bringing the country to the verge of ruin; the aid of foreign powers was eagerly sought; and the adventurers of half the world found happy hunting-grounds among the Courts of Hindostan. Such were the States of India in the old days, and I cannot see that the recent position in the Balkans has been materially different. How do the States stand to-day? Many of the old animosities have disappeared, and those which survive are kept in check. An open breach of the peace is unthinkable. Armies have been greatly reduced in size, and serve only for ceremonial display, or on occasion for the protection of common interests. Disputes are adjusted by reasonable methods, and populations aggregating more than 70 millions, say three times the numbers who inhabited the Balkans before 1914, live without fear of war, and are free to devote their energies to economic and intellectual pursuits. That is a condition one would like to see realised in the Balkans. How has it come to pass in India?

Every schoolboy is ready to answer with the catchword *Pax Britannica*, but few people understand the details of the mechanism covered by the phrase. External pressure has, of course, to be taken into consideration, but the important thing has been the regulation of diplomatic intercourse and the practical elimination of intrigue. The nations learned that they could live at peace only when the disturbers of peace were excluded from their councils. The way in which this was done can best be stated in the unimpassioned language of the *Imperial Gazetteer*. At the outset, we read, "an obligation was imposed, and accepted by even the largest States, which prevented their rulers from entering into relations with foreign nations or other States." The employment of foreigners was prohibited; the reception of even commercial agents of foreign powers was stopped; and the States "submitted to the obligation of referring to the British" every question or dispute which might arise. In a word, diplomacy was centralised, and the game had to be played with the cards on the table and in the presence of an impartial referee. For a quarter of a century or more there has been no room for the man with an axe to grind, or a gun to sell, and India has learned by experience that the activities of such individuals can be dispensed with entirely. Is there not here a lesson which the statesmen of the Balkans might take to heart? I am not, of course, suggesting a fantastic transfer of concrete institutions, or an extension of the *Pax Britannica* to the south-east of Europe; my point is that the centralisation of diplomacy is a pregnant idea, and that if the Balkan peoples would consent to try it they would very quickly find that it was almost indispensable to the stability of whatever settlement is now introduced. The trial could not have been made in the past because of the impossibility of finding the impartial referee, but with a League of Nations in existence that difficulty will disappear; and if each State would bind itself to negotiate with its neighbours only through a representative appointed by the League the result would almost certainly be to minimise injurious friction and promote international harmony to an extent which might make all the difference between peace and war.

The hard-shell diplomatist will object that any such arrangement would be derogatory to the sovereignty of the independent nations concerned. The objection is valid but not fatal, for the world has now come to the point where sovereignty must be limited in the interests of a large integration. For a good many centuries the nations of Europe fought to find out what sovereignty really was; they have at last reached the point where the idea has become capable of precise juridical expression, and now it is time to take the next forward step. The Covenant of the League represents in this respect the aspirations of the future. If statesmen used plain language, it would be described as a Covenant for the Limitation of Sovereignty, and though well-meaning advocates may try to disguise the powder in enormous quantities of rather sticky jam the powder is nevertheless there, and if once swallowed it will quickly get to work. For the Balkan nations, as for England or France or America, the question is not whether sovereignty shall be limited, but what limitations of sovereignty will most effectively conduce to the ideals of the modern world; and the main advantage to be obtained by the concentration of diplomacy is that the States would thereby be enabled to do for themselves what must otherwise be done for them by the pressure of more powerful forces acting from without.

THE INDO-BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Indo-British Association was held on June 20 at the Cannon Street Hotel. Lord Sydenham was re-elected as President. He said that during the year the Association had issued eighteen pamphlets dealing with Indian affairs, and had kept in touch with all loyal Indian organisations, making their views known as far as possible in this country. The policy had been to disseminate facts about the life and conditions of India very little known among the masses of English-speaking countries. Especially the Association had tried to get a hearing for the non-Brahmins and the classes not politically-minded. In India it was said that the Association had vilified the educated classes. No one more than the Association knew the value of the educated classes, but it had been obliged to criticise the actions and attitude of a small minority which seized on the opportunity offered by the war, and had already succeeded in creating disturbances, with serious loss of life, among the ignorant and credulous masses. The educated classes were not confined to the 1,700,000 sometimes returned as being literate in English. Speaking of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, he said it mingled shallow judgments with maxims of undoubted excellence. Mr. Montagu's main idea was not the uplifting of the great masses of the Indian people, but the conciliation of the small minority of agitators. The Bill now before Parliament would, if made law, weaken the supreme Government of India by setting up two Chambers, would create interminable conflicts by giving a dual Government to every province, and would give the British Parliament responsibility without power.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The issue of a 5 per cent. loan at 95, free of Indian income-tax, is announced by the Government of India. The loan is repayable at par not earlier than October 15, 1945, and not later than October 15, 1955. Subscriptions in India opened on July 2, and applications will be received until August 30. Indian war bonds of all issues will be accepted at par in subscriptions to the loan, and Indian Treasury bills will also be accepted subject to a discount of 4 per cent. on the unexpired portion of the currency of the bills. To provide against depreciation in market value 1½ per cent. of the amount of the loan will be set aside annually as a fund to be used for its purchase and cancellation when the market value falls below the issue price.

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The first annual report of the British-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce, which has just been issued, states that the efforts of the Chamber during the past year have been directed to paving the way, as far as might be possible under difficult conditions, for such developments. Reference is made to a conference which took place early this year between representatives of the Chamber and the Department of Overseas Trade with the object of considering plans for the advancement of the trade interests of the two countries, and it is stated that "although there were, and are, many obstacles in the way of a complete resumption of business between the two countries, the Council have every hope of material developments in the near future." The general meeting of the Chamber will be held at the London Chamber of Commerce on July 8, when no doubt some interesting information will be forthcoming regarding the prospects for the development of trade between this country and Roumania.

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The report of the Burmah Oil Company shows that 1918 was an extremely prosperous year for that undertaking. There was once again a great increase in the trading profit, which amounted to £2,849,000, as against £2,306,000 in 1917. The dividend of 30 per cent., free of tax, falls short of the previous declaration of 32½, but the distribution is on a capital which has been increased since 1917 by the share bonus of last July, when shareholders received one new share for every two shares they held, so that the dividend on the old basis would actually work out at something like 45 per cent. The allocations to depreciation and reserves amount to £778,000, or slightly higher than the previous year, and £1,776,000 is left to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty, which is estimated at £1,500,000.

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Continued improvements and economies in refining provide one reason for the greatly increased profits of the Burmah Oil Company; another factor is the advance that took place during the year in the prices of petroleum products. Since the conclusion of hostilities prices have begun to fall, while expenses have risen, but, on the other hand, there is the decrease in the excess profits tax, and as the amount at which the tax is estimated for the past year is equivalent to 55 per cent. on the ordinary capital, the prospects cannot be regarded as unfavourable. The current rate of the tax is now only 40 per cent., as against 80 per cent., and the difference that would make should compensate for very considerable shortcomings in other directions.

***

Before leaving this subject, I must say something with regard to another aspect of the company's position. It is proverbial that figures talk, and the results of the past year, following on a long series of increasingly prosperous years, speaks volumes, but even so the price of about £11 7-16 for the company's £1 shares would hardly seem justified prima facie. At this price, allowing for income-tax at 6s. in the £, the yield is about 4 per cent. There is, however, the prospect of much higher dividends in future, particularly in view of the company's substantial holding of the ordinary shares of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. That this company has before it almost unlimited prospects, there is little doubt, for the Anglo-Persian Oilfields are barely at the commencement of their development, while the company has been so fortunate as to secure valuable concessions in what may prove an important oilfield in Canada.

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Shareholders in the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields have every reason to feel extremely pleased with the report for the past year, which shows a net balance of £582,213, after meeting £78,602 in respect of six years' interest on income bonds, as against £348,555 last year, which, after the deduction of the loss to December 31, 1916, was reduced to a little over £6,000. The arrears on the preference shares, amounting to £56,230, have been paid out of last year's profits, together with the dividend for 1918, making an additional £15,000, and an interim dividend on the ordinary shares of 15 per cent. on the B shares and on the others their due proportion, absorbed £244,716, leaving an available balance of £266,267. Out of this it is proposed to pay a further dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the B shares, making 25 per cent. for the year, and the due proportions on the other classes of shares, while the 20 per cent. of surplus profits which goes to the preference shares amounts to £75,888. For the rest, the allowance for depreciation is £55,000, and the preliminary expenses are reduced by 10 per cent., leaving, subject to the payment of taxes, £76,551.

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The half-yearly balance-sheet of Messrs. Cox and Company, the Army bankers, for the six months ended April 5 shows that up to that date demobilisation had had no effect on the development of the business handled by this bank. Deposits and current accounts then amounted to £20,318,600, as against £18,775,200 at the corresponding date in 1918, and slightly over £4,000,000 at the beginning of the war. The growth of this business during the war has been very remarkable, and as the increase has been due to the development of the Services it naturally follows that the process of demobilisation is bound in due course to have its effect. To what extent will depend on how far business which was temporary becomes permanent through officers continuing to bank at Cox's.

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A notable improvement took place in the earnings of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for the half year ended March 31, though there was a decline in net revenue due to the still higher advance in expenditure. The gross receipts amounted to Rs.6,49,85,800 as against Rs.6,04,54,800, and the net revenue was Rs. 2,63,20,800 as against Rs.2,80,20,200. Passenger traffic contributed more to the increase than freight traffic. Coasting business was higher because of larger bookings for fairs and congresses. The main increases in goods traffic were in coal and coke, raw cotton, piece fabrics, rice, oil seeds, and salt. The surplus available is £82,300, as against £70,900, and the dividend remains at 35s. per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest, leaving £37,200.

***

My readers will have noticed that the addition of a few Japanese, Chinese, and Argentine securities has been made to the list of stocks and shares of the Near East and India that are quoted in these columns. This has been done at the express wish of some readers in Smyrna who are interested in the shares. In this connection I would point out that requests from readers for occasional quotations of shares are welcomed, and will be complied with so far as is consistent with space limitations.

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GERMAN FINANCE AND THE NEAR EAST.

Influence of the Banks.

Before 1914 Germany dreamed of two empires, one on land secured by rail and economic power, the other overseas and secured by sea-power. The origin of the first idea stretches far back in her history, when companies of German emigrants went east to found colonies in Muscovy and Hungary; the origin of the second is entirely modern. Germany's colonies date from 1885, and her navy from 1900. Both have vanished. Germany acquiesced in the loss of her fleet without a protest—an acquiescence almost more amazing than the surrender—and she has acquiesced in the loss of her colonies with only a formal protest. Her overseas expansion is therefore definitely ended.

It is significant of the real importance she attaches to things that she should have been more insistent over Upper Silesia than German East Africa, that she should take more interest in Danzig than Kiaochau, and that rumours should come of a German army preparing to invade Poland. German policy suffered in the days of her arrogant strength from being too discursive, and there was a constant see-saw between the colonial and maritime interests of Hamburg and the railway and financial interests of Berlin, even so late as 1918. The suicide of Herr Ballin last autumn marked the end of that era; German policy in the hour of her weakness is to concentrate in one direction. That direction can only be eastwards.

The German banks have definitely seconded German Imperial policy in the past; they were the tools of the old State, and they served the Hohenzollern policy well. There is some possibility that they may be the masters of the new State. One indication has indeed already been given. The suggestion of a capital levy was made a few months ago in Germany. The Government was too feeble to oppose it root-and-branch as a disastrous expedient, even for a defeated State overburdened with debt; but the project disappeared. The German banks had apparently intervened decisively.

From 1916 to 1918, the German banks followed in the footsteps of the armies. New branches were opened in Poland, Russia, and in the Balkans and Asia Minor. Few details of their transactions have reached England, but large commitments were apparently entered into. The defeat of the German Army has automatically ended some of those financial adventures; others, probably, are no longer profitable or advisable, and will be quietly dropped; but others stand.

The German banks participated in the loans to Bulgaria and Turkey. The advances to the former were not very large, as loans to Allies go in this war; to Turkey they were considerable. It may be assumed that in both cases they will be written off, since neither Bulgaria nor Turkey is in any condition to pay, or Germany to make them pay. This will involve both the banks and the German Treasury in some loss; a more serious matter is the loss of the Baghdad Railway. That railway, indeed, was constructed at a profit for Germany and a loss for Turkey by the ingenious kilometric guarantee. Its future is assured, and its expansion is inevitable, but the German concessionaire will be less popular in Turkey for some few years than he was before.

At the same time, certain facts to offset the ruin of German political schemes must be mentioned. The German exchange is low, from unavoidable causes, and low exchange facilitates exports automatically. The figures as to the cost of living in Germany are not well known, but labour costs do not appear to be high; at all events, a German engineering firm has secured a Dutch contract in competition with an English firm, at a price less than that which the English firm has to pay for the raw material. The explanation of the mystery is probably that the German firm is executing the contract at a heavy loss, on the principle that if it gets its foot inside the door again its whole body will follow in time. Our British merchants naturally object to that way of doing business, and seldom conduct their own affairs on these lines; but Germany has done so, and often successfully.

Germany and the Ukraine.

Now the whole of the Near East and Russia wants goods. A recent German paper noted that Lenin, arch-enemy of capital, had deferred the war on German capital for ten years, because he wanted German locomotives. No doubt he wants other things as well, and he will get them from Germany. Here is the opportunity of the German bank. Russia cannot pay for the goods, but the German bank can, in return for Russian concessions, which may be in land or timber—Bolshevist principles would not stand in the way if the necessity were urgent. In the South of Russia, in the still independent Ukraine, the German position remains very strong, and is likely to continue so. The one indubitable success of Germany in the war was stirring up the Ukraine to revolt, and she has her reward. The Ukraine is ready to trade with Germany—she has agricultural produce, and Germany manufactures and machinery, the ideal exchange—and she is equally ready to ally herself with Germany against Poland. Both countries hate the Poles; the Ukraine because the Poles conquered them, and Germany because the Poles have rebelled against Germany; and it happens that the only real industrial competitor of Germany in Eastern Europe is Poland. The so-called industrial advance of Russia during the last twenty years was really the advance of the Polish provinces—it centred in Warsaw and Lodz. New Poland will easily beat Russia in business, and she will put up a good fight against Germany if she is allowed a free hand at Danzig.

The possibilities of German trade in the Near East run on similar lines. The Balkans want goods and machinery badly. Britain, France, and America have every chance of supplying them, but Germany is nearest the market. Now, space is, philosophically, unreal, but in commerce it counts all the time. Probably the competition will narrow down a little, for America seems to be mainly occupied with the Yugoslavs as a business outlet for her exports—a fact which may explain the particular facts of idealism rendered visible in President Wilson's political spectroscope—while France is naturally engaged in the development of her own empire in Africa and in the work of reconstruction at home. The German, having lost the world, can concentrate on that part of it which is nearest to him with the prospect of getting back some, at least, of what he has lost in battle.

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MOROCCO TO-DAY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I am sending you a copy of "Modern Morocco," this being a report on the prospects for British trade in that country, compiled for the Bank of British West Africa by Mr. W. B. Harris, of Tangier, and the Hon. W. Cozens-Hardy, K.C., M.P.

Morocco is, from the point of view of extensive commercial development, a new country—only in recent years have law and order been definitely established—but the progress which is now taking place is notable, and there are great opportunities for the British merchant and manufacturer, who enjoys equality of treatment in both the French and Spanish zones. The tourist will find a country yet unspoiled, offering attractions which rival those of the East, and enjoying an excellent climate, within a few days' journey from England.

Morocco, it is said, can easily provide for 30 millions of people, or about four times its present population, and it is politically and geographically almost part of Europe.

The number of copies published is limited, and the Bank cannot undertake to supply all applicants, but a certain number of copies of the book will be available for those of your readers who are willing and able to consider, seriously the establishment of a business connection with Morocco.

The expense incurred by the Bank of British West Africa, in publishing "Modern Morocco," will be well spent if it serves to draw the attention of the British public to a country so full of possibilities and interest. Enquiries will be answered most willingly, and the Moroccan branches of the bank are entirely at the disposal of those desirous of making use of their services.—Your faithfully,

L. COUPER,
General Manager.

Bank of British West Africa, 17 and 18, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3. June 25.

BRITISH RIGHTS IN TUNIS.

In the House of Lords on June 25, the Earl of Mayo asked if it were true that the Tunisian Government, by the decree of February 22, 1919, had imposed a tax on the resale of all property in the Regency of Tunis to foreigners by Tunisian or French subjects and that this tax would not be imposed on any sale of property as between French subjects and French subjects, or Tunisian and Tunisian subjects, or French and Tunisian subjects, therefore placing all British subjects who might wish for business or commercial reasons to acquire any property in the Regency of Tunis in a disadvantageous position as compared with French and Tunisian subjects. The principal owners of the land in Tunis were Arabs and Mohammedans, who were surprised to find that, in spite of the cordial relations which they had been led to believe existed between England and France, the latter was imposing what they looked on as a fine on them if they sold any property to a British subject.

Lord Newton said it was extremely doubtful whether we had any real ground for protest, because, although we enjoyed theoretically and technically most-favoured-nation treatment in Tunis, that did not comprise the treatment enjoyed by France. Moreover, as the tax was imposed upon the French or Tunisian vendors, and not on foreign purchasers, the French might very well contend that we could not prevent their taxing their own nationals. Italian interests in Tunis were extremely more important than British interests. The British Government had been in communication with the Italian Government, and it appeared that the Italian Government did not contemplate taking any action.

A CYPRUS TOBACCO COMPANY

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Acting High Commissioner has sanctioned the incorporation of a company under the style of the "Pancyprion Tobacco anonyme Trading and Manufacturing Company." He has similarly sanctioned the incorporation of a "Limassol Light Anonyme Company."

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GERMAN EXPORTS FROM ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 30.

At a time when, on the one hand, little is made in certain Allied circles of the sacrifices borne by Roumania in the course of the war (and indemnities seem very far distant), and, on the other hand, German voices are raised in protest against the inhuman terms dictated by the Allies, it may not be inappropriate to attempt to clear up any doubts that may exist as to the full meaning of a *German* occupation by publishing a few figures. Though for obvious reasons, they fail to represent the whole truth, yet such as they are they are genuine, for they have been taken from the German official papers and registers relating to materials exported from Roumania during the course of the German military occupation. They were captured by the Roumanian troops during their advance through Transylvania. Of course, they represent only official "exports." As the *Indépendance Roumaine* justly remarks, they do not include the enormous material sent home by enemy officers and men in 5 kilogram parcels. Motor lorries piled up with these were to be seen daily driving through the streets of Bucharest. Nor do these tables include the victuals actually consumed by the army of occupation.

CEREALS, LEGUMINOUS AND OLEAGINOUS PLANTS EXPORTED FROM ROUMANIA BY THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION FROM DECEMBER 1st, 1916—OCTOBER 31st, 1918. IN TONS.

—	Germany.	Austria-Hungary.	Turkey.	Bulgaria.	Total.
Wheat	483,002	643,957	140,273	5,950	1,273,182
Indian Corn	224,613	242,089	22,921	5,747	495,370
Other cereals and vegetables	43,716	45,770	553	4,574	94,613
Alementary plants and fodder	195,540	62,879	3,702	471	262,592
Oleaginous plants	24,239	11,843	60	6	36,148
Total	971,110	1,006,538	167,509	16,748	2,161,905

VARIOUS PRODUCTS, IN TONS, EXPORTED FROM DECEMBER 1, 1916—OCTOBER 31, 1918.

—	Germany.	Austria-Hungary.	Turkey.	Bulgaria.	Total.
Petroleum	127,127	227	710	770	128,834
Light benzine	102,158	229	1,315	125	103,827
Heavy benzine	101,858	3,983	8,094	1,686	115,621
(Fats) grease	290,254	47	3,543	3,110	296,954
Machine oil (Huile à graisser)	206,610	112	—	—	206,722
Unrefined petroleum (pétrole brut)	1,371	226,172	4	9	227,556
Other products of petroleum	60,566	406	159	164	61,295
Total	889,944	231,176	13,825	5,864	1,140,809

OTHER PRODUCTS, IN TONS, EXPORTED FROM DECEMBER 1, 1916—OCTOBER 31, 1918.

—	Germany.	Austria-Hungary.	Turkey.	Bulgaria.	Total.
Skins	9,017	5,348	12	302	
Wood	80,792	92,035	6,292	22,034	
Salt	2,403	7,654	—	83,888	
Machines, iron and metals	6,351	36,284	8,312	6,528	
Chemical Products	629	1,042	130	258	
Textiles	5,368	4,619	9	32	
Alcohol, "spiritueuse," tobacco	5,916	2,686	85	—	
Various	20,965	9,998	783	2,602	
Total	131,441	159,666	15,623	115,704	422,434

CROP PROSPECTS IN BULGARIA.

The Rose Harvest.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 18.

The prospects of the forthcoming harvest, which in some places has already begun, are not very promising, owing to the very unfavourable weather. If the present rainy weather continues, the harvest will be half the average amount, and there will be a shortage of supplies; but if there is a change to warm and sunny conditions there is every prospect that the late autumn sowings will yield very rich and excellent crops.

Owing to the unusually cold and rainy weather, the rose harvest has been delayed by two or three weeks. The crops are not abundant, and the quantity of the attar of roses is less than half the usual amount, but the quality is excellent.

Last week the heads of the military missions of the Allied Powers made a tour through the famous Valley of the Roses in Southern Bulgaria. Everywhere they received a warm and cordial welcome from the population.

An address will be delivered to the members of the London Chamber of Commerce on July 9, at 2.30 p.m., by Mr. E. F. Crowe, C.M.G., Commercial Counsellor of Embassy, Tokio, on "Recent Developments in Japanese Trade." Mr. Stanley Machin, J.P., President of the Chamber, will preside.

FOREIGN PAPER MONEY IN EGYPT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 6.

The trade in foreign paper money has assumed very considerable proportions since all restrictions have been taken off. The mass of the notes are imported from Syria, which, to judge from the enormous quantities of paper she is sending out, must have been the dumping ground for all the forced currency of the Central Powers. The *Ahram* states that the extent of this new business can only be estimated by those who are in immediate contact with it. The money is in manifold denominations—Turkish pounds, German marks, Austrian kronen, Bulgarian leva, etc., etc.

"The first impression produced by seeing such quantities of banknotes," says the *Ahram*, "is that the Germans and their allies had embarked on printing currency on a large scale in order to facilitate their military work and fill their urgent needs when gold and silver were beyond their reach. It is not out of place to fear that a portion of the great consignments of foreign banknotes is doubtful money . . . As a result of the arrival of those consignments, the prices of the same printed money have fallen to a lower degree than that already reached in consequence of the crushing defeat sustained by the Governments which had issued the notes. The Austrian crown, the original value of which is P.T. 4, is now worth 7 milliemes; the German mark, which had the value of fr.1.25, is now being taken for 15 milliemes; the Russian rouble, originally P.T. 10, has fallen to 16 milliemes; the Bulgarian franc is not worth more than 10 milliemes. . . . and the Turkish pound, which has the nominal value of 100 Turkish piastres, is now being sold at the rate of P.T. 22 a piece. The stuff is being offered for sale in thousands; and it is worth noting that the Austrian banknotes dealt in here are all big pieces of 1,000 crowns each, and all appear to have been issued in 1902. Where were those thousands of crowns collected, and how could they be used by people in Syria in lump sums during the war? Money changers think that the Austrian "Thousands" must have been brought to the East purposely for the financial market and not for individual use. One must think twice before purchasing such foreign banknotes in these days."

GREEK TRADE NOTES.

Prohibition of Cotton Imports.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, June 13.

A Royal Decree, dated May 10 23, was published in the Government *Gazette* of May 13/26, prohibiting the import into Greece from that day of any of the following articles bought or shipped after April 20/May 3 of this year:—(a) cotton, ginned or unginned (coming under category 150 of the Greek Customs); (b) cotton yarns and threads up to the English No. 24 (these come in under categories 152a, 153a, and 154a); (c) coloured cotton drills and ginghams (Greek Customs tariff category 159b). The Minister of National Economy is authorised by the decree to issue special permits for the import of any or all of the above, after applications have been approved by a committee composed of three higher officials, one from each of the Ministries of National Economy, Finance and Provisions, and of the President of the Association of Threadspinners.

This step is authorised by a law passed at the last sitting of the Chamber, giving the Government power to prohibit the import of any articles they may think fit on the proposal of one of the three Ministers of National Economy, Finance, or Provisions. This is the first prohibition of import to come into force, and is understood to be in order to allow of the disposal of certain cotton goods made locally with raw material imported from Egypt. A certain quantity of raw cotton is produced in the district round Livadia, but this, unless mixed with imported cotton, is almost useless owing to the shortness of the fibre. The raw material imported from abroad arrived some time ago, and was bought by the Government, and amounted to a considerable quantity. It was made up into khaki drills and ginghams at a time when these materials were very badly needed, but the products are, of course, not on a par with the British-made goods. Owing to the arrival of cheaper Spanish-made dry goods and the termination of hostilities, which allowed of goods bought in England and stored there for some considerable time to come into Greece, the local product has become unsaleable. The Government is now anxious to allow of the disposal of these stocks before any further drop in local prices takes place and before further supplies from the rapidly falling cotton market abroad arrive. The result of this step, the effects of which are already being felt, is that retailers have commenced to raise the prices of foreign and local made products indiscriminately. In view of the fact that the dry goods dealers have now almost completely replenished their stocks from abroad, it will be some considerable time before the local made drills and ginghams have been consumed, so that it is anticipated that the prohibition of import must remain in force for some time.

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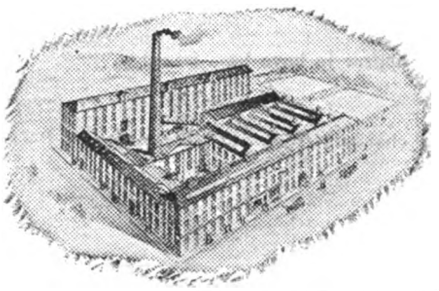
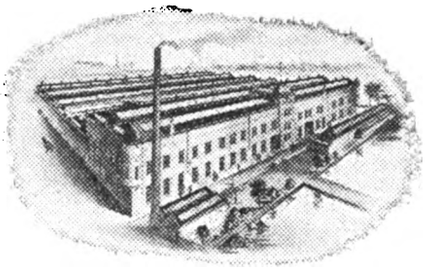
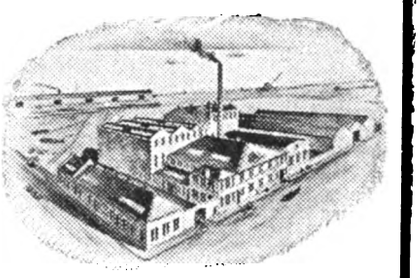

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Trade Prospects in Crete.

According to American reports the island of Crete is attracting increased attention from manufacturers and capitalists abroad, and it is stated that American merchandise is welcomed in Crete and that American capital would be equally welcomed if offered. In view of the fact that since the Armistice numerous American business experts have been carefully studying the various markets of the Near East, the report is noteworthy. Crete stands on the highroad along which the commerce between East and West is carried on, and in a position which places her within from a few hours' to two or three days' sail of any market on the Mediterranean coast. The soil is very rich, but on account of frequent disturbances while the island was under Turkey it has not been cultivated as it might have been. Of late years, however, and since the union with Greece, considerable progress has been made, and the journey from the Piræus to Heracleon (Candia) and Canea or Rettimo, the three principal seaports of the island, can be made in a few hours; and it is hoped that British manufacturers or their representatives and engineers, who happen to be at the forthcoming British Exhibition in Athens, will avail themselves of the opportunity to visit the island. In recent years the agricultural population has shown a remarkable desire to increase the use of modern machinery and implements which, in the absence of British representatives, were being supplied by German, Austrian, French and American manufacturers. The kinds of machinery most needed are light ploughs, harrows, sowing machines, harvesting and threshing machines of light construction, small-power flour mills, olive oil presses and crushers, oil motors, tractors, industrial hand tools and implements, etc. And in view of the fact that the population is over 300,000—i.e., more than the population of Cyprus—and that the majority are farmers and landowners, British manufacturers should not omit coming in touch with them.

Crete is rich in mines. In the Canea district iron-ore deposits are to be found at Ravdoucha, Melissourgio, Fourné, Skinó, Kakopetro, Keramia and Koqygra. The only one of these, however, which has been at all seriously looked into is that of Ravdoucha (province of Kissamo, situated one mile from the sea-coast, and some twelve miles to the north-west of Canea.) In the Rethymo district there are also several iron-ore deposits, the most important being at Agiropoli, and another at Fodeles (Mylopotamo.) That so little interest has been shown in mining enterprises in Crete may be traced to the fact that the deposits are almost always at a distance from the coast, and as there are no railways and hardly any good roads in the island one is faced with the difficulty of lack of communications, and transport facilities. In the Rethymo district there are three coal (lignite) mines in the province of St. Basile.

Crete is in need of improvements, such as the enlarging of Candia and Canea harbours, a railway to join the principal towns, a telephone service, electric tramways, etc. Many European firms have applied for permission to undertake these works, but, as far as it is known, have not met with success. Before the war an Anglo-American Telephone Company applied for permission to establish a telephone service, but for some reason the Government has not decided on the question.

The chief articles of export are olive oil, citrons in brine, honey, almonds, chestnuts, raisins, soap, olive oil foods, oak, silk, and wine. The exports for the year before the war amounted to about £2,000,000, while the value of the imports amounted to £1,200,000.

Utility of Tractors.

The growing employment of tractors in the Near East is an improvement in land cultivation which must be ascribed to the war. Scarcity of labour, and to a certain extent of animals, compelled land owners to adopt this means of modern cultivation. The use of steam or oil-engine power for ploughing is not, of course, new in the Near East. The system of working the plough between two steam traction engines, as well as the single-engine system with a winding drum, having a sufficient length of cable and an automatic locking device, by which the plough is hauled across the field, has been in use some twenty-five years, and is probably still in use in some places, though too expensive for the average landowner, and not quite suitable for small inclined or irregular fields. It may be mentioned here that the first steam engines and ploughing sets, as above described, were of British construction, and have been in use for many years, giving entire satisfaction. The modern steam, or oil, tractor, which is a direct hauler with a balance plough attached to it, has proved more suitable throughout the Near East, and such machines are supplied generally by American and French firms. British firms, however, do not do as much as they could in order to secure orders. In our view, they do not bring their machines sufficiently before the notice of the buyers, or they offer machines which may be excellent in construction and suitable for the English soil, but quite unsuitable for the Near East. In England, of course, ploughing is done at a greater depth than is needed in the East, where shallow ploughing is essential, and is adopted as a defence against the frequently recurring droughts, the idea being that the supply of moisture which may have accumulated in the subsoil during the winter months is retained and utilised in the spring, when the rainfall is uncertain. Therefore, for such work a lighter machine is needed than the one used in England. This question has been studied by American makers with satisfactory results.

Openings for Motor Boats.

In previous notes reference has been made to the great possibilities for British motor boats in the Near East. The Ægean Archipelagos, with their numerous picturesque fertile islands and islets, the Sea of Marmora, the Bosphorus, the Trebizond coast, the Azov and Caspian Seas, etc., are ideal waters for the modern motor boat. Smyrna, to mention only one town, offers great opportunities to British motor boat builders, if the latter act promptly and energetically. There were very few such craft in Smyrna before the outbreak of the war, although the large and beautiful harbour is ideal for motor-boats. A small English motor-boat had been making the round trip to Mitylene, which is eight hours from Smyrna by steamer, and others were following its example when the war broke out and conditions changed. Steel boats are not suitable for Smyrna's harbour, the dory whale boat being the style which should be used. Such boats should be at least 23ft. long. Some frail lake-boats have been sent to Smyrna, only to lie around useless. It is advisable that British motor-boat builders who may wish to secure permanent trade in that promising market, should take the necessary steps to investigate the particular needs of that district. Smyrna is the principal seaport in the Ægean Sea, and the residence of many wealthy men, who, as a rule, love yachting and sea trips.

MAISELS PETROLEUM TRUST

Maisels Petroleum Trust, Limited, have received through the Lucey Manufacturing Corporation a report on the position of ten of the company's wells in Bordeni, Roumania, from which it appears that five of these were damaged or plugged at the time of the evacuation, but can be cleaned or repaired, and the others can be deepened without difficulty to reach productive levels. The wells reported on, and the depths given in the report are as follows:—No 1, depth 385 metres, 14in. casing, damage can be repaired. No. 2, depth 427 metres, 8in. casing, stopped, level of production 500 metres; 300 metres of casing are available. No. 4, depth 404 metres, 10in. casing, stopped at evacuation, level of production 472 metres. No. 5, depth 333 metres, 12in. casing, stopped, level of production 354 metres. No. 6, depth 474 metres, 6¼in. casing, water to be shut off and deepened. No. 7, depth 347 metres, 12in. casing, stopped, level of production 386 metres. No. 8, depth 412 metres, 12-14in. casing, clean well; the oil is not stopped; level of production 450 metres. No. 10, depth 54 metres. No. 11, depth 170 metres, 450-millimetre pipes. No. 12, depth 140 metres, 450-millimetre pipes, clean boring.

There is not a derrick left standing, but it is stated that there is sufficient material on the spot to put in working order two of the wells without delay, and that a large quantity of plant and material belonging to the company can be recovered from the neighbourhood. The report states that these wells, of which five were producing before the war, are some of the best in Bordeni, being situated amidst the most productive wells in this field. Further reports on properties and wells owned by Maisels Petroleum Trust, Limited, on the other oilfields at Badiceni, Chiciura, Tautesti, Copaceni, Schiulesti, and Moreni are following.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Damage during the Disturbances.

The annual general meeting of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., was held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., on June 26, Major W. I. Le Breton (chairman of the company) presiding. The managing director (Mr. F. J. Horne) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditor's report.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, I doubt whether I am wrong in believing that your principal desire on this occasion is to learn such particulars as we can give you of the consequences to us of the recent disturbances in Egypt. I believe, therefore, that I shall best meet your wishes by giving to this matter the first place, though it be not the primary object of the meeting, and it is indeed one that does not in any way affect the operations of the year 1918, which we have met to consider. I fear you may be somewhat disappointed, as we are, that even at this date we have not complete particulars of the losses and damage sustained by us. This applies more particularly to Upper Egypt, and is due to the fact that there are many places which our responsible officers have until quite recently been prevented from visiting. The rioting commenced in Cairo on March 10 last, and spread immediately and rapidly to the districts. The fact that we were caught entirely unprepared for anything of the sort is not surprising when, as is generally known, the Government of Egypt had no suspicion of any such impending danger, and all around us seemed to be enjoying exceptional prosperity and the prospects of a return to peaceful conditions. As a consequence our markets and warehouses were entirely at the mercy of the rioters, and in many cases at once became so completely isolated, owing to the destruction of the railways and telegraphs, that for weeks we had no means of communicating with them, and did not even know how far they continued to exist.

The injury done to our markets, so far as we know, consists of what approaches total destruction in the case of eight markets, and as many more were less seriously damaged, whilst in many cases stocks of goods consigned to us for sale were looted or damaged, as were also stocks and stands of merchants who conduct business in our general markets. On such information as we possess, we estimate that our loss may comprise some £15,000 on account of revenue or earnings, and about £20,000 for renewals of and repairs to our property, whilst goods stolen will represent at least another £1,000. Notice has been given to the Government that we claim compensation accordingly, and, as you may imagine, a number of others have done the same. Our latest reports are to the effect that all markets are working except one in lower and three in upper Egypt.

Turning now to the business of the past year, any of you gentlemen who have followed the published weekly returns of our market earnings may well have had feelings of some uncertainty as to the result of the year's working. In the middle of that year our takings had fallen nearly £7,500 below those of the previous corresponding period. Our markets were suffering from a variety of disabilities, and were being kept closed to horned cattle for other reasons as well as for cattle plague. It was thus almost impossible to form any idea as to how long conditions might continue thus adverse to us, or become increasingly so. Although this was very much the position at the end of July, when I last had the privilege of addressing you, my colleagues on this board readily shared the responsibility of my then saying: "On the other hand, if any important number of our markets be reopened, we should recover, I believe, by leaps and bounds."

The accounts and report, which it has been our satisfaction to supply you with, will have shown you that we have no reason to regret this encouraging assurance, for we have since made up nearly the whole of that comparative loss.

For the eighth consecutive year we are able to recommend that the dividend on our ordinary shares be made up to 10 per cent., also that our deferred shareholders receive £6 2s. 4d. per share. We pay to the Government of Egypt approximately £4,000 as their participation. We can place £1,500 to the credit of our general reserve, bringing this latter up to £10,000, and then carry forward £10,483, against £10,307 brought into the accounts from the previous year. That these results should have been secured in the interests of the company, in spite of the considerable falling off of our miscellaneous business, is due to the fact that we have to provide for correspondingly smaller payments from our profits, both to the Government of Egypt and to the Government here.

The Outlook.

In the current year Egypt is bound to suffer from the destruction of crops and other property, the waste of water from an agricultural point of view, damage to much needed means of communication and the like, in all of which this company must share, both in its markets business proper and in its miscellaneous trading. An additional misfortune is the reappearance of the cattle plague, and its rapid and serious increase must be greatly attributed to the enforced absence of the Government inspectors from the districts owing to the existing state of the country.

No questions being asked, the chairman moved:—"That the report of the directors dated June 13, 1919, together with the audited statement of accounts and balance-sheet for the year ended December 31, 1918, be and they are hereby approved, confirmed and adopted."

Lieut.-Colonel A. St. John Cooke seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

A motion that a dividend of 5 per cent., declared on ordinary share capital, be confirmed, (was moved by the chairman, seconded by Mr. W. Home, C.I.E., and unanimously agreed to. The chairman then moved that £6 2s. 4-59.300d. per share be declared as dividend on the deferred share capital. This motion was seconded by Mr. G. H. Redwood, and carried unanimously. After a vote of thanks to the chairman the proceedings terminated.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY COMPANY.

Increased Gross Receipts.

The one hundred and thirty-ninth half-yearly general meeting of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company was held on June 27, at the company's office, 48, Copthall Avenue, Sir Charles H. Armstrong (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. R. H. Walpole) read the notice convening the meeting.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that so far as gross receipts were concerned, the six months' working had been very satisfactory, the total for the half-year having been a few rupees under 650 lacs, and this compared with a little over 600 lacs in the corresponding period of last year. The excess this half-year was over 45 lacs of rupees, which was equivalent to an increase of 7.49 per cent. For the whole year they had reached a record figure of 1,283 lacs, against 1,135 lacs in the previous 12 months, an increase of just over 13 per cent. The line had carried, and was still carrying a very heavy traffic, and as regarded the current year he was glad to be able to report that their gross receipts were already in excess of those of the corresponding period of last year by more than 40 lacs of rupees. Their weekly receipts lately had been in the neighbourhood of 30 lacs, which was a large and very satisfactory figure. Although their train mileage during the half-year under review had decreased, their expenditure had increased considerably, and from the figure he had just mentioned of gross receipts, 387 lacs must be deducted as working expenses, against 324 lacs in the corresponding period of last year, an increase of 62¼ lacs, or 19.21 per cent. For the whole year the comparison was 736, against 605 lacs, an excess of 130 lacs, or 21½ per cent. Their net revenue for the half-year was, therefore, less by 17 lacs, or 6 per cent., but for the 12 months the figures showed an increase of 17¾ lacs, or 3 1-3 per cent. The total net earnings for the two half years was 506 lacs, from which interest charges of 297 lacs had to be deducted. This left a net amount of 208¼ lacs, of which the company's share, after deduction of Indian income-tax, was Rs9,76,293. This amount, remitted at 1s. 8d. exchange, had realised £81,357 15s., out of which they were distributing 1¾ per cent.—the same as last year—in addition to the guaranteed interest for the half-year of 1½ per cent.

Large Increase in Traffic.

During the half-year they had carried nearly two million more ordinary passengers, and their receipts under this head had increased by over 17 lacs of rupees. In public merchandise they had carried in the six months nearly four million tons, and their receipts under this head had increased by over 10 lacs. The increase in goods traffic was due to large supplies of coal, to increased bookings of raw cotton, and to larger dispatches up country of India-made piece goods. As regarded the future, the directors had many big schemes in contemplation for which money would be required, and its provision was likely, he feared, to be a difficulty for some time to come unless some departure from the present method of financing railways could be devised. In India itself money was likely to be diverted into Indian enterprises, from which in many cases a good return might be anticipated, and if so, it was probable that railways would have to look to the home market for funds, but so far as could be seen at present, they would have to pay a higher rate of interest than had been customary in the past.

The managing director (Mr. J. E. Dallas) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A dividend of 35s. per cent. upon the 3 per cent. Guaranteed stock of the company was declared, in addition to the guaranteed interest of 30s. per cent. for the current half-year.

The subscription of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company to the new Loan is announced as £1,000,000.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to April 31, 1919. (New Style, January 14 to May 13, 1919):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piraeus Customs.
		Drachmes.	Drachmes.
Gross Receipts, Apr.	1919	3,709,915	2,857,812
Do. do. do	1918	2,121,879	1,856,000
Estimated receipts for 3 months (Law of Control)		9,633,333	3,566,666
Actual do. do	1919	14,304,256	13.265.228
" "	1918	12,714,345	10,622,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 4 months	1919	+ 4,670,923	+ 9,698,561
	1918	+ 3,081,012	+ 7,055,333

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Bank of Madras.

The report of the Bank of Madras for the half-year ended December 31, 1918, states that the balance brought forward from June 30, 1918, less bonus to staff, is Rs2,96,776; the profit for the half-year, after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, amounts to Rs6,10,774, making a total of Rs9,07,550. This sum the directors have dealt with as follows:—In payment of dividend for the half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, Rs3,75,000; bonus at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, Rs75,000; transfer to reserve fund, Rs2,00,000; carried forward, Rs2,57,550.

Woodland.

The report of the Woodland (Kelani Valley Ceylon) Rubber and Tea Company for 1918, states that the net profit, after writing off buildings and machinery account, is £712, to which has to be added the balance brought forward of £13,706, less excess profits duty 1917 account £7,167, making a balance of £7,252, which the directors propose to deal with as follows.—Dividend of 10 per cent., less income-tax, £2,500; directors' fees £250, leaving to be carried forward £4,502. The interest on the debenture issue has been paid to December 31, 1918.

Noyapara Tea.

The report of the Noyapara Tea Company for 1918 states that the balance from last year is £11,865; profit for the year, interest, etc., is £5,872; deduct income-tax balance £733, leaving £17,004. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, of which 7½ per cent. interim was paid on March 20, £3,750, leaving to carry forward, subject to excess profits duty, £13,254.

Lungla Sylhet.

The report for 1918 of the Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Company states that the revenue account shows a profit of £27,475, to which has to be added £765 for interest on investments. £18,493 was received on account of refund of excess profits duty paid in previous years, and including this and sundry adjustments the balance brought forward from 1917 is £31,636. After payment of income-tax, amounting to £13,062, there is a balance at credit of profit and loss account of £46,813, which the directors recommend should be dealt with as follows:—Preference dividend, £4,275; interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, on the Ordinary shares, already paid, £3,562; final dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, on the Ordinary shares, making 20 per cent. for the year, payable at once, £10,687; suspense account for damage by earthquake, £3,000; reserve, £5,000; additional remuneration to directors, £1,200; carry forward, £19,088. The investments account remains the same as last year—namely, £15,300 of Five per Cent. War stock, 1929-1947, at a net cost of £14,519 16s. 3d.

Jhanzie Tea.

The report of the Jhanzie Tea Association for 1918 states that the profit amounted to £30,575; £7,338 was brought in, which with sundry adjustments gives £38,095. Deducting income-tax (£4,512), interim dividend (£4,000), transfer to staff provident fund (£800), there is left £28,783. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 9 per cent., less income-tax, making 13 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward £19,783, subject to payment of excess profits duty estimated at £8,200.

Neboda (Ceylon).

The report of the Neboda (Ceylon) Rubber and Tea Estates for 1918 states that gross revenue amounted to £44,553, of which cultivation, Ceylon and shipping charges absorb £23,224, leaving a gross profit of £21,329, which with interest, transfer fees, etc., £3,535, makes £24,864. Deducting depreciation (£1,113), income-tax, directors' fees, donations to war charities and other London charges (£1,829), debenture interest (£3,600), there is left £18,322; £16,820 was brought forward, making £35,142. The directors recommend a final dividend of 10 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward £15,142. Owing to the difficulties of obtaining freight the company was unable to deal with a large quantity of 1918 rubber crop until 1919, and consequently the usual interim dividend was not paid. Estimated crops for 1919 are:—Rubber, 525,000 lb.; tea, 250,000 lb

Central Travancore.

The report of the Central Travancore Rubber Company for the year ended December 31, 1918, states that the acreage of the estate is now 2,164.11 acres. The amount expended to December 31, 1918, on capital account in respect of this acreage was £75,393. The loss on exchange in 1918 represented 1.43d. per lb. of rubber crop. A sum of £414 has been recovered in respect of the profits for year 1917 having fallen below the pre-war standard. No excess profits duty is payable for 1918, but on the other hand £602 is expected to be recovered. The sum at credit of profit and loss account (including the balance brought forward) is £13,476. The directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., less tax, for the year, to write off against depreciation of buildings and machinery £1,200, and to carry forward £9,881.

Amalgamated Tea Estates.

The report of the Amalgamated Tea Estates Company for the year ended November 30, 1918, states that the credit balance from last year was £83,854, less excess profits duty, paid on account of liability to November 30, 1917, £10,000. The profit for the year was £88,852, making £162,706 available. Deduct amount written off for block expenditure incurred during the year, £4,475, and half-year's dividend on the preference shares, £10,500, leaving £147,731. There was paid on December 21, 1918, half-year's dividend on the preference shares, £10,500. The directors have decided to transfer to general reserve account £20,000, and they propose to pay on June 30 a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, £47,835, leaving, exclusive of adjustment of excess profits duty, £69,396.

Ceylon Proprietary Tea.

The report of Ceylon Proprietary Tea Estates for 1918 states that the net amount at credit of profit and loss, including balance brought forward, after providing for 1917 excess profits tax, general expenses, directors' fees, etc., is £11,152. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 2½ per cent. on the Ordinary shares (making 5 per cent.), to place to income-tax account £1,500, to staff pension fund £200, and to carry forward £3,645.

Tara Tea.

The report of the Tara Tea Company for 1918 states that after carrying to the cost of the property the expenditure upon new cultivation during the year, namely, £1,132, the crop account shows a profit of £13,251, and to this must be added the sum brought forward, after payment of 1917 dividend, bonus, excess profits duty, etc., £14,041, making £27,292. From this must be deducted directors' fees, etc., £201; balance of income-tax on account of 1918, £1,736; dividend on Six per Cent. Preference shares, £600; leaving available £24,754; less interim dividend of 6 per cent., less tax, on the Ordinary shares, £855; income-tax thereon at 5s. 9d., £345. The directors recommend a further dividend of 14 per cent., less tax, on the Ordinary shares, making 20 per cent. for the year, £1,995; income-tax at 5s. 9d., £805; and a bonus of 5 per cent., less tax, on the Ordinary shares, £713; income-tax thereon at 5s. 9d., £288, together £5,000. They also propose to carry to the reserve fund £3,000, leaving to be carried forward £16,754, subject to excess profits duty.

Anglo-Portuguese Telephone.

The report of the Anglo-Portuguese Telephone Company for 1918 states that the capital expenditure for the year amounted to £28,927. An issue of £50,000 extension Debenture stock was made in April last at the price of 101. The profit and loss account shows a gross income of £103,957, of which operating, management and general charges absorbed £73,779 and royalties to the Portuguese Government £3,107, leaving a gross profit of £27,071. After payment of income-tax, £3,357, providing for Debenture interest, £1,663, and sinking fund, £1,937, and adding £10,000 to the renewals fund, the amount for disposal (including £7,092 15s. brought forward) is £17,207. In November the company paid an interim dividend of 3 per cent., amounting to £4,500, and the directors recommend a further dividend of 3 per cent., less tax, making 6 per cent. for the year. This will absorb £4,500 and leave £8,207 to be carried forward. Meeting, Worcester House, E.C., July 9, noon.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.

The report of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for 1918 states that the total production of crude oil amounted to 277,300 tons as compared with 134,500 tons in 1917. The increase in production has necessitated the creation of more storage and refining facilities on the Hurghada Fields and at Suez. Some of these have been completed and others are still in course of erection. Towards the end of 1918 it was found that the profits resulting from the increased output of the fields warranted the payment of the arrears of interest on the Income bonds, which form a first charge upon the profits of the company. The total interest accrued to November 1, 1918, amounted to £76,352, and this was paid on December 4, 1918. In April this year the financial position had improved to such an extent that the directors decided to pay off the arrears of the 6 per cent. dividend on the Cumulative Preference shares, amounting to £56,230, and to distribute an interim dividend on the whole of the Ordinary shares, the amount on the "B" shares being at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum and the others in their due proportion. The profits amount to £654,416, to which has to be added the balance brought forward of £6,399, making a total of £660,816. From this has to be deducted interest on Income bonds paid and accrued to December 31 last, amounting to £78,602, dividend on Preference shares from June 26, 1913, to December 31 last, amounting to £71,230, and interim dividends of £244,716, amounting together to £394,548, leaving an available balance of £266,267. The directors now recommend that final dividends be paid on the respective classes of shares. Upon the "B" shares this amounts to a further dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, making a total of 25 per cent. for the year 1918 upon the Ordinary "B" shares. With the sums which will be payable in respect of profits this will bring the total payment in respect of the final dividends upon all the shares to £189,716, leaving a balance to be carried forward (subject to the payment of taxes) of £76,551. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., July 9, noon.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Trading in the market has been exceedingly difficult as a result of the labour dispute and the continuance of the strike. The operative spinners have refused to confirm the provisional settlement of last week. The spirning mills therefore are still idle. Most weaving firms restarted on Monday, but since then manufacturers have decided to close down until a definite settlement of the dispute has been arranged. Very little change can be recorded in regard to Egyptian cotton. Prices keep steady and no news of importance is coming through relating to the crop. Nominally, Egyptian yarn prices have been advanced, but business has been quiet and must remain so until the industrial situation is clearer. In cloth for Egypt, inquiry continues on a healthy scale, and some fair lines have been put through, but manufacturers are now refusing to accept fresh contracts on any terms whatever. A fair amount of business has been offering for Persia and the Levant. Shippers to India have met with plenty of inquiry from the other side. Some makers have booked substantial lines in grey and white shirtings and have taken the risk of being able to deliver in due course. The undercurrent of demand for China remains encouraging. There is no possibility of business flowing freely until production is resumed on ordinary lines. American yarns for home use have been dearer in quotation, but buying has been of a limited character, and most sellers have now withdrawn quotations. Very little has been done in export numbers.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT FOUR per CENT. CUMULATIVE PREFERRED SHARES. —The National Bank of Egypt announces that COUPON No. 30 of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt Four per Cent. Cumulative Preferred Shares due 1st July, 1919, will be PAID at its Offices in Cairo, Alexandria, and London, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4

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COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

Woodend (Kelani Valley, Ceylon) Rubber and Tea.—The transfer books have been closed from July 1 to July 14, inclusive.

The directors of Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates recommend a final dividend of 20 per cent., less income-tax, making 30 per cent. for the year.

City of Alexandria.—The National Bank of Egypt announces that coupon No. 35 of the 4 per cent. loan, due July 1, will be paid at 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.

Curtis's and Harvey.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at 110, Cannon Street, E.C., on July 15, at 12.30 p.m. Transfer books are closed from June 30 to July 14, inclusive.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Ordinary stock transfer books closed July 12 to 26, inclusive, for preparing dividend warrants for six months ending March 31, payable to shareholders registered at time of closing the books.

Bengal and North-Western Railway.—Ordinary stock transfer books closed from July 5 to 18, inclusive, for preparing dividend warrants for six months ended March 31, payable to shareholders registered at time of closing books.

Royal Dutch Petroleum.—Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons announce that they are prepared to receive the provisional receipts of the 1916 issue to be exchanged for the definitive share or sub-share certificates, which will be issued with coupon No. 43 and following.

The directors of the East Indian Railway announce a dividend from surplus profits account of £2 4s. per cent. on the deferred annuity capital and the deferred annuity capital, Class "D," in addition to the guaranteed interest of £2 per cent. for the half-year ending July 31. This will give a total return for the year of £7 9s. per cent., against £6 16s. per cent. for preceding year.

The directors of the Assam Company announce that profit on 1918 crop was £73,799, against £100,615. Commission and bonus to managers and assistants, £11,441, against £16,746; planting and upkeep of new, and as yet unproductive, cultivation, £4,971, against £6,745; balance dividend of 7½ per cent., and a bonus of 10 per cent., payable on July 1, making 25 per cent. for the year, less tax, the same as a year ago. It is proposed to transfer to the hail risks insurance fund £2,000, and to carry forward £11,566, against £7,926.

The report of the Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates for 1918 states that the net profit, after providing for income-tax, debenture interest, and general expenses, amounts to £25,487. There has been written off for depreciation of buildings, machinery, etc., £3,000, and transferred to general reserve account £2,000, leaving £20,487; £5,807 was brought in, making £26,295. The directors propose a final dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 1 per cent., both less income-tax, at 5s. 9d., making 10 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward £4,295.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated June 19:—

Rainfall nearly general throughout, except north-west.

Prospects of cotton picking in South India improved.

Bombay Cotton Market irregular. Fully good broach, Rs.552. Prices continue to advance in piece goods market; demand very fair. Calcutta Jute Market quiet; prices unchanged. Hessians steady; if anything slightly easier. Heavy goods, strong demand, advancing prices.

DISTRESS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram, received from the Viceroy, dated June 27:—

"Famine has been declared in the Deoghar sub-division of Sonthal Parganas, in Bihar, and Orissa. Numbers on works are decreasing in Bombay Presidency and in Bundelkhand Agency of Central India, but break in rains is causing anxiety in some Bombay districts. Numbers relieved:—Bengal: relief works, 7,874; test works, 2,602; gratuitous relief, 18,918. Bihar and Orissa: relief works, 7,388; test works, 1,693; gratuitous relief, 18,411. Feudatory States, Orissa: test works, 28,963; gratuitous relief, 25,000. United Provinces: test works, 18,807; gratuitous relief, 18,631. Rajputana: relief works, 1,410; test works, 5,287; gratuitous relief, 2,400. Ajmer-Merwara: test work, 275; gratuitous relief, 371. Central India: relief works, 14; gratuitous relief, 9,459. Central Provinces: relief works, 9,716; test works, 12,366; gratuitous relief, 48,902. Bombay: relief works, 27,019; dependants, 24,651; village works, 5,000; test works, 740; gratuitous relief, 95,686. Madras: relief works, 4,793; test works, 2,726; gratuitous relief (incomplete figures), 67,613. Owing to large arrivals of Burma rice in the past six weeks, the food position in Bombay Presidency has materially improved. The food position in Bihar and Orissa is serious, but it is hoped to provide sufficient supplies to avoid a crisis before the end of August, when the Bhadoi crop should be ready. Early rice crops in Bihar are reported to be doing well."

INDIAN CURRENCY COMMITTEE.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, replying to a question by Mr. Stewart on July 2, suggesting the extension of the terms of reference of the Indian Currency Committee so that they might be permitted to inquire into the silver question in its entirety with a view to finding out whether more use could be made of silver as a circulating medium, and whether its position, which was destroyed by the German legislation of 1873, could in any way be restored, said:—The Indian currency Committee has been appointed to consider certain questions relating to India on which an early decision is needed. The members chosen are specially qualified to deal with these questions. The committee has already taken an appreciable amount of evidence. It is not practicable to enlarge the subject of inquiry, as this would involve the reconstitution of the present committee, would require the new body to begin work again, and would seriously postpone the date of report.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Thursday.

This has again been rather a short week, our Stock Exchange having been closed yesterday owing to the closing of the banks. On the whole prices have again been firm for Government stocks and bank shares, but easier for land and other descriptions. Egypt has again been in the market, as a buyer of Egyptian Unifieds, which, after receding to 85½, are closing firm again at 86. Some business was done in the 3½ per cent. Prefs. at 73.

In Bank shares National Banks, after being up to 21 3-16 close ¼ higher at 21, whilst Agriculturals, on further buying from Egypt and also on local support, are closing 5-32 higher at 6 3-32. There has been some small business in the Preference shares in the neighbourhood of 7½ x.d. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have again been a feature, and are ¾ higher at 16¾. Land Banks of Egypt are also in demand; but business does not result, as there are no sellers.

In Railways, Delta Lights are ⅛ easier at 7¼.

In Land shares Aboukirs are slightly lower at 23s. 3d., and Behèras, after some business done at 12, close unchanged at 12⅛ bid and 12½ offered. Egyptian Consolidated Lands have been subject to realisations this week, and are closing somewhat easier at 2s. 9d. Delta Lands are 3d. down at 14s. Foreign Trusts have receded 6d. to 14s. 3d., and New Egyptians are 9d. lower at 24s. There has also been a decline of ⅛ in Sudan Plantations to 7. Union Foncières are unchanged, after having come to business round 3½, at which price there are further buyers but no sellers under 3½.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are 6-16 down at 12½. On the other hand, Egyptian Markets are 1s. firmer at 23s. 6d. Khedivial Mail shares are about 1s. 6d. lower at £6 x.d.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B are closing 3-16 down at 5 31-32 on some disappointment with the report, while Roumanians are 6d. firmer at 22s.

Amongst Greek securities prices, where altered, have again advanced. A large business has been done in Monopoly in the neighbourhood of 58½ x.d., which represents a rise of nearly one point. The 1881 and 1884 Loans have both recovered the whole of the dividend deducted to-day, and are both bid for at 74½, without, however, any business resulting, as there are no sellers. Fundings are nominally a point higher at 65 x.d. The 1902 Loan is also firmer at 66 x.d.

BUSINESS TRAVELLING IN THE EAST

Replying to Mr. G. Murray on July 2, Sir A. Geddes, President of the Board of Trade, said:—The military authorities at Constantinople have already agreed to give full facilities to British subjects travelling in Roumania on business. In the case of the Balkans and the East, the names of accredited British subjects wishing to proceed to these zones for business purposes are forwarded to the general officers commanding, with the recommendation that, so far as the exigencies of the military situation permit, full facilities shall be accorded to them. Any British firm desirous of availing themselves of these facilities should communicate with the Department of Overseas Trade, which will give them the fullest information in its power and take the necessary steps to put them in touch with the War Office.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	June 25	July 2
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	83½	82xd
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	86	86
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	88	73	73
Greek 5%, 1881	57	75	75xd
Do. 5%, 1884	56	75	75xd
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	59½	58½xd
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	55	55
Do. 5%, 1890	56	74⅞xd	74½xd
Do. 5% Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	64	65xd
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	77	67	66xd
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	—	64	64
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	86	86
Do. 5% Currant	—	96	96
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	82½	82½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5⅛	6⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½	7½xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	16	16½
Bank of Athens	£2	72/6	72/6
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	8½	8½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅜	7⅜
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	76	76
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	9½	9½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	6⅜xd	6⅜xd
London County and Westminster	—	16⅜	16⅜
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20½	21
National Bank of India	43	52	52
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt, Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7⅜	7½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	87	—	—
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	101½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc. Rail. 4½%	90	68	68
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	23/6	23/3
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	8½	12⅝	12⅝
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	—	2/10½	2/9
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	14/3	14/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	14/9	14/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2½	2½
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	24/9	24/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	2½	2½
Sudan Plantations	—	7⅜	7
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3⅝	3⅝
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅝xd	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord	1⅛	22/6	23/6
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	3⅜	3⅜
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	6⅛	6xd
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	4½	4½
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	90½	98½	99
Chinese 4½% 1898	92	81	81
,, 5% 1896	101	91	91
Argentine 5% 1890	—	—	—
,, 5% 1907	—	86¼	87
OIL.			
Anglo-Egyptian B.	¾	6⅝	5⅞
Anglo-Persian	1⅜	27/-	27/-
Anglo-Roumanian	—	—	—
Roumanian	1⅜	21/6	22/-
Traian (Roumanian)	—	13/-	13/-

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON JUNE 13.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	20⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	105xd
,, ,, Div.	Frs.	150xd
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	13⅜
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E	12⅛
,, priv.	L.E.	4⅜
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	162
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3½
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	5⅛
Bonded Stores	L.E.	13⅛
Unifiée	L.E.	87½
Privilégiée		75½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7⅛
Nungovich Hotels	£	7⅛
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6⅜
,, ,, ,, Fond.	£	460xd
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4½
,, Ord		120
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	16⅜
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7⅜
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	109
,, Jouissance	Frs.	175
Egyptian Markets		22/6
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	425
,, Div.	Frs.	345
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	306½
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5⅛xd
Egyptian Salt and Soda		54/10½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	728
,, Fondateur	Frs.	980
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	432
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	305
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	283½
United Lands	P.T.	4½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		88 7/32

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
ALBERT MIRABAUD.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER:
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
41-43, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Beyrout. Hamah. Saida.
Alexandretta. Damascus. Homs. Tripoli.
Caiffa.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

Paid-up Capital, Drs. 3,000,000.

Head Office - ATHENS.

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS:
Investigations in connection with, and the promotion, organisation and financing of, Limited Joint Stock Companies, with a view to exploiting agricultural, industrial and mineral resources, executing technical works, etc.

COMMERCIAL AND SHIPPING DEPARTMENT:
Purchase and sale of goods on account of clients. Warehousing, Advertising and placing foreign products on the market. Agents for foreign companies and large commercial and industrial firms abroad. General Shipping Agents.

POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.

Correspondents throughout Greece.

Established June, 1905, by the National Bank of Greece and a group of Capitalists.

CAPITAL - Drs. 1,500,000.
RESERVE FUND - Drs. 2,500,000.
Deposits and Credit Accounts, Drs. 100,000,000.

The Bank specialises in the collection of Bills payable in Greece; it accepts goods on consignment, and undertakes their sale, and transacts every kind of Banking business.

General Manager: D. LOVERDO.

TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST.

The Bank of Athens extends special facilities for business with the Near **East** to manufacturers, exporters and importers.

The Bank has offices in all the principal towns in **Greece,** also in **Egypt,** Cairo and Alexandria, in **Cyprus,** Limassol, in **Constantinople,** in **Smyrna,** and in **France,** Marseilles.

Inquiries from interested parties are invited.

BANK OF ATHENS.

PAID-UP CAPITAL : £2,400,000. **HEAD OFFICE IN ATHENS.**

London Office: 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 3.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 2,364,793.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches:—**Piræus, Salonika, Patras, Volo, Syra, Calamata, Corfu, Cephalonia, Candia, Chios, Argos, Pyrgos, Vostizza (Ægion), Nauplia.**

AGENTS IN ALL PARTS OF GREECE, THE LEVANT, AND ABROAD.

The Bank conducts every kind of Banking, Commercial and Stock Exchange business and extends special facilities to traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts.

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT:
The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

GREECE.

Area (1914), 25,128 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,800,000 from Germany and Austria Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 24·35 Drachmæ to £1.

FREIGHT.—From England, 160/- + 10 % primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ⅔ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: PIRÆUS, SYRA.

CAPITAL - Drs. 10,000,000.

Fully represented in all parts of the world for all kinds of commercial, financial, and shipping business.

President. L. EMBIRICOS. *Manager.* D. MIAOULIS.

BANK OF PIRÆUS.

For COMMERCE, INDUSTRY and SHIPPING.

Capital Paid-up - Drs. 5,000,000. Reserve Fund - Drs. 3,095,000.

OFFICES at PIRÆUS and ATHENS.

Every kind of Banking business transacted.
The Bank's connections throughout Greece enable it to offer foreign clients special facilities for the collection of Bills, etc.
Correspondence invited.

BANK OF INDUSTRY OF GREECE.

Head Office: 14, Stadium Street, Athens.

Capital Fully Paid-up - Drs. 15,000,000

The Bank has been established for the encouragement and development of Industry and Commerce, and undertakes every description of banking business.

BANK OF ORIENT.

Capital Paid up - Drs. 25,000,000

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: SALONIKA, SMYRNA, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MITYLENE, SERRES, ZAGAZIG, MAGNESIA, PERGAMA, SOMA.

Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

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NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

HEAD OFFICE IN SOPHIA.

ESTABLISHED IN 1879.

Capital, 100,000,000 Levs, Fully Paid. **Reserve Funds at December 31, 1918, 57,752,277,96 Levs.**

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN ALL CITIES OF BULGARIA.

The Bank effects the following transactions:—

1.—Executes the service of deposit treasury in the country and the treasury service of the State.
2.—Receives private deposits for fixed periods or on current account. 3.—Discounts commercial effects and allows quarterly loans.
4.—Collects country and foreign bills. 5.—Opens current accounts under deposit of merchandise, interest-bearing effects, stocks and shares, warrants, bills of lading, precious metals, bills, and at the guaranty of at least two persons.
6.—Buys and sells country and foreign cheques, etc. 7.—The Bank is entitled to the exclusive privilege of putting in circulation gold and silver banknotes. The telegraphic address for the Head Office: **Nationalbank**, and for the branches and the agencies: **Bank.**

IONIAN BANK, LTD.

LONDON. GREECE. EGYPT.

The only British Bank or Financial House in Greece, originally established in London and the Ionian Islands in 1839, subsequently incorporated by Royal Charter in 1844, and registered under the Companies Acts in 1883. The Bank now has branches and correspondents throughout Old Greece, the Ionian Islands, Macedonia, and the Islands recently rejoined to Greece; and is therefore able to offer special facilities to all British and Allied firms having business with that country.

In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has Branches at Cairo and throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

For information as to terms of business, &c., apply to the HEAD OFFICE:

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE ST., LONDON, E.C.2.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - -	*£600,000*
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	*£485,580*
RESERVE - - - - - - -	*£120,000*

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - -	**£850,000**
RESERVE - - - - -	**£220,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	**£1,000,000**

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Bunder Abbas, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Ispahan, Kasvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabris and Yezd. Agencies at Busreh and Baghdad

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up	**Rs.2,00,00,000**
Reserve Fund	**Rs.1,64,00,000**
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments	**Rs. 25,00,000**

Head Office: Strand Road, CALCUTTA.

Branches: CLIVE STREET, PARK STREET, AND BURRA BAZAAR, CALCUTTA, AGRA, AKYAB, ALLAHABAD, BENARES, CAWNPORE, CHITTAGONG, DACCA, DELHI, HYDERABAD (DECCAN), JALPAIGURI, LAHORE, LUCKNOW, MOULMEIN, NAGPORE, PATNA, RANGOON, SIMLA.

Agency: ELPHINSTONE CIRCLE, BOMBAY.

Sub-Agencies: NARAINGUNGE and SECUNDERABAD.

Pay Offices:

CHANDPORE, SERAJGUNGE } Usually open from July to December.
PARBHANI (DECCAN) ,, November to March.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.

Government and other Securities received for safe custody. Purchases and sales effected.

Interest collected and **Remittances** made.

Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.

Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.

Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches, Sub-Agencies or Pay Offices.

By order of the Directors,

N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - -	**Rs.75,00,000**
Reserve Fund - - - -	**Rs.52,00,000**

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstation*, Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATO (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation* Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPAT NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERR TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Accounts or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

REMITTANCES TO SERBIA.

Remittances to Belgrade, Uskub and Monastir can now be effected through

THE BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE,

27, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2. | Telephone: 1110 LONDON WALL

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1894.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, GOLD COAST, AND NIGERIA.

Authorised Capital -	**£2,000,000**	**Called-up Capital** - -	**£580,000**
Subscribed Capital -	**£1,450,000**	**Reserve** - - - - -	**£237,500**

CHAIRMAN: THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE: 17-18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

GENERAL MANAGER - LESLIE COUPER, C.M.G.

LIVERPOOL. **MANCHESTER.** **NEW YORK:—** 100 BEAVER STREET.
EGYPT:—ALEXANDRIA.
MOROCCO:—CASABLANCA, FEZ, MARRAKECH, MAZAGAN, SAFFI, TANGIER.
CANARY ISLANDS:—LAS PALMAS.
WEST AFRICA:—THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, GOLD COAST, ASHANTI, TOGOLAND, NIGERIA, FERNANDO PO.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	**£2,000,000**	**Paid-up Capital** (£12 10s. per Share)	**£1,000,000**
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 427.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

As the time has approached for the Paris Conference to get to grips with the settlement of the Balkans there has been little indication of any readiness on the part of the States directly concerned to facilitate the task of the Council of Ten by the display of a more accommodating spirit. It was, perhaps, inevitable that the Roumanian Delegation, in urging its claims upon an undivided Banat, should wish to be able to point to emphatic backing at home, and the cue thus given to the Roumanian Press was taken up with vigour. The result has been that a considerable number of Roumanians who previously would have been well content that Roumania should receive any portion of the Banat are now persuaded that the loss of the Torontal section would be equivalent to a deliberate amputation of the Roumanian kingdom. Forces, however, are at work in the country itself to bring about a more dispassionate attitude, and in the end the commonsense of the people of the Old Kingdom, and especially of Transylvania may be relied upon to assert itself. One result of the possible disappointment in regard to the Torontal is the abandonment of the willingness that once prevailed in certain quarters to lead the way in a movement for a Balkan understanding by the restoration to Bulgaria of the territory taken from her in 1913, and by this means to remove the possibility of friction on the south.

In the meantime the political situation in Roumania remains obscure. Some weeks have passed since M. Bratiano sent in his resignation from Paris. At first King Ferdinand took no action in the matter, but on June 21 it was confidently reported in Bucharest that his Majesty had decided to accept the resignation, although there could be no official acceptance until someone had been called upon to form a new Cabinet. For the moment we are without information as to the progress of the steps, if any, that have been taken to approach other politicians. The question of the Torontal was then uppermost in Roumania and attention centred on the possibility of bringing further pressure to bear on the Paris Conference for a reconsideration of the Roumanian claims. According to reports that command credence there is a very strong desire in the country for a national government that can count on the general support of the people in the important work of welding Greater Roumania into a harmonious whole, and of making more rapid headway in regard to reconstruction.

There is little likelihood that all the decisions of the Paris Conference in regard to South-Eastern Europe will be equitable or even politic. If some of the forecasts that have been given of the Balkan Settlement are in the main correct, it is certain that the seed of future trouble is being very widely sown. But the difficulties of the "Four" or of the "Ten" can be easily appreciated. They have been confronted with far more than their match in self-will; they have not understood the mentality of the people with whom they have had to deal, and they have not had the knowledge to enforce a settlement which might be proof against national idiosyncracies. For the Paris arbiters the Balkans have remained a "side-show," and the importance of peace terms that shall be just and wise in every single particular has never been realised. The details of the settlement have had to be arranged after the exacting ordeal of attaining unanimity over the conditions of peace to be imposed upon Germany, and the case for the line of least resistance will have appeared overwhelming. If the Balkan Governments could have subordinated present animosities to the future interests of the Peninsula as a whole, they would have preferred to see every controversial point committed to the provisional charge of a mandatory for subsequent settlement when passions were less inflamed, rather than that an arbitrary decision should leave a sense of injustice rankling in a neighbour.

For the moment Yugoslavia, confident in the strength of her own right hand, is more concerned with the financial terms of the Balkan settlement, as far as they affect her, than with the political terms. The suggestion that the liberated portions of Austria-Hungary may have to bear the charge of Austria-Hungary's war debt and indemnity caused M. Pashitch and other members of his Government to hurry from Belgrade to Paris in order to prove to the Conference what a fatal blow such a decision must have on the future prospects of the new kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. In common with most countries Yugoslavia is confronted with a heavy programme of reconstruction, and the situation has not been improved by the policy which has kept the Serbian Army mobilised for nine months after the Armistice. Of all the countries in the Balkans Serbia, ruthlessly visited as she was, was in need of the most vigorous measures to repair the ravages of war. A variety of causes have led to her remaining behind in the task of rehabilitation. The country would have been much better off, if the troops that have been engaged on a number of

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fronts could have been available for work at home. As things are, therefore, a substantial cash payment by way of indemnity, as well as complete release from any liability in regard to Austria-Hungary's indebtedness, has come to be regarded as an essential condition of the peace terms.

The settlement of the dispute over Fiume appears to be almost, if not quite, as far off in the future as ever, and the prolongation of the state of uncertainty has led to highly regrettable disturbances in the much disputed port. A few French soldiers are reported to have shown what can only be described as a very provocative spirit, and a number of unpleasant "incidents" occurred, culminating on Sunday in a fight in which French and Italian soldiers and marines took part, and in which ten people were killed and many wounded. The incident will have to be investigated, for the sake of the Allies' reputation, and an inter-Allied commission has been appointed to conduct an inquiry; but, however its rights and wrongs may lie, it is to be hoped that it may induce the Paris Conference to take more energetic steps in the direction of finding a solution of the Italo-Yugoslav dispute, which clearly threatens the peace of the world so long as it remains unsettled. It is unthinkable that no solution can be found by the Conference, and that the sore must be left open for subsequent treatment by the League of Nations, as is suggested in some quarters. Therefore there is some encouragement in the report that the problem has been again under discussion in Paris. According to this report, Italy is prepared to consider compensations in Africa for the modification of her claims in the Adriatic, her desires lying in the direction of Jibouti and of the region south of Tripoli.

According to the *Hestia*, the Greek Government has decided to send a special mission to Cyprus to study the administrative system of the island, which it regards as an excellent model for reforms that it contemplates introducing into Greece itself. This is a feather in the cap of the Cyprus Administration; and it is at the same time an indication that under the inspiration of M. Venizelos, Greece is determined not to show any of that false pride which prevents nations, as well as individuals, from learning from their friends. There is, of course, a certain piquancy about the idea, and we need hardly be surprised if some of the correspondents who, in the columns of THE NEAR EAST, have been opposing the cession of Cyprus to Greece should now suggest that, in view of this glowing testimonial to the state of the island, Greece should cede itself to Cyprus.

A *communiqué* issued by the War Office last Saturday gives further particulars of the creditable piece of work that led to the release of the British prisoners at Suliemania. It fully bears out the opinion we expressed a fortnight ago, that the conduct of the punitive operations must have been an unpleasant surprise to the Kurds, accustomed as they were to dealing with nothing more efficient than a Turkish force, usually totally inadequate for the task set it. It is true that a first dash to the rescue of the captives had to be abandoned owing to the force proving insufficient; but as soon as the enemy's true strength was discovered steps were taken to concentrate sufficient troops to give him his lesson. It consisted of two infantry brigades, three batteries R.F.A., and four squadrons of Indian cavalry; and it did its work swiftly and well, inflicting severe losses on the Kurds, "unaccustomed to the tactics of troops trained in hill warfare" as the *communiqué* observes, and capturing Sheikh Mahmoud himself.

The real importance of this Suliemania incident lies in the fact that "there seems but little doubt that Sheikh Mahmoud was induced to act as he did by the activities of Turkish and Kurdish agitators, whose aim is the independence of Kurdistan under Turkish suzerainty." The agitators referred to have very favourable soil to work on in Kurdistan, and in spite of the inglorious end of his adventure, Sheikh Mahmoud is likely to have not a few imitators before the Kurds fully grasp the difference between Turkish methods and British. For the time being, however, the situation is satisfactory, probably because "small columns are engaged in visiting the whole area" of South Kurdistan. Even Halabja, that picturesque little place whose proud *Begs* and prouder Lady Adda paid scant respect to the Turkish valis and pashas, has received a visit, and yielded up "the interned Indian *personnel*."

Indications are not wanting that events of considerable interest have been occurring in Persia recently, but for some time a veil of secrecy has cut that country off from the outside world, which gets only occasional peeps of what is going on when the veil is lifted, accidentally or intentionally, for a brief moment. One such glimpse, and the most recent, shows us the ex-Shah, returned from exile, and established at Kazvin, with what intentions it is not difficult to guess. Whether his presence is to be connected in any way with the recent trouble with the Jangalis it is impossible to say, but he was much at Constantinople during the war, and if he should prove to be working with the Committee of Union and Progress and such German agents as Herr Wustrow, the world will not be greatly surprised.

The position of the Turkish Government, already none too secure, will not have been strengthened by the developments at Smyrna, by the dismissal of the Turkish Delegation from Paris, or by the prolonging of the uncertainty regarding the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire. The state of affairs in Asia Minor is naturally particularly galling to the military, and a week ago the three generals commanding at Amasia, Konia, and Bali Kesri, respectively, were reported to have declared their independence of the Porte. So far no report of their having taken action aganist the Greeks is forthcoming, but it is hardly to be expected that they will long withstand the temptation to do so, if only they can be sure that they will have to face only Greeks.

Apart from these troubles for the Porte, brigandage is on the increase throughout Turkey, and—what is much worse—the Committee of Union and Progress is undoubtedly making a fresh bid for power, and appears to be regaining much of its lost influence. In the circumstances it is not at all astonishing that the Government has been palpably in difficulties, or that a state of chaos should have supervened in many districts. The Minister of the Interior issued a circular charging all officials to use every means in their power to maintain order, and to deal severely with fomenters of troubles; but shortly afterwards apparently lost heart and resigned, and it is very doubtful how long the Cabinet will be able to hold together. Should the Government find itself unable to make its authority felt, it would seem that the Allies would have a good opportunity of demonstrating that goodwill towards the Turkish peoples on which they laid stress in their reply to the statement read to the Council of Ten by Damad Ferid Pasha. Perhaps the dispatch of a British regiment to the Amisos district may be regarded as the first steps in this direction.

The selection of the House of Commons portion of the Joint Committee on Indian Reform was not effected without contention, and on paper there are tolerably good grounds for the protest made by Colonel Yate that the Committee was being "packed" in favour of the Dyarchy, and that supporters of alternative measures could hardly expect a fair hearing. All the seven members who were chosen spoke in the debate on the second reading of the Government of India Bill, and six of them expressed opinions favourable to its specific provisions, so that it cannot be argued that the other side is adequately represented, but at the same time it is open to question whether this other side exists inside the House, and the fact that Colonel Yate found only twenty-three supporters indicates the prevailing opinion that the composition of the Committee

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is on the whole satisfactory. We wish that the Colonel himself had been chosen, but apart from him it is not easy to suggest the name of any individual member as likely to render material service to India at this juncture.

The truth appears to be that informed opposition to the Dyarchy is to be found rather in the House of Lords, and representatives of the "other side" must come from that quarter. Lord Sydenham, for instance, will be one of the strongest personalities on the Committee, and we gather from the list of the chosen Peers that he will not be without support; even single-handed, however, he might be trusted to bring out the weak points of the official scheme, and to make the best possible case for whatever alternative commends itself to his judgment. For ourselves, we regret the tradition which places declared partisans on such quasi-judicial bodies as a Joint Committee, and would prefer to see Lord Sydenham matched against Mr. Montagu before impartial referees.

In speaking of the "other side" we are not, of course, suggesting that there is any tangible opposition to the principle of reform; there are sharp differences of opinion as to the wisdom of particular methods, but neither inside Parliament nor outside do we see any sign of hostility to the main object, the gradual introduction of responsible government. This practical unanimity must, we think, be attributed to the common political sense of the country, rather than to any conscious logical process. The man in the street holds that in a general way people should look after their own affairs, and he thinks one Ireland is enough; that being so, he accepts the proposition of the Government that the status of India should be gradually raised from Dependency to Dominion, and he leaves the details to be settled by people who understand them. He displays no interest in the Dyarchy, and to all appearance is unconscious of the magnitude of the issues now at stake.

A noteworthy statement of those issues was contributed by Sir Theodore Morison to last Sunday's *Observer*. The real danger of the future does not lie in the extension of Nationalist sentiment hostile to the administration, inconvenient as that development would undoubtedly be; according to Sir Theodore, it is to be found rather in the growth of class-consciousness among the uneducated, ill-nourished, and "depressed" masses of the people. If the Indian proletariat should ever take matters into their own hands, their methods would be drastic, and their victims would be not the British Government, but the exploiters and oppressors against whom, to tell the truth, they have a rather heavy bill —the Brahmins, the landholders, the money-lenders, and the rest. Among thinking men that view is somewhat widely held, though we do not recollect having met it before in print, and the possibility, however remote, of a Jacquerie on an unexampled scale is perhaps the most powerful argument in favour of constitutional change.

The only possible precaution against such an upheaval is to bring the political outcastes within the constitution before their class-consciousness rises to the danger-point, and enable them to face their former oppressors inside the council-chamber rather than outside. Even so, however, the period of transition will be anxious and difficult, and Sir Theodore is entirely justified in his plea that there should be no weakening of the power of the central government while the new and untried forces are coming into play throughout the various provinces. It is on the central government that some of the Indian deputations now in this country are concentrating their attention, and we are not sure that there may not be some risk of "graceful concessions" in this direction. We trust, however, that in this matter Mr. Montagu will harden his heart; the provinces can go forward with confidence only if they know that the central government is standing by, liberal in spirit, but equipped and determined to prevent the possibility of a breakdown.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 15.

"Nationalist" Woes.

The half-month of Ramadan, which was looked forward to with some apprehension by timid folk, as a general massacre had been loudly prophesied for that date, has already passed without anything more serious than a few abortive attempts at street demonstrations, and a rising flood of abusive literature. This was addressed principally to the new Said Pasha Cabinet, but overflowed into side torrents against Lord Curzon, the British Advisers and officials in Egypt, the British Government and nation, and, inferentially, the whole world that does not recognise the rights and woes of the Nationalists as set forth by themselves.

The Position of the Parties.

The only substantial complaint really made is that nobody will take Saad Pasha Zaghloul and his party at their valuation. Neither the Ministry nor the British are now being attacked for any misdeeds except continuing to uphold the existing administration. Occasional allusions are made to past incidents, but the unpardonable offence is the maintenance of order under the Protectorate. All the benefits that have accrued to the country since the paternal care of Great Britain has been bestowed upon it, are not denied, and not even forgotten, but the subtle poison of a hope of freedom from all restraint is stronger than anything else. The miserable example of premature release from old-established authority afforded by Russia should be sufficient warning to any but those whom the gods have driven mad, and the present condition of several countries and races much nearer home, is scarcely one for Egyptians with any common sense to envy.

Unfortunately, for the time being, sense is very rare in the land, and nine out of every ten Egyptians will confess that they would rather be ruined by themselves than prosper under foreign guidance. If it were not for the large foreign interests involved, no better lesson could be given, perhaps, than a temporary withdrawal of the British guiding hand. This, however, cannot be done for the present. The position was very pithily put by Lord Cromer in a speech made on May 7, 1907, in the Cairo Theatre, in which he said:—"The differences which divide us are not so much differences of principle as of degree. They (the Nationalists) wish to gallop. I consider that a steady jog-trot is the pace best suited to advance the interests of this country. It is a pace which has done us good service in the past. I say it should be continued, never relaxing into a walk, or breaking into a gallop, and my strong conviction is that if the pace be greatly mended, a serious risk will be incurred that the horse will come down and break his knees." Saad Zaghloul and his followers are bent, not on galloping, but on running clean away. Mohammed Pasha Said and his Cabinet are for a slight increase perhaps in the jog-trot, which many think is now allowable. The Royal Commission is likely to be the final judge of the best pace for the Egyptian racer.

Meanwhile, the Independentists, as they may be called, are growing more furious day by day as they are having the conviction forced upon them that nothing is to be expected from the Peace Conference. They now preach openly that their only hope is in themselves, and apparently their besetting idea is to provoke the Said Cabinet to appeal to the military to employ severe measures against sedition-mongers.

The Means of Restoring Order.

There are now two principal offences being continually perpetrated with impunity: First, the use of the mosques all over Egypt, and particularly the Azhar, for political speeches (in other words for exhortations to revolution and murder), and secondly, the daily printing and circulation by hand in public places of treasonable newspapers and flysheets. Evidently the

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Cabinet has not sufficient confidence in the Egyptian instruments at its disposal resolutely to put a stop to either of these most objectionable practices. If it appealed for troops to close the Azhar and arrest everybody found in possession of pernicious papers, it would, of course, lay itself open to all manner of accusations and insinuations; and if any bloodshed resulted, as would be only too probable, it would be accused of encouraging the lawless and brutal British in murdering innocent patriots. Its continuation in office would in fact become almost impossible. On the other hand the perpetual stream of abuse, if allowed to continue unchecked, can scarcely flood Egypt without influencing the entire public mind. General Allenby is naturally loth to employ British troops to do what is distinctly police work, and Mohammed Said Pasha is reluctant to admit that he cannot govern without outside assistance.

The question seems to be gradually resolving itself into this: whether any Egyptian Minister can restore order with the ordinary administrative means at his disposal, or whether it is only by the exhibition of military force that Nationalism can be reduced within due proportions. The Zaghloul Extremists are straining every nerve to prove that not only the population but the Government servants are with them, and that therefore it is impossible to carry on administration without coming to terms, their terms being evacuation and complete liberty to establish a rule of their own. The Said Cabinet is really making a tremendous effort to win over the moderate and respectable employees to its side without acting harshly towards the pack of rabid students and nondescripts yelping at its heels. It is, in fact, trying to effect what Rushdi Pasha promised without attempting to do. When Rushdi took office the second time, however, it would have been much easier to establish Ministerial and bureaucratic authority than it is now, after the lapse of many weeks, which have been used to the utmost by the Nationalists to work up such public opinion as exists against any opposition to their ideas.

Notwithstanding all these difficulties, the Said Cabinet is issuing its orders and decrees, and has already carried out a certain number of minor reforms. The Extremists never cease from proclaiming their determination to die in the last ditch rather than submit to any government under British control, and are threatening dire vengeance and extermination for their enemies "to-morrow." This "morrow," however, has now been looked forward to for several weeks, and though it would be rash to say that nothing more is to be feared from the Nationalists, and that all their talk of revolution and murder is mere "hot air," the odds at the time of writing seem to be rather against any materialisation of their threats. There is, nevertheless, a large leaven of revolutionary spirit left amongst the students, certain religious classes, and the habitual criminal and disreputable population of the towns and villages. Until this danger be dealt with we can scarcely consider that all prospect of trouble is overpast.

As at present arranged the Ministers will change their residence to Alexandria in about a week or ten days, the High Commissioner and Residency Staff preceding them by about a week.

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Appointments.

Mr. Ward-Boys has been appointed Adviser to the new Ministry of Communications, whose offices are temporarily established in the Semiramis Hotel, on the banks of the Nile, and Mr. Ross-Taylor, who has practically been Food Controller for Egypt lately, has been given to the Ministry of Public Works in the same capacity. Both of these appointments leave no handle for reproach, as the new Advisers are well known to the Egyptians as exceptionally able and energetic officials, who have done excellent work throughout the war period.

Fight Against Disease.

Owing to the alarming increase in infectious diseases, especially typhus, which is officially stated to be communicated by the body louse, Sheikh Mohammed Bakhit, the learned and enlightened Mufti of Cairo, has issued a *Fetwa* laying down the Sheri Law concerning the imperative need of cleanliness, and precautions to be taken by all good Moslems against infectious maladies. The *Fetwa* quotes from the *Koran* and the *Hadith* such warnings as: "Shun the leper even as you would shun the lion," "He who hears that plague exists in a place must avoid that place," etc., etc. It also states that the Ulema once decided that lepers and others tainted with infectious diseases should not be allowed to come in contact with healthy persons in mosques, or elsewhere. Consequently, Sheikh Bakhit exhorts to greater cleanliness in public and private places and in the person, above all to the destruction of all vermin found on the person, which are responsible for the propagation of these horrible and deadly diseases. This *Fetwa* is being circulated by the Ministry of Wakfs.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Public Rejoicings.

The King's birthday was duly celebrated, a *Te Deum* being sung in the churches, and the anniversary honoured in various ways in the chief towns. The "Festival of Venus," or *Cataclysm*, was also observed with great rejoicing. Vast numbers of villagers in all the districts flocked to the ports. At Larnaca there were great celebrations on a more than usually liberal scale, and at Kyrenia well organised arrangements for a regatta, an agricultural show, sports and musical entertainments were carried out with great spirit.

Nicosia Summer Races.

The summer races at Nicosia were carried through during two days with success, but with nothing like the excitement or the large attendance which marked the spring meeting. The interval between the two gatherings is far too short; but the great heat and the departure of many families to the hills render a later fixture impossible. The fewness of race meetings and of sports in general in the island is the only justification of the committee in holding the second gathering at all.

Austrian Steamers.

It is announced that the Austrian steamers will resume their connection with Cyprus shortly touching at Larnaca and Limassol. Before the war the Austrian Lloyd liners called with the greatest regularity at the chief ports for cargo and passengers, and afforded a pleasant and reliable means of reaching ports on the Syrian coast, Jaffa, Egypt, Smyrna, and Constantinople.

Union With Greece.

A telegram has been despatched to the Acting Greek Archbishop to the Metropolitan of Smyrna warmly congratulating him on the "liberation" of this "most Hellenic city" of Ephesus and the vicinity. Every endeavour is being made by the Greek Press to stimulate the now rather flagging interest of readers over the cry for union with Greece. Translations of articles, letters, etc., from all sources in English papers are zealously reproduced week by week, and, needless to say, all those which are unfavourable to the cause are completely ignored.

Miscellaneous Notes.

It is now clear that there will be a large influx of visitors during the summer season. Many persons in Egypt have written to secure rooms in the Troodos and Platres hotels, and all other resorts—now so largely multiplied—will be well filled. A fair number of English visitors are expected.

A few Cypriots who have served in the British Army as volunteers—one of them for a full four years—and who have been discharged, are being warmly welcomed home.

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THE INDIVISIBILITY OF THE BANAT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest.

If there is one point on which the diverse ethnical elements populating the Banat are all agreed, with one exception, it is the impossibility of dividing the Banat without gravely compromising the welfare of the province. The grounds underlying this unanimity of opinion may be classed as geographical, economic, and ethnical.

Geographical.

The province of Banat comprises three departments, named respectively Torontal, Timesh, and Carash-Severin, which form a geographical whole, having the form of a square. Three sides of this square are constituted by natural frontiers, namely, the River Muresh on the north, the Teiss on the west, and the Danube on the south, all of which are navigable, whereas the fourth or eastern side of the square opens on to Transylvania. The western half of the province is flat, the eastern mountainous. Each part is rich in produce peculiar to its geographical structure, and each forms a complement to the other.

Economic Unity.

The flat land forming the western half (claimed by the Serbs) possesses great agricultural wealth. In 1910 the Torontal alone produced 23,000 car-loads of wheat, whereas the total wheat harvest of the fifteen departments of Transylvania fell short of this figure. It has, further, many factories producing machinery, locomotives, agricultural implements, nails, sugar, textiles, etc., deriving the bulk of the raw materials used from the eastern half of the Banat and adjacent parts of Transylvania.

The eastern part of the Banat (over which Roumania's claims are not contested) is very mountainous and rich in mineral produce: coals, iron, lignite, lime, marble, stone, cement, basalt—in a word, all the raw material on which the Torontal is dependent for the normal development of its industrial activity. The inhabitants of the mountainous regions in their turn depend upon those of the plains for the supply of their daily bread.

How would the division of the Banat into two separate parts, one Serbian, the other Roumanian, affect the material well-being of the province, which has up to the present been developed as an economic unity? The answer is that the country as a whole would suffer in so far as each of its component parts would be subject to a depreciation of its wealth, from the fact of their being interdependent. On the one hand, the factories of the plains would be largely deprived of the raw material produced by the mines and quarries of the mountains; on the other, the produce of the latter would be difficult to dispose of, and the population of these districts would be cut off from the main source of its food supply.

Let us glance at the distribution of the railways. These nearly all run towards the waterways, and possess, especially in Torontal, very numerous branch lines. With the exception of the Temishoara-Biserica Alba line, which runs north and south, and might come to form the boundary, they mostly tend towards the Teiss. The two lines which would remain in the western half of the Banat, of which one runs from Temishoara over Lugos and Caransebesh towards Orshova, and the other from Temishoara to Maroshilie, do not possess a single branch towards the rich mineral-producing districts of Oravitza, Reshitza, Anina, etc., which are connected exclusively with the Temishoara-Biserica Alba line. It will easily be judged how great a loss these mineral regions would suffer in the case of this latter line being conceded to Yugoslavia. New communications would have to be established, making great demands both as regards expense and time.

The fact of a large part of the system of waterways connecting Transylvania, Crissiana, and the Banat on the one hand, with Valachia on the other, passing through Yugoslav territory, constitutes a further argument against the division of the Banat. Whether the objection could be obviated by their internationalisation, I leave wiser heads to judge.

Ethnical Considerations.

The Banat is populated by Roumanians, Swabians (Germans), Magyars, and Serbs. Hungarian statistics are, as is well known, most favourable to the Magyars and least favourable to the Roumanians; for it was the latter who, in virtue of their numbers and national organisation, constituted the only serious menace to the Hungarian State. According to the census returns of 1910, the Banat had at that time a total population of 1½ millions, distributed as follows:—Roumanians, 600,000; Swabians, 340,000; Magyars, 260,000; Serbs, 240,000; others, 70,000. These figures are corroborated by the figures given in the Serbian *mémoire* on the Banat. They, too, refer to the year 1910, and are probably derived from the same source, and are open to the same objection:—

—	Roumanians.	Germans.	Magyars.	Serbs.
Torontal.....	87,000	169,000	128,000	200,000
Timesh	170,000	167,000	80,000	69,000
Carash-Severin	336,000	56,000	34,000	14,500
	593,000	392,000	242,000	283,500

The preceding table shows that the Roumanians possess the absolute majority in Carash-Severin, and a relative majority in Timesh, while the Serbs have a relative majority in Torontal. But (it is urged here) any claim put forward by them on this ground is invalidated by the fact that the Swabians, who run them very close, wish to be incorporated in the same State organisation as their Saxon co-nationals in Transylvania. It follows that the Swabians and Roumanians of Torontal, having identical interests, are entitled to be heard collectively, and together they form an emphatic majority in this department.

THE BALKAN COMMITTEE.

At a largely attended meeting of the Balkan Committtee, held on July 3, at which were present, among others, Sir Arthur Evans, F.R.S., Archdeacon Beresford Potter, Mr. H. R. Nevinson, Mr. G. P. Gooch, Mr. Noel Buxton (Chairman), and Sir Edward Boyle (Hon. Sec.), the following resolution was passed unanimously:—"The Balkan Committee, consisting of travellers in the Balkans and students of Balkan questions, views with profound alarm the tendency to base the settlement in the Balkans on the policy of rewarding friends and punishing enemies. It urges that in the settlement the principle of self-determining should be applied by means of plebiscite or other impartial methods of inquiry, conducted by neutrals. It records in particular its profound conviction that any proposal to divide the Macedonian provinces between Greece and Serbia without previously ascertaining the wishes of the population would conflict with the deep-rooted desires of the majority of the people, and would render insurrection, leading to war, inevitable. The Committee further condemns those provisions of existing treaties which violate the principle of self-determination to the Balkans (*e.g.*, such as are contained in the Treaty of Bucharest of 1913 and the secret Treaty with Italy of 1915), and any proposals based on those provisions."

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MR. BRITLING & THE BALKANS

WITH APOLOGIES TO MR. H. G. WELLS.

Little or nothing has been heard of the Balkan question of late, but that is not to say that we shall never hear of it again. Indeed, the indications are that unless the Big Four make haste in arranging the details of the millenium, we shall hear of it very soon. The *Komitaji*, we are told, is already sharpening up his knife and cleaning his rifle in readiness to resume his artless recreation once more; and we may expect the Balkan Committee to reconstitute itself again, to hold meetings, public and private, and to take itself very, very seriously. That will be extremely tedious, but never again will the Question cause me so much uneasiness as it used to cause me before the war. For I have discovered Britling—the "Mr. Britling" who "sees it through" in Mr. H. G. Wells's book—and in case of any fresh trouble in the Balkans I shall expect the Foreign Office to turn to him for advice. For by that time, we may hope, the F.O.—which, I gather from an earnest study of Mr. Wells, is, like most British institutions, a poor thing—will have been reorganised; and will be staffed by earnest and efficient young democrats. These clever young men, being imbued with the Modern Spirit, will know the beauties of the card indexing system, and will, therefore, when the fatal hour comes, at once look up "Balkans," and be referred straight away to Britling the omniscient.

That Britling will be ready to advise them I have no manner of doubt. I have been reading all about him and his thoughts—there is really very little else to read about in Mr. Wells's book—and I feel tolerably certain that he would be prepared to hold forth on any subject, in any place, at any time, and for any length of time. I am less certain that his advice, if followed, would lead to perfect peace in the Balkans. But in any case it could hardly make confusion worse confounded in that troublous region, and it would keep him off some topics, on which he is inclined to talk (if only to himself) in a way that suggests the near approach of insanity. Moreover, his advice could hardly be more mischievous than much that was offered to our Government—and the French—before the war by those who ought to have known better.

Before the war, Mr. Britling did not believe that a "decent" country like Germany would fight. He said so (p 75) more than once; and probably he was one of those people who looked upon Lord Roberts as a dotard for holding the opposite opinion. But he was sound enough on the Balkans even then, for he recognised that the Dove of Peace was unlikely to take to nest building there at that time. ("They may fight in the Balkans still," says he—p. 75). It has to be confessed, however, that when requested to "suppose this Balkan trouble becomes acute," he replied, positively: "It hasn't; it won't. Even if it did we should keep out of it" (p. 76). Prophesy is always a bit risky. Not very long after this we find him less confident. Asked by his son's Prussian tutor whether the Serajevo assassination may not lead to a war, he answers: "I don't think so. Austria may threaten Serbia, but she doesn't want to provoke a conflict with Russia," etc.

A good deal later—in September, 1915—he is prepared to admit that his former estimate of the Balkans was not entirely right, as, indeed, seems to have been the case with quite a number of his pre-war estimates and opinions. He remarks to his friend, Captain Lawrence Carmine: "I thought the Balkan States were capable of a reasonable give and take, of a common care for their common freedom," and adds, with an irritation that characterises a good many of his observations: "I see now three German Royalties trading in peasants, and no men in their lands to gainsay them." To a red-hot Republican that is, doubtless, sufficient to account for the folly of the Balkans; and we can only conclude that Mr. Britling originally overlooked this factor in the case because the "three Royalties" *were* German. He has quite a weakness for the gentle Germans, it seems, preferring them greatly to such Englishmen as Sir Edward Grey—for whom he disclaims all responsibility in a letter he writes to the parents of his son's former Prussian tutor. If only we had had somebody of the calibre of Mr. H. G. Wells at the Foreign Office in 1914!

Towards the end of the book we are provided with a clear pronouncement of the Britling policy regarding one portion of the Balkan Peninsula—Albania. Mr. Wells, impressed, perhaps, by its importance, mentions that it was "one of the most amazing and unexpected things" that the young woman to whom it was addressed "had ever heard in her life." Bearing in mind that Mr. Britling was the speaker, we are inclined to doubt the applicability of the second adjective. On that point, however, each reader must judge for himself. Here is the passage referred to: "The only possible government in Albania . . . is a group of republican cantons, after the Swiss pattern. I can see no other solution that is not offensive to God. It does not matter in the least what we owe to Serbia, or what we owe to Italy." Amazing, indeed! And, like most strokes of genius, *so* simple. It is unfortunate, however, that Mr. Britling said nothing about the little difficulty over Epirus.

The tremendous decision just recorded was followed, "after a pause," by another, scarcely less tremendous: "The Treaty of Bucharest was an evil treaty. It must be undone. Whatever this German King of Bulgaria does, that treaty must be undone and the Bulgarians united again into one people. They must have themselves, whatever punishment they deserve; they must have nothing more, whatever reward they win." This is very beautiful, very brilliant, very Britling-esque. But one wonders whether Mr. Britling had ever seen any of the large scale ethnological maps of the Balkans. There are several of them, and they are very interesting, but——. And historians of the Balkans—". . . .," as Mr. Wells is so fond of remarking.

I have taken an interest in Balkan affairs for several years, but never had I realised how simple are the problems presented by South-eastern Europe until I received enlightenment from the sage of Matching's Easy. Ah, what a man is there! "A writer of thoughtful third leaders in the London *Times*" (p. 10). . . "He loved to write and talk." So, of course, he is just the person to solve the secular Balkan Problem. He knows how to cure all the world's ills, and on page 395 he tells us his remedy—a "federal world-republic." He adds: "It needs only that sufficient men should say it, and that republic would be here now." So there you are! But—horrible thought—can Mr. Britling be confusing things? Is talking, or writing, about things *quite* the same as doing them? "He loved to write and talk." Quite so! If the Balkan Committee is reconstituted it should secure Mr. Britling as a member. As to the Foreign Office, on second thoughts, ". . . ."

MUHANDIS.

A BULGARIAN PROPOSAL.

The Bulgarian Government has transmitted a Note to the general commanding the Allied troops in Bulgaria and to the representatives of the Entente Powers and America, in which, referring to the declarations of the heads of the Allied Governments and President Wilson in regard to the principle of nationalities, it suggests that the populations of those regions which are now the object of rivalry among the Balkan States, such as Macedonia, Thrace, and the Dobruja, should be given the opportunity of expressing their sentiments by means of a plebiscite under the efficacious control of the League of Nations.

The Bulgarian Government is willing that a similar procedure should be adopted with regard to those regions within the confines of the Bulgarian State to which Serbia, Greece, and Roumania lay claim.

INDIA AND THE PEACE.

His Majesty the King has received the following message from the Viceroy of India:—

"On behalf of the princes and peoples of this country I tender to your Majesty with dutiful respect India's humble and grateful thanks for your most gracious message, which has thrilled all hearts throughout the Empire, her loyal congratulations on the glorious termination of the great war, and her heartfelt prayers for your Majesty s long and peaceful reign."

INDIAN CHURCH AID ASSOCIATION.

The Official Organ of the Indian Episcopate.

IN the present critical condition of India and under the shadow of changes which will materially lessen the proportion of Englishmen in the Indian Services, it is imperatively necessary to strengthen the loyal Anglo-Indian elements, upon whom will now devolve the task of maintaining the White Man's reputation for integrity. Ladies and gentlemen, therefore, who have served or resided in India in any capacity are invited to join this Association, the primary object of which is to help the Indian Bishops to carry on religious and educational work among these classes, upon whom so much depends.

For further particulars apply to
H. P. K. SKIPTON, Secretary, I.C.A.A.,
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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Turks and Mesopotamia.

The *Westminster Gazette* recently published some extremely interesting extracts from the diary of an officer who served in Mesopotamia. The following story of the Chaldeans is given with a keen touch:—

After saying good-bye to Archbishop Serapian we went to the house of the Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholics—Monsignor Emmanuel. He speaks French fluently. In appearance he is venerable, not tall, rosy-cheeked above an ample grey beard, with keen twinkling eyes, which evidently enjoy a joke. He was dressed in some dark stuff with red or purple stoles or bands, and a great gold cross on his breast. On his head a funny-shaped hat, such as one sees wizards wearing in books of fairy tales. His people, too, had suffered a lot just because they were Christians. He was still out of communication with his bishops and priests behind the Turkish outposts. How he blessed the arrival of the English! Now all would be well. He said that he had written to Talaat to say that "We are not Armenians, we never plot, we are Catholics—why kill us?" Surely a man in Talaat's position would have responded, and said, "Let me have your point of view; write to me fully, and I will discuss things with you." His only reply was, "Taisez-vous," and the massacres went on!

Another story, told of the best-known political officer in Mesopotamia, is very amusing:—

X. is, of course, and has been for some time, the most outstanding personality among the British in Mesopotamia—at any rate, in the eyes of the Arabs. His journey all through this country before the war, his intimate knowledge of the tribes, his ability to pass himself off as an Arab among Arabs, his determined character, have all helped to create a sort of X. legend. Since the war his activities in countering the machinations of the various German and Turkish agents among the tribes, and the remarkable success which has attended his efforts in that direction, have made his name equally well known among the Turks. Well, apparently soon after we occupied Mosul, X. heard in the curious but correct way he hears things that the commander of a squadron of Turkish cavalry at Tel Afar, on the Nisibin road, had robbed some villages of their precious store of grain, and was selling it to Nisibin merchants, and was obstructing our cavalry in taking over Tel Afar, as he did not want to clear out until he had made his pile. X. dashed off to Tel Afar at once, and ordered the Turkish major to clear out and hand over all his store of grain. The Turk refused and was very insolent, and went so far as to try to push X. out of the door of his office. X. thereupon, without another word, knocked him down. The Turkish major got up fuming, and said, "I will take you in to Ali Ihsan Pasha as a prisoner for this. I would have you know that you have struck Major Rachid Mohammed Bey, of the Ottoman Cavalry." The answer was, "I would have you know that I am X., and if you don't clear out at once I will knock you down again." "I most humbly beg your Excellency's pardon," replied the Turk; "had I known it was his Excellency X. who was here I would have gone at once." And he and his troop cleared out forthwith.

The Turk.

In the *Morning Post* of July 4 Mr. Alastair Shannon writes of his varied experiences as a prisoner of war in the hands of the Turk. Among much interesting matter, the writer says in connection with his imprisonment at Afion Kara Hissar:—

But the Turk did nothing to make us comfortable. We had to cleanse the houses of vermin; beds, chairs, tables, shelves, kitchen ranges were made by our own hands; food was bought by our own orderlies in the bazaar with much bargaining. Endless protests were made with regard to our cramped accommodation, and especially to the filthy sanitary conditions in which we lived. The one really provoking thing about the Turk, who is otherwise a nonentity, is that he is so hardy, so callous himself to comfort, that he does not sympathise with sensitiveness in others. This may explain his cruelty. To a nation who cares not how many in her armies fall out and die by the wayside it cannot be of much importance what happens to her prisoners of war, and it is not surprising that when hatred enters into such a nation's heart she should commit unspeakable crimes against the weak and unprotected. When there was protection, however, the coward quailed. We found there was protection in the name of England, and the Catholic Armenians found protection in the name of the Pope.

Of Turkish mentality he says:—

None of us could ever adequately fathom the Turkish mind. One day our Commandant shut up certain officers on the charge of preparing to escape, and at the inquiry said to them: "If you confess that you wanted to escape I will give you fourteen days' detention, but if you refuse to confess I will take steps to make your punishment worse." Certain suspects were confined so that they should not communicate with the rest of the camp, but all sorts of things were carried into them unexamined by the sentries. As I have told elsewhere, our Commandant once graciously permitted a football match between two camps *on condition that each camp played in a separate field*, and on another occasion he gave as his reason for curtailing walks that "the weather was such as to be detrimental to the health of the officers" under his protection. Certainly such things kept us in a constant state of good-humoured anticipation. Orders were continually being issued which flatly contradicted former orders. This was due to the fact that any of the numerous Commandants of railways or supplies or army corps passing through the town could give our Commandant any order affecting prisoners of war. Neither the establishing of a Ministry of Prisoners of War at Constantinople nor the Berne Convention materially altered the situation. For instance, the law that a recaptured escapee could only get fourteen days' detention was not of much use to fellows who were kept three months in gaol pending inquiry!

He concludes his article with some general impressions of the Turk.

With the exception of the Turkish officers in the front line, who are men because they are fighters, and of the patriarchal farmer class of Anatolia, I encountered no Turk whom I could genuinely admire. The average Turk spends half his existence sipping coffee, rolling and smoking endless cigarettes, and discussing politics. The remainder of his time is given to stupid revelry and noisy slumber. He is a born lout, and his wife a born drudge. I have no personal motive for animosity. Our guards were too listless, too tired, to be methodically troublesome. We did not hate them. We ignored them. We did not pity them. Englishmen are not given to pitying clowns who are lickspittles or tyrants as the mood seizes them. The Turk does not love us. He possesses only a sneaking affection for our wealth and a cringing fear of our power. He hates us as the slave aspiring to power will always hate the master of power.

England and Islam.

In the *Nineteenth Century* of July, Sir Theodore Morison, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., has an article of very strong interest on "England and Islam." He commences:—

It is time the British public realised the gravity of what is happening in the East. The Muhamadan world is ablaze with

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anger from end to end at the proposed partition of Turkey. The outbreaks of violence in centres so far remote from each other as Kabul and Cairo are symptoms only of this widespread resentment. So far the papers have allowed very little to be known upon this subject, and the Muhamadans, always inarticulate and slow to use modern methods of publicity, have presented their case weakly and imperfectly. But soldiers and administrators who know the East are feeling grave anxiety at the way in which the legitimate interests of Islam have been handled in Paris, and the Secretary of State for India has made public the apprehensions with which the outlook fills him.

He proceeds to get inside the Moslem mind, and thence presents the Mohammedan view on the proposed partition of Turkey.

Christendom is so secure of the hegeomony of the world that we can with difficulty conceive of our civilisation being overthrown; but if we would understand Muhamadan feeling we should force ourselves to imagine such a catastrophe and realise what our own sentiments would be. Let us, for instance, suppose that the Yellow Peril actually materialised, that Mongolian troops had over-run Europe, that Mandarins were appointed to administer the conquered territory, and the Viceroy of Europe held his court in Paris or Turin; a few minor appointments in the Government service would be given to such Europeans as had mastered a specified number of ideographs, and these would be honoured once a year by an invitation to eat strange celestial dishes at the table of the Viceroy. Suppose that in this European cataclysm the Kingdom of Prussia had succeeded in maintaining a precarious independence among the woods and marshes of Masurenland. Would not this State command the sympathies of all Europeans? Would not Frenchmen and Englishmen value its independence? Would they not look upon it as the guardian of their civilisation—of what in those days we might not refuse to call our kultur? It is not necessary to suppose that the administration of the yellow mandarins would be bad—it might be imagined much better than anything we have yet known; but it would be alien, it would be based on non-European ideas, and it would aim at a non-European excellence. In such circumstances we should passionately resent the destruction of the last State which was run upon European lines, and which was consciously influenced by European ideals.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Military Commission (Constantinople). July 2.

Major GLYN asked the Secretary of State for War how many British officers comprised the Military Mission at Constantinople and what was the corresponding number of officers comprising the Military Missions of the Allies; and whether the names of the British General Staff officers now in Constantinople who have been associated in the past with the Ottoman Empire might be published?

Mr. CHURCHILL: The British Military Mission at Constantinople is attached to the Army of the Orient under the command of General Franchet D'Esperey, and consists of six British officers. I regret that the corresponding number of officers comprising the Military Missions of the Allies who are similarly attached is not available. The following British General Staff Officers now in Constantinople have had experience of the Ottoman Empire:—Lieut.-Colonel I. M. Smith—His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Van for one year previous to the war; Major V. A. Nye—Employed for eight years with the gendarmerie; Lieut.-Colonel L. L. R. Samson—Consul at Adrianople 1906 to 1914.

British Troops in Mesopotamia. July 8.

Capt. F. E. GUEST, Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury, in reply to Lieut.-Commander Kenworthy, said that the latest return showed that the strength of British troops in Mesopotamia on May 24, including officers, was 26,291. The average percentage in hospital during March was approximately 3.6. Everything possible was done to safeguard the health of the troops.

Lieut.-Commander KENWORTHY: Are native levies being raised to relieve these troops?

Capt. GUEST: There is no reference to that in the question.

Troops to India.

Replying to Colonel Yate and Lieut.-Commander Williams, Mr. CHURCHILL said that the special arrangements for the voyage of troops to India during the hot-weather season included the fixing of an ample scale of accommodation in the ships based on approximately 50 per cent. of the normal scale of accommodation for troops on that voyage. As far as possible, men would be permitted to sleep on deck. Each vessel was fitted with double awnings, windsails, and was provided with sail and shower baths. Special attention was being paid to ventilation, and electric fans would be installed where desirable. The hospital was to be on the cool side of the ship. Ice was being provided on a liberal scale, and an ample supply of mineral waters would be available. All ranks would be provided on embarcation with good sun helmets. Every vessel allocated for that service was thoroughly inspected before being accepted as suitable by selected officers of the War Office, who, in conjunction with an officer of the Ministry of Shipping, were charged with inquiring into all matters affecting the health and comfort of the troops, and who must satisfy themselves that all possible steps were taken to minimise the hardships of the voyage. The Cabinet had been into the question, and had approved all those special arrangements.

British Relations with Bulgaria.

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH, replying to a question by Sir S. Hoare, said that a British Military Mission had been attached to General Denikin's Headquarters in South Russia. He then said:—As regards Bulgaria and Austria, I would remind the hon. gentleman that a state of war still exists with those countries, and diplomatic relations are, therefore, strictly speaking, impossible; but, owing to the very special circumstances, his Majesty's Government have been carefully considering the question of making exceptional appointments to Sofia and Vienna, and it is hoped that a definite decision in the matter will be taken shortly. In the meantime, there are, as the hon. and gallant gentleman is no doubt aware, British Military Missions at Sofia and Vienna, which are examining condition in Bulgaria and Austria.

Later, Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH, replying to further questions by Lieut.-Colonel A. Murray, Major O'Neill, and Capt. Ormsby-Gore, said that Sir Percy Wyndham had been accredited as his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary on a special mission to the Republic of Poland. His staff consisted of four secretaries. Sir C. des Graz had been accredited as his Majesty's Minister to the King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. He resided at Belgrade, and was assisted by a commercial secretary, a military attaché, and two diplomatic secretaries. No consuls had yet been appointed to Croatia.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official Report.

SMYRNA. INDIA: Troops Detained.—Health of Troops.—Troops Transferred.—Royal Army Medical Corps. (July 1.)

INDIA: Public Services (Resignations).—Karachi Troop Train Incident.—Currency Committee. GERMAN BATTLE CRUISER "GOEBEN." ARABIAN PENINSULA (POLITICAL SITUATION). TURKISH GOVERNMENT (PEACE TREATY). (July 2.)

GREECE (CONDITIONS IN SMYRNA). BRITISH INDIANS (SOUTH AFRICA). CEYLON (CASHING DRAFTS). DEMOBILISATION: 1914-15 Men (Egypt).—Army Postal Service, Egypt. INDIA: 3rd Bedfordshire Regiment.—Army Officers (Appeal to the King). British Troops (Rations). (July 3.)

DEMOBILISATION: Troops Detained in India. Applications for Release. TROOPS AT KARACHI. (July 4.)

ALLIES AND ALBANIA. EGYPT: Press Censorship.—Recent Outbreak (Investigation). FOREIGN POLICY (ASIA MINOR). SELECT COMMITTEES: Government of India Bill. TROOPS AT ADEN (RELIEF). RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION, MESOPOTAMIA. RETAINED SOLDIERS (SERVICE IN INDIA). CEYLON (CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS). BELGIUM AND YUGOSLAVIA (GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN CURRENCY). (July 7.)

SELF-DETERMINATION AND TURKEY.

A meeting of the Anglo-Ottoman Society was held on July 8 at Essex Hall, London, W.C., and resolutions were passed calling on the Government (1) to make a definite announcement that it would at the Peace Conference advocate the maintenance of Turkey as a sovereign and independent state, and (2) to redeem the pledge given by the Prime Minister that Constantinople, Thrace, and Asia Minor should be left under Turkish control.

Sir J. D. Rees, M.P., said that the proposal to carve up Turkey into a number of small states and to give a mandate to America to overlook those states would not be made by anybody who had any knowledge of the past history or the present condition of Islam. No good had come of the interference by one state in the affairs of another; if it had been an actual interference the result had been disastrous; but, generally, it had been a mere pretence.

Mr. Arthur Field said that it was proposed to give Adrianople to the Greeks. In this city, out of a population of 612,000, no less than 401,000 were Turkish.

Sir Theodore Morison said the situation now in Asia Minor was one that it was impossible to characterise adequately. The Greeks were in Smyrna and Aidin, the Italians were promised Kona—the most ancient possession of the Turks and the seat of Empire of the first Ottoman sultans—and France was threatening to enter Cilicia and the Taurus. If such things were done it was useless to speculate as to what was likely to happen to Thrace and Constantinople, because nobody questioned that the places now being occupied were whole-heartedly and entirely Turkish. Yet the right of a people to self-determination was the very stuff of the Allied case. How would it be possible to continue the government of India after the breaking of these pledges? There would be the most appalling difficulties, for it was because of these pledges that the Mohammedan population of India had refrained from embarrassing us when engaged in our war with Turkey.

Mr. Charles Roberts said that everyone now saw the wisdom of trying to get governments to correspond with the populations they administered.

Mr. M. Pickthall, Mr. Arnold Lupton, and Mr. M. H. Ispahani also spoke.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

THE STATE OF EGYPT.

Sir,—When your correspondent "F. H. S." writes that "it is at least arguable that Lord Cromer ought to have given a trial to native statesmen," one would infer that he persistently ignored the younger men who had grown up under the British protectorate, and that he never did give them a trial. That is not so. Not only had he come to the conclusion that a trial should be given to them, but in 1906 he himself for that purpose advised the appointment as Minister of Education of Saad Pasha Zagloul, who was then regarded as one of the ablest of the moderate "Young Egyptian" party; and in his "Modern Egypt," published the year after his retirement, he bears witness to Saad Zagloul's "enlightened administration." It is all the more disappointing that Saad Zagloul should have allowed himself to be carried away in these times by the turbulent flood of Anglophobe Nationalism. But might we not, perhaps, have been spared that disappointment had it been humanly possible to secure indefinitely to Egypt the benefit of Lord Cromer's wisdom, always cautious, but always also progressive?—I am, etc.,

VALENTINE CHIROL.

July 6.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—To "Foresight's" letter of June 30, which appeared in your last issue, we would retort that he, for all intents and purposes, ignores the main arguments in favour of handing over Cyprus to Greece.

We have never claimed that the inhabitants of Cyprus—306,997, according to Government returns at the end of 1918—constitute a nation, as "Foresight" imagines. Such a contention would be nonsensical, apart from not being the fact. There is no Cypriote nation, but the great mass of the population of the island most decidedly and indisputably form an integral part of the Greek nation of ten millions. But the argument for reuniting this population with Greece is not simply that the Cypriotes *are* Greeks; it is, above all, that they wish—in fact, *demand*—to be so reunited. Your correspondent is up against not merely an ethnological fact, but a political reality. Whether the fulfilment of Cypriote aspirations would be for the material benefit of the island is, after all, primarily a question for us, the inhabitants of Cyprus. After all, a population, like an individual, may, we think, legitimately put ideals above riches.

As a matter of fact, we emphatically deny that the Greek administration would have the unsatisfactory material results for Cyprus which "Foresight" seems to anticipate. But even if we were to assume "Foresight's" anticipations to be well-founded, we boldly declare that we prefer to fare worse under the azure flag of Greece than to lead the existence of men under foreign tutelage. We are indeed proud that we belong to a race which values union and independence more than any advantages, however great, that may be derived from a foreign mastery.

To the strategic arguments against cession we would repeat for the last time that our rejoinder is (1) that Cyprus has no strategic value, and the last war proves this up to the hilt, and (2) that the Greek Government and the Greek Cypriotes are ready through an honourable agreement to allow Great Britain, in the event of the union of Cyprus with Greece, to utilise that strategic value if our contention that it is non-existent is incorrect. If "Foresight" maintains that for this to be possible, Cyprus as a whole must remain in British hands, he might as logically argue that Great Britain, for the sake of Gibraltar, should annex the whole of the Iberian Peninsula.

To sum up, we think that your correspondent's arguments amount to this: that Great Britain ought to retain the island in spite of the wishes of the population, because this population is too weak to appeal to anything but her sense of justice. But surely, Sir, such a conception for the solution of the Cypriote question cannot but be repugnant both to the honour and self-respect of every fair-minded Britisher.

We, at least, refuse to entertain the thought that the British nation is contemplating the retention of the island, thus refusing to give her back to the bosom of her mother country. Such a decision would not only be tantamount to a return to the good old times of despotic power, but it will also prove to the world that the precious blood of Britannia's sons was not shed for the high principles of self-determination and liberty.—We are, etc.,

THE CYPRUS DEPUTATION.

2, Lancaster Street, Lancaster Gate, W.2,
July 7, 1919.

We have received from M. Nejmi Bodiamiabiade, of Paphos, Cyprus, two letters dated June 3 and June 6 respectively. Unfortunately they are too long to be printed in full, so that only the main points can be given here.

In the first—a rejoinder to Dr. Lanitis—the writer traces his family history from 1571, when his ancestor first went to Cyprus. His study of the English language has made him love England, Moslem loyalty to which he emphasises. He states that "the truth is that the British is the most honoured and liberal government in Cyprus as elsewhere, that Greeks have no grievances, that their impulse is neither national nor patriotic, and that it is the duty of the British Government to refuse their demands." He disapproves of the methods of the Greek Cypriots, and says, "We will never consent our country to be given to Greeks; we cannot bear to see another flag waving on Othello Tower but Shakespeare's own."

In the second, which is a reply to a letter of M. G. Triandafillides published on March 24, the assertion is made that the Greeks of Cyprus are not sufficiently civilised to regard the self-respect of Moslems. The writer refuses to believe that the religion, language, character, and national conscience of Cypriot Greeks are all of pure Hellenic type. He says that Greeks have much to learn of Englishmen, especially the virtue of calmness. The Greeks may be clever and have great business acumen, but in other matters of character and spiritual qualities they are little better than they were forty years ago. Right and Justice never depend on numbers; and he complains of the melodramatic way in which Greek Cypriots speak of Moslem safety.—[ED.]

THE "BALKANISATION" OF CENTRAL EUROPE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Many people whose opinion and judgment were in many questions very sound and reasoned consider the present political structure of Central Europe as being "Balkanised," under which term they understand a permanent danger to peace. Their reasoning may be summed up as follows:—In the place of Austria-Hungary, which, despite all its faults, represented a coherent economic entity, a number of small antagonistic States have been created whose jealousy will endanger the future peace of Europe. Therefore, something resembling the former Dual Monarchy must be restored.

Leaving apart the total impossibility of reconstituting anything resembling former Austria-Hungary, let us see whether Central Europe, in its present form, constitutes a greater danger to the future peace of Europe than was the case with the old Habsburg Monarchy. First of all, there is no "Balkanisation" of Central Europe in the old sense of the term. On the contrary, Central Europe has been *de-Balkanised*, because the Austro-Hungarian anomaly has been removed, and the newly constituted States, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Yugoslavia, offer firm guarantees of a lasting peace.

The existence of such unnatural States as Austria-Hungary and Turkey was, indeed, a permanent danger to European peace. The Habsburg Monarchy was incompatible with the rights of self-determination of peoples; it was a survival of mediæval times, and it must have sooner or later broken down. Apart from the dominating Germans and Magyars, all nations, the Czechoslovaks, Poles, Roumanians, and Yugoslavs, numbering about 30 million, wanted to break away from it, and no force could keep them permanently under a foreign yoke. Now these 30 million of peoples are free. Through their separation the formerly dominating Austrian-Germans were no doubt placed in an unfavourable economic position. They, and especially their capital, Vienna, used to live from the labour and wealth of the subjugated nations. That is now at an end. Hence the cry of the Austrian Germans of their impossible position.

It is, however, true that the century-long existence of Austria-Hungary left many economic interests and ties among the nations composing it. A close economic co-operation is, therefore, only desirable. But it must be based on equal terms. An economic co-operation among the Czechoslovaks, Yugoslavs, Roumanians, and Poles appears to be almost certain. On the attitude of the Austrian-Germans and Magyars depends whether they will be included in this co-operation or not. If the Austrian-Germans will once and for all renounce their claims to preferential treatment, to which they were up till now accustomed, I do not think that any of the former Austro-Hungarian nations will refuse to co-operate with them.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER BROZ.

July 7, 1919.

Food sent for commercial purposes can now be accepted by the Post Office for transmission to the parts of Germany in Allied occupation, but no parcels or letters for other parts of that country. Parcels for civilians in Smyrna can be accepted if addressed Poste Restante, British Post Office, Smyrna. The postage on parcels for Roumania sent by sea direct has been reduced. Dates for the despatch of parcels for Bulgaria are irregular, but parcels can be received for transmission direct by sea.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE FUNDAMENTAL SLAV.*

When so many bad books have been written about Russia, both sensational and sentimental, it is no particular compliment to Dr. Masaryk to say that this is the most profound study of the subject that has been published. It can hardly help taking its proper place as a classic, and it is almost in our heart to regret that so distinguished a philosopher as the author should be compelled to turn aside to politics. Bohemia gains, but the world of letters loses, by the choice of Dr. Masaryk as first President of the Czecho-Slovak Republic.

The West knows little of Russian philosophy, and even these two volumes, comprehensive and penetrating as they are, do not convince us that it has lost much by its ignorance. Russia, as Dr. Masaryk truly says, has been in a state of political revolution since the time of Peter the Great, and that fact is of cardinal importance for Slavonic history; but the welter has produced no philosophy of universal validity. It may be true that no philosophy yet contributed goes to the roots of things. But every philosophy that counts many followers has some aspect of what one firmly believes to be the ultimate truth. The agnosticism of Hume, the idealism of Plato, the unconscious will of Schopenhauer, the mysticism of Plotinus, the natural selection of Darwinism, the pantheism of Spinoza, the transcendentalism of Berkeley, the intuition of Bergson—all these appeal to something universal in man. What has Russia to set against these as her contribution to the world's thought? Two names, and two only: Bakunin and Tolstoy.

Both are, indeed, of very great significance, and both have influenced Russian history. The short point, as the lawyers say, of Bakunin's teaching was his advocacy of anarchism; the short point of Tolstoy his advocacy of non-resistance. From the former it is an easy step to "Order No. 1" of the Russian Revolution and the practice of Bolshevism; from the latter it is an easy step to "no annexations and no indemnities." And after studying the works of these writers and the fruits of their works, one is tempted to ask whether it is worth while going out into the wilderness to see these reeds shaken by the wind. The practical Englishman is inclined to think that the activist philosophy of Dr. Masaryk, which creates a new State on a sure constructive foundation, and does not shrink from the plain duty of resigning personal ease at the call of public duty, is worth all the teaching of Bakunin and all the ethics of Tolstoy. We see what the one leads to and what the other leads to, and we prefer the active professor to the passive philosopher.

It may be objected that to test a philosophy by its fruits is unfair. So be it. But both Bakunin and Tolstoy fail for other reasons. Their work was negative, and mere negation can never stand. One of the salient facts that Dr. Masaryk has brought out, and we are grateful to him for doing so, is that Russian philosophy is rooted in revolt from Western teaching. The names of Hume, Darwin, Marx, and Hegel recur continually in his pages, and Russian philosophy is essentially an opposition to the teaching of those masters. Now, metaphysics did not begin with Hume, and wisdom did not perish finally with Darwin; but at least they were original, and their writings added new conceptions to the world of thought. But the anarchy of Bakunin was not original; it existed in the days of the cave-man, and was abandoned for ever when the first beginnings of society were established. And the non-resistance of Tolstoy was not original either; it is simply the new Testament stripped of its inspiration. It is not of such stuff that new worlds are made.

The moral imbecile is said to inherit the worst qualities of both parents, and Bolshevism has ignored the good and selected the evil in both its parents. Tolstoy taught non-resistance and belief in God; Bakunin taught freedom and atheism. Bolshevism has accepted non-resistance and atheism, and abolished freedom and belief in God. It is a curious outcome of the final doctrine of Bakunin, who constructed the dilemma, "If God exists, man is a slave; but man can and must be free, therefore God does not exist." But the dilemma, with its sharp inconsequence, is itself typical of a primitive logic that occupies itself only with the surface and the superficial contradictions of things; for Danté dissolved that dilemma for ever when he wrote the immortal line:

"E la sua volontate e nostra pace."

A. W. T.

* "The Spirit of Russia." By Thomas G. Masaryk. (London: Allen and Unwin. Two vols., 16s. each net.)

THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN INDIA.*

This book should be read by all who are interested in the economic development of India and other countries where similar conditions prevail. Given a large population of small producers, be they agricultural or industrial, co-operation is the most hopeful line of improvement, and while every country must solve its own problems in its own way, no country can afford to neglect the relevant experience of its neighbours. Now, India has amassed a very large body of experience during two decades of strenuous work, but it is buried in a long series of unappetising blue-books, not very accessible to ordinary readers; a critical summary was wanted, and this Mr. Wolff has now supplied. He writes with authority as an ex-President of the International Co-operative Alliance, and though he has not been in India he is master of the facts; his verdict must therefore be taken into serious account by the workers in India and throughout the East. Stated very shortly, his conclusion is that while India has made an excellent start, there is now a real danger that the movement may become officialised, and thereby sterilised; a special effort is therefore needed to organise some alternative to official supervision, pending the time, which is still distant, when the co-operative societies can provide all the supervision which they need. We think his conclusions will carry conviction to his readers; but even if they dissent, they will not regret the time given to its study.

SAINT SOPHIA.†

This little book is an earnest plea for the restoration of Saint Sophia from Turkish to Christian worship. It consists really of an historical and a political description of Constantinople. By being treated thus, the author's claims must either be accepted *in toto* or disregarded; for the 79 pages to which he limits himself suffice only for the bare statement of opinions, with neither authority nor qualification. Enthusiastic expression is the chief merit of the book; but the train of thoughts and the arrangement of sentences are without order. The point of view taken up and laid down with merciless accent is rather too angular to be received without more show of scholarship; and it is a mistake to assume (as the author does on page 21) that the traditional English attitude towards the Greek Empire is wholly due to the sceptical Gibbon. For there are others than atheists or deists who also are unable to welcome with open arms the Byzantine Greek and his claims. Moreover, the claims of Saint Sophia cannot now be treated as they might have been in mediaeval times, because in these days it is Expediency and not the idea of an Absolute (*i.e.*, Christian) Right by which matters must be decided. This fact is the capital degradation of the modern world; and when the author quotes Tennyson—"To follow Right were wisdom in the scorn of consequence"—he is urging on those who shall decide the problem with which he is concerned an impossible policy.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Greek Folklore and Greek Music." By P J. Petrides. (Lecture: William Cate.)

"Zionism, the Jewish National Movement." By Bertram B. Benas. (London: Zionist Organisation.)

"The Concession Hunters." By Harold Bindloss. "The Co-Citizens." By Corra Harris. "Thirty." By Howard Vincent O'Brien. "Those Fitzenbergers." By Helen R. Martin. "The Dream and the Business." By John Oliver Hobbes. (London: The Wayfarers' Library. J. M. Dent and Sons, 2s. net each.)

BOOK NOTES.

Early in October Mr. Arnold will publish "The British Interned in Switzerland," by Lieut.-Col. H. P. Picot. Lieut.-Col. Picot, who is very well known to the Near East for his work in Persia, was in charge of the British from Germany in Switzerland during the war.

We have received a copy of "The Kingdom of the Serbians, Croatians, and Slovenes" (Paris: Imprimerie "Graphique"). It is a small book, but gives much useful information on the newly formed Yugoslav State.

"The Toy Cart," a Hindu play in five acts, by Arthur Symons, has been published by Maunsel at 5s. net.

Miss Ethel M. Dell has written a book on India. Its title is "The Lamp in the Desert," and it is published by Hutchinson at 6s. 9d. net.

"Glimpses of the Great War" is a book published by the Theosophical Publishing House at 3s. 6d., and deals with France, Macedonia, Malta, Egypt, and Palestine.

The Rev. H. G. Harding has written "The Land of Promise," and the Church Missionary Society publishes the book at 2s.

* "Co-operation in India." By Henry W. Wolff. (W. Thacker and Co. 12s. net.)

† "The Redemption of Saint Sophia." By the Rev. J. A. Douglas. (The Faith Press. 2s.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. July	1919. June		1337. Shawal	5679. Tamuz
11	28	Friday	13	13
12	29	Saturday.....	14	14
13	30	Sunday	15	15
14	July 1	Monday	16	16
15	2	Tuesday	17	17
16	3	Wednesday	18	18
17	4	Thursday	19	19

Capt. Henry E. Pears has left England for Constantinople.

The Emir Faisal is expected to return to Paris at the end of July.

The Metropolitan of Trebizond will arrive in London this week from Paris.

The Emir Jaafar, nephew of the King of the Hejaz, arrived in Cairo from Damascus on June 18.

Colonel Nicolas Broumis, Paymaster-General to the Greek Army, left London on July 3 for Paris.

Mr. Hope Vere has arrived in Egypt, and has taken up his appointment at the Residency in Cairo.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala had the honour of being invited to luncheon with their Majesties on July 9.

General Sir Hari Singh, Commander-in-Chief of the Kashmir Army, arrived in London on July 3 from Dublin.

Mr. Farrokh Khan, who has been specially attached to the Persian Legation, has arrived in London from Russia.

M. Diamantides, Greek Under-Secretary of State and President of the Commission for Transports, left London on July 3 for Paris.

Colonel Sir Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, and Lady Roper Parkington have left Claridge's Hotel for Harrogate.

Princess Marie Louise will open the Slava Fête at Claridge's Hotel on Monday, July 14, at which Mme. Astafieva is to appear in Greek dances.

Lady Townshend (wife of Major-General Sir Charles Townshend) gave a dance on July 4 at 86, Brook Street, for her daughter, Miss Audrey Townshend.

General Slatin Pasha has been delegated by the Austrian Government to deal with the question of Austrian prisoners of war, and has left Switzerland for St. Germain.

The paper *El Mokkatam* understands that Lord Milner's mission will consist of Sir William Garstin, Sir Ronald Graham, General Maxwell, Sir Arthur Chitty, and another member.

The Abyssinian Mission, before leaving England for America, left a message expressing appreciation of their treatment in England, and expressing a hope that the trade between Great Britain and Ethiopia will expand.

Lady Mainwaring entertained at luncheon on July 9 the Grand Duke Michael of Russia and the Countess Torby, M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, the Earl of Lathom, and Lady Lavery.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, on July 2, entertained at luncheon Prince Nicolas of Roumania, the Earl of Munster, the Greek Minister, Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, the Roumanian Military Attaché, and M. George Boncesco.

The marriage was celebrated on July 3 at St. Lawrence's, Weston Underwod, Olney, by the Rev. R. R. Vyvyan, vicar of the parish, assisted by the Rev. E. R. Sill, between Lieut. John Francis Bowyer, R.N. (Emergency List), younger son of Lieut.-Colonel W. G. Bowyer, and Violet, widow of Capt. Egerton Wright, M.C., and youngest daughter of Major-General G. R. J. Shakespear, Indian Army.

A marriage has been arranged between Lieut.-Col. Hugh Castle-Smith, A.D.C. to H.H. the Sultan of Egypt, and Maude Ellefred, only daughter of Sir Frederick Evans, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., Colonial Secretary, Gibraltar, and Lady Evans, 57, Wetherby Mansions, S.W.

The marriage was celebrated on July 2, at Holy Trinity Church, Tulse Hill, by the Rev. Montague Dale, between Edward, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Speechly, of Karachi, India, and Lilian, second daughter of the late Mr. John Gurley and Mrs. Gurley, of Tulse Hill.

The marriage was celebrated on July 5, at St. Peter's, Ealing, by the Rev. J. Bertram Kite, between Arthur Stanley, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wimble, of "Thirlmere," Beckenham, and Dorothy, daughter of the late Mr. H. H. Rotton, I.G. Police, India, and Mrs. Rotton, 7, Eaton Rise, Ealing.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in August in Shillong, Assam, between Captain A. B. Blaxland, 16th Rajputs, elder son of the Rev. Bruce Blaxland and Mrs. Blaxland, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and Lilian Alice, elder daughter of Mr. Macleod M. Ferguson and Mrs. Ferguson, of the Imperial Bank of Persia, Shiraz.

The marriage was celebrated on July 3, at St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens, by the Venble. the Archdeacon of Liverpool, assisted by the Rev. H. B. Cogan, D.D., and the Rev. W. Jackson, Harold Spooner, M.C., Chaplain Indian Establishment, to Alice Maud, youngest daughter of Major-General G. F. A. Harris, C.S.I., I.M.S., and Mrs. Harris.

A fancy dress ball took place at the Hyde Park Hotel on July 7 in aid of the Hon. Evelina Haverfield's fund for providing homes for Serbian soldiers in Serbia. This was the last of the series of Slava balls held under the patronage of King Manoel, Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll, Princess Marie-Louise, President of Slava Week, and the Marchioness of Carisbrooke, Vice-President.

The marriage was celebrated on June 11, at All Saints' Church, Srinagar, Kashmir, between the Hon. Major-General W. R. Edwards, C.B., C.M.G., K.H.P., Director-General I.M.S., son of the late Canon Edwards, Llandaff, and Nellie, widow of Lieut.-Colonel R. Bird, C.I.E., M.V.O., and daughter of the late Lieut.-Colonel R. Dewar, R.A., and Mrs. R. Dewar, 31, Beaufort Gardens, S.W.

The marriage was celebrated on July 5, at St. Saviour's Church, Paddington, between Conrad Lucas Rutty, 8th Australian Light Horse, of Tresco, Victoria, Australia, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rutty, of "Holmby," High Wycombe, and Gladys Muriel Irvine, youngest daughter of the late G. H. List, engineer-in-chief, N.W. Railway, India, and Mrs. List, 8, Delaware Mansions, Maida Hill, W.9.

The marriage was celebrated on July 2, at St. Mary's Church, Streatley-on-Thames, by the Rev. H. G. Nind and the Rev. E. T. Gillam, vicar of the parish, between John Warwick Nind, third son of the late J. G. Smith, barrister-at-law, Chief Judge Court of Small Causes, Madras, and Mrs. Smith, Walnut Tree Cottage, Streatley-on-Thames, and Amy Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Greatbatch, of Kimberley, South Africa.

The Prince-Regent Alexander, of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has accepted the honorary degree of Doctor of Law which the Senate of the University of Cambridge recently decided to confer upon him, and in a message to the Senate describes the honour as a new proof of the cordial sympathy expressed by all classes of society in England for his people, sympathy for which he and his people are extremely grateful. The degree will be conferred in the autumn, and the Prince-Regent will be present at the ceremony if conditions permit him to be absent from his country.

RETIREMENT OF DR. J. B. CHRISTOPHERSON.

Dr. J. B. Christopherson has retired from the Sudan Civil Service, and is now in England. Before going to the Sudan he held the post of demonstrator of anatomy at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and he was surgeon to the Seamen's Hospital Society, Albert Dock branch. In the South African War he served as surgeon attached to the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital, Dealfontein. It was in June, 1902, that he joined the Sudan Government service—in the capacity of surgeon attached to the Egyptian Army. For a year and a-half he was Senior Medical Officer at Omdurman, and it was there that he showed much skill in warding off threats of a serious outbreak of smallpox. He was appointed in 1903 Physician to the Governor-General at Khartoum. In the early part of 1904 he initiated and organised the Civil Medical Department of the Sudan Government, and for five years—until 1909—was its first Director. He then became Director of the Civil Hospitals, Khartoum and Omdurman, and this position he held until his retirement. During the present war he served in Serbia as surgeon to one of the Medical Missions sent out. He was taken prisoner by the Austrians, but, being released in 1917, he was appointed a member of the Commission on Medical Establishments (France). It is, therefore, with a splendid record of seventeen years' service that Dr. Christopherson has left the Sudan. His medical triumphs in that country have been many, not least among them being his new and very important discovery in the cure of bilharzia.

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A marriage has been arranged between Captain (Brevet-Major) Patrick Jack Tottenham Pickthall, M.C., Royal Artillery, of La Jaspellerie, Sark, eldest son of the late John Maynard Pickthall, and Kathleen, daughter of the late Colonel Claude Melville Crawford, 6th Goorkhas.

The engagement is announced of Temporary Captain James Elmslie Henderson, M.C., R.A., Egyptian Civil Service, only son of the Rev. George Henderson, B.D., Monzie, Scotland, and Edith Mary, elder daughter of H. Michael Elliott, Hallamgate Road, Sheffield.

At Caxton Hall, Victoria Street, Westminster, at 3.30 p.m., on July 17, Mr. Alexander Devine will give an address on "The Present Crisis in Montenegro." The chair will be taken by Sir Robert J. Kennedy, K.C.M.G., who was formerly H.B.M. Minister in Montenegro.

Delegates attending the International Hydrographic Conference visited the Admiralty Observatory at Ditton Park, Datchet, on July 3, accompanied by the President, Rear-Admiral Sir John G. F. Parry. Among those present were representatives from Egypt, Greece, Italy, and India.

Sister K. H. Wheatley, who, as our readers will remember, did much good work in Constantinople during the Balkan War, has been selected for the post of Matron under the Civil Administration in Mosul. During the present war, besides service in France, she has performed notable duties in India and Mesopotamia, and is therefore fully qualified for the new position of pioneer work amongst the Arabs.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Our Cyprus correspondent writes :—Mr. B. Dickinson has been appointed to act as President of District Court of Larnaca during the absence of Mr. Alan Stuart, as King's Advocate.

Mr. H. C. Grimshaw is appointed to act as President of the District Court of Papho.

We learn from the *Egyptian Gazette* that Dr. Douglas Dunlop, Adviser to the Minister of Education, is retiring from the service of the Egyptian Government on the expiration of his leave this year, and that the Council of Ministers have approved the grant to him of a special pension of £E1,200 in respect of his long service in Egypt.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on June 29, at the Vicarage, Minster Lovell, Oxon, of Charles W. White, of India.

The death occurred on July 4, at The Abbey, Abingdon, of the wife of Sir Henry Bliss, K.C.I.E., Indian Civil Service (retired).

The death occurred on June 28 in Bombay of Gregor Hugh Grant, of Bhagalpur, Bihar, and Orissa, eldest son of William Maling Grant, of Bhagalpur and Sendhurst Grange, Send, Surrey, aged 39.

The death occurred on June 28 of Commander William Ramsay Binny Douglas, C.I.E., Royal Indian Marine, second son of the late Binny Douglas and of Mrs. Douglas, 108, Oakley Street, Chelsea.

General G. A. Prendergast, 15th Bengal Lancers, died at 6, Bramham Gardens on July 8. He served in the Indian Mutiny and in the Afghan War in 1879, for both of which he received the medal.

The death occurred on July 6 at The Thirlings, Wooler, of Colonel John Watson Macclesfield Anderson, late of H.M. 26th Bombay Native Infantry, and Superintendent of the Sind Revenue Survey, in his 82nd year.

The death occurred on July 1, at 21, Hamlet Road, Upper Norwood, of Henry Frederick White, M.I.C.E., Indian P.W.D., late Chief Engineer Gwalior State, Central India, in his seventy-ninth year. He had held various engineering appointments in Burma, Hyderabad, Rajputana, and Central India.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 3s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. Announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTH.

HAMILTON SMITH.—On July 8, at Greenbank House, Aughton, Lancs., to the wife of the Hon. Frederick Hamilton Smith, a daughter.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Greek forces leaving Roumania and other reinforcements have been ordered to Asia Minor.

Bonfires on the Quetta hills spread the news of the signing of the Peace Treaty throughout Baluchistan.

The Roumanian Government has officially recognised the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

According to Bolshevist wireless messages the French have decided to forward the Russian prisoners in Varna by steamer to Odessa, and Greek troops are being evacuated from Constanza.

Peace celebrations in Cairo are to take place on July 12, 13, and 14. Upon news being received of the signing of the Treaty a salute of 101 guns was fired. The natives showed no signs of participation in the rejoicings, and the Italian community held aloof.

Native soldiers have been placed on guard over the former German Legation at Tangier as a precaution against any attempt of German agents to destroy property before it is officially handed over to the Sultan.

General Sir H. Plumer is visiting different parish priests of Malta with a view to ascertaining the causes of discontent in the island.

Serbia denies emphatically that the remains of the assassin of the Archduke Ferdinand and others have been transported to Bosnia, and buried there in the presence of Serbian officers and representatives of the Government.

A protest made by the Italian Minister at Athens regarding the non-acceptance at Greek telegraph offices of telegrams written in Italian and destined for Serbia was met by the statement that the non-acceptance was in conformity with an official Serbian notification.

Reuter reports that according to a telegram from Constantinople it has been decided to dispatch a British regiment from the Caucasus to the Amisos district (near Samsun on the south coast of the Black Sea), in consequence of the presence there of bands of Turkish brigands.

By a legislative decree women having the same qualifications as those required for men are eligible for places in the Greek Finance Ministry's Audit Department. Women may be appointed, in future, to posts as Customs House officers, legal advisers, cashiers, and coastguards.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO,
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.
Proprietor: AUGUSTUS VAN MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL
(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), ALEXANDRIA.
American Bar and Restaurant,
Billiards, and Lift.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,
GLYMENOPOULO, RAMLEH.
This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
Every Modern Comfort. American Bar, Restaurant.
Bathing Cabins on the Beach. Billiards.
Daily Concerts on the Verandah.

NAJEM HOURY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.
OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND—
NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.
LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.
FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.
LARNACA—Majestic Hotel.
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FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1919.

THE NEXT STEP TO PEACE.

Mr. Lloyd George's survey in the House of Commons of the Peace Treaty and the Paris negotiations has been rightly accepted with thankfulness and enthusiasm by the British public. It is a long way from Armageddon to Amerongen; but it is unfortunate that popular interest should now be centred on the spectacular trial of the ex-Kaiser when the Peace is still far from complete, and unhappily there is a tendency on the part of both press and public to forget that the details of the terms granted to Austria, Bulgaria, and Turkey will be not less important for the future of the world than the clauses which the Germans have signed. Nor must the element of time be omitted. The Allies of Germany collapsed before their leader admitted defeat, but they have had to wait longer for the verdict, and indeed there are indications that Bulgaria, the first to quit the field, will be the last to enter the council chamber. It was inevitable, of course, that the German treaty should be drafted first. But it should not have been impossible to complete the Austrian terms almost at the same time, and to deal at least provisionally with the two remaining parties to the war. But Bulgaria seems to have been omitted altogether from the maps used by the Big Four in Paris, and the new diplomacy can hardly be congratulated on the conduct of the opening round with Turkey. It was admittedly a sound policy to ask the Turks to send delegates to state their attitude; and it was very natural for an Ottoman diplomat to put his case at the highest—the maintenance of the *status quo*. That was, as it were, no more than the formal handshake of the boxers before entering the ring, and nobody can have been more surprised than the Turkish delegation to find their bluff taken seriously, and a rhetorical lecture delivered on the iniquity of their pretensions. In contemplation of the stupendous task before them, the Allied statesmen or their secretaries at Paris seem to have lost their sense of humour. The Turkish claim was preposterous; for that reason it should have been laughed at, not dealt with in the manner of a schoolmaster correcting a foolish essay of an impertinent pupil. As it is, the return of the Turkish delegates to Constantinople must cause a delay of some weeks in the conclusion of the settlement; and we are afraid that the same must be added as regards the sudden departure of M. Bratiano for Bucharest. In this latter case, as in certain others during the past six months, it is difficult to avoid the suspicion that the smaller States in Paris have not always been treated with sufficient courtesy and tact. Their demands may have been excessive, and too much imbued with the chauvinism which so naturally shocks the Great Powers, but there are more ways of dealing with such pretensions than the curt method of a bare negative. We do not say that this is what happened in the case of Roumania, because no information as to the reason for the rupture has been vouchsafed by either party to the dispute; but the procedure is becoming painfully familiar, and the consequences cannot be other than unfortunate.

It is stated, indeed, with some show of authority that the Austrian terms are now practically complete in their military and financial details, but that territorial questions have been left over for the present. The statement unfortunately contradicts itself. The least important part of the late Austro-Hungarian Empire at the present day is German Austria, and its future has already been decided by the condition—which can hardly be more than provisional, since it can be so easily evaded—that it shall not unite with Germany. But it is frankly impossible for the relatively small province of German Austria to bear the whole of the Austro-Hungarian debt. The alternatives are repudiation—which we take to be ruled out in advance—or the assumption of some portion of that debt, part at least of which has been contracted for civil purposes, by the new States which are to be erected on the ruins of the old Empire. But how can the debt be apportioned among the new States without the precedent determination of their boundaries? The load must be apportioned to the shoulders that bear it, and at the present time the frontiers of Bohemia and Yugoslavia are entirely a matter of speculation. It appears that in this matter the Conference is proceeding on wrong lines altogether. The proper method would be to determine frontiers first and finance second; but because there have notoriously been disputes over boundaries, these have been adjourned, apparently in the hope that national jealousies would die down by the simple process of neglect. It is a matter of common knowledge that the result has been the exact contrary. There have been regrettable incidents without number, and almost open war, between rival partisans; at no time has local or national patriotism been more embittered, and a just settlement will be incomparably more difficult now than in February, since claims have been staked out and pledges given which, although properly condemned at the time, have sunk deeply into the consciousness of the contestants. The idea that the whole controversy, or rather series of controversies, would die down of inanition, shows a deplorable lack of political knowledge.

Nor can the position in the Ottoman Empire be considered any better. With the approval of the Conference, which had repudiated the staking out of claims in Austria-Hungary, Greece was allowed to stake out a very definite claim in Asia Minor. At the same time, the Conference failed to make any definite statement that Greece was acting with its approval, or regarding the lengths to which Greece should be allowed to proceed. The result so far has been most unfortunate; it has precipitated civil war in the Smyrna district, led to a revival of trouble between Greece and Turkey, and renewed that ancient secular controversy between Italy and Greece in the Levant, which it was in the interest of every Power using the Mediterranean to settle. Is there any more certain road to international friction and disaster than this? It is indeed an unhappy inauguration of the League of Nations and the aspirations for a new world that the old should be set by the ears in this fashion. The whole trouble is a consequence of the delay and vacillation and the apparently ineradicable habit of postponing difficulties. It is earnestly to be hoped that the Conference, now that the major settlement with Germany is happily out of the way, will adopt a different procedure, and discuss the territorial basis of the future before it proceeds to other factors, necessary but less vital to the populations of the Near East. According to the enlightened views of Western Europe, the people of the Balkans and Asia Minor may be primitive in their idea that boundaries are more important than anything else; but it is a maxim of sound statecraft to deal with people as they are, and not as they should be, and in that sense the method of discussing Adriatic, Levantine, and Macedonian problems has been hopelessly at fault. Vacillation and postponement have merely led to the exacerbation of competitive claims, and the danger of the whole proceeding has been seen in the steady advance of Bolshevism. The reports from the Near East are uniformly pessimistic, and no improvement can be expected until the future is settled on a firmer and juster basis than at present seems in sight.

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A KOPTIC FESTIVAL.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Kopts celebrate annually, in May, a great *moulid*, or birth-festival, in honour of the Lady Dimiáneh (or Damiáneh), who suffered martyrdom in the reign of Diocletian. A convent dedicated to this virgin saint is held in great veneration. Marvellous cures are effected there, and much is heard of a miraculous chamber in which, during the festival, the Lady Dimiáneh herself and other saints appear in shadow to the faithful; this being one of the principal attractions for many pilgrims to the shrine. I was honoured by an invitation from the Koptic Matran, or Metropolitan, of Jerusalem, the courteous and hospitable Basileos whose acquaintance I had made during one of his annual visits to Egypt at the residence of the Patriarch of the Kopts at Cairo.

The convent stands in complete solitude in the waste lands to the north-east of the Delta, about halfway between Lake Bourlos and the Damietta branch of the Nile. From Alexandria you must go by a circuitous route *via* Mansourah. Starting at 8 a.m., you reach Mansourah (110 miles) at 5 p.m.—*i.e.*, you reach Talkha on the west bank of the Nile, where a group of noisy ferrymen await the train, the town—a great cotton centre—being prettily situate on the opposite bank. Here an imposing array of cafés and restaurants kept by Greeks welcomes the traveller. The town resembles in dust and general squalor most of the villages of Egypt. I secured a passage in one of the numerous Nile boats that convey pilgrims to the Fair; and after a Greek dinner, went on board at 9 p.m., starting soon after. My fellow passengers were a Kopt, his wife and daughter, all wrapped in thick rugs and fast asleep. Our boatmen were two swarthy and rather morose Egyptians who kept up a monotonous chant while they tacked and rowed. A shabby little awning sheltered part of the foredeck. The night was heavy with dew and mist. Before dawn we arrived at Kilweh, our landing-place, and moored alongside other boats filled with pilgrims. On the bank were large clusters of donkeys and mules, whose drivers were vociferating and haggling with travellers as they landed. Selecting a vigorous mule, I joined a string of pilgrims. The air was cold and damp, and we were well on our way before the sun shot up. As the mist dispersed we found ourselves riding through a pleasant tract of open country. We passed two small villages, Batra and Bis-engéli; then crossed a canal by ferry boat, and struck northward along a beaten track into a verdant but uncultivated expanse, intersected by small dykes, through which our animals waded. We kept on overtaking groups of pilgrims, mostly mounted.

At last the convent stood out in dazzling sunshine. So strong was the mirage that the building seemed to rise from a vast lake. It was still early morning when we arrived. The sun beat fiercely on numerous little white domes which surmount the convent, and which the Kopts say it is impossible to count. In front was an immense array of tents of all sizes and colours. Countless donkeys and mules were tethered amongst them, feeding on heaps of green *bersim*, or lucerne. Booths and stalls were filled with all the articles that are found at fairs all over the world, and with products of Egypt in particular. Everywhere groups of visitors were eating, smoking, chatting, bargaining, and scrutinising newcomers. The fair lasts eight days, and the time is spent in churchgoing, trading, and merrymaking. Outwardly it resembled in most respects one of the larger of the Mohammedan *moulids*. I fell in with a Koptic acquaintance from Cairo, and we strolled about the great encampment before entering the church. To reach the main entrance we passed along an avenue of booths, in which wares of a superior class were exposed. Among the dealers was an agent of the British Bible Mission from Cairo, whose books included a goodly array of Testaments and Gospels in Arabic. A few steps led up to the church. The Bishop of Jerusalem was officiating in the *heykel*, or chancel. The other compartments into which this, like other Koptic churches, is divided were occupied by a dense crowd, almost entirely of women. A less reverent congregation could not be imagined. A loud buzz of voices was broken by jokes and laughter. Deacons and acolytes in vain endeavoured to keep order. Now and then a priest stepped from the *heykel* and expostulated. At the entrance stood two surly-looking men armed with whips of hide, which they used freely upon intruders to whom they objected. The atmosphere was stifling, and we were glad to make our way to a large upper chamber to which the Bishop had invited me. It was furnished with a luxurious silken divan. Here, after a long service, His Eminence joined us, attended by a suite of priests and monks. After chibouks and coffee and a long chat, I explored the now almost empty church, in which were many pictures of the Lady Dimiáneh, with her forty virgins, and other saints. We next made our way to the "chamber of imagery," as it was called by Dr. Lansing, an American friend at Cairo. It was a small room supporting one of the numerous domes before mentioned. It was crowded with men, women, and children. Among them were several girls "possessed of devils," who lay on the floor. We managed to squeeze in. An old man, a pedagogue by profession, was keeping up a very dismal chant. We fixed our eyes on a point high up in the wall at which we were told the shadows would appear. We had not long to wait. After a few minutes a faint shadow, which appeared to have no definite form, was thrown upon the wall from a small aperture in the opposite spring of the dome. The apparition was greeted with a loud murmur of voices. My companion explained that the shadow had been pronounced to be that of St. Theodore (*Mar Tadrus*). Then, at short intervals, other shadows appeared, being acclaimed as those of the Virgin Mary, the Lady Dimiáneh, St. George—the mighty warrior—and other saints. It was clear that the miracle—a very clumsy one—was worked from the roof; but the credulity of the simple-minded devotees was no more surprising than what is to be witnessed at countless other shrines. There were several demoniacs and sick folk outside the chamber. The most striking of the patients was a well-dressed Kopt lady who lay on the bare floor and appeared to be very ill. Near her was her husband, or some close relative, who frequently stooped over her and whispered in her ear. She remained absolutely motionless and speechless, and evidently in need of careful medical treatment rather than faith-healing under such very unfavourable conditions.

We inspected other portions of the building. Beneath one of the domes is the reputed burial place of Sitt Dimiáneh. A few steps led to a bare chamber which contained no monument of any kind. The walls were covered with the names of pilgrims, and many scribblings in Arabic. Other rooms were occupied by pilgrims of both sexes resting or asleep; and some belonged to monks. The whole building stood in need of repair. I heard quite a chapter of legends connected with the convent—of cures effected, miracles wrought, sceptics confounded, and troubles evaded through the influence of the saint.

The good Bishop pressed me to remain till the end of the *moulid*, but I could only accept an invitation to a midday meal. He led me through a forest of small tents to a spacious green marquee. As we passed, all the bystanders ran forward to kiss his hand. In the tent a little band of choristers was drawn up, and chanted a long grace. There were two other guests, whose names I did not catch. The dinner, a thoroughly Oriental one, was served on a large tray placed on a *kursi*, one dish being a whole roast sheep. As we sat down a servant brought a knife and fork for my special benefit. While the sheep was "on," his Eminence deftly inserted his hand into it several times and handed me dainty morsels. All round the tent sat a venerable company of grey-bearded Kopts. After the repast the choristers again chanted a grace, and received the well-merited praise of the Mutran. Through an open end of the tent we looked upon a great stretch of sandy wilderness, where a troop of horsemen were galloping wildly in the mimic warfare of the *jerîd*, checking their horses while at full speed, and raising clouds of dust, which were carried away by a light breeze. As we watched the scene and the gleaming delusion of the mirage all around, we seemed to be standing on an island encircled by an endless expanse of waters. On the way back we were entertained with pipes and coffee in the tent of a notable Bey of the Kopts, who provided me with an excellent horse and escort, and a note which secured a change at a halfway house. A ride of about 25 miles brought me to a crossing, and I reached Mansourah about the same time that I had left it on the preceding night.

R. M.

The report of the Committee appointed last January, under the chairmanship of Lord Crewe, to inquire into the organisation of the India Office and the relations between Whitehall and the Government of India, was issued on July 9.

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THE FUTURE OF ST. SOFIA.

On July 4, at Chelsea Town Hall, Prebendary Gough, Vicar of Brompton, gave a lantern lecture descriptive of a recent visit to the British forces in Salonika, Constantinople, and neighbourhood. Speaking of St. Sofia, he said that he went there accompanied by a young English officer, who spoke Turkish and liked the Turks; and, his young friend acting as interpreter, had a long interview with an old man they had seen reading the Koran. The old man took them about the building and showed them all sorts of things, but, although he was obviously very poor and lived, perhaps, on alms, he would not accept any payment. When they left him he looked up to Heaven and, with the sun falling on his face, gave them his blessing.

The lecturer said there were some very ancient Christian churches in Constantinople, now used as mosques, which he thought might be returned to Christian worship; but he was not prepared to advise that St. Sofia itself should be handed over to Christians. It had never been the property of the Greek Church, but of the Byzantine Empire, and the Greek Church was far from being that Empire's heir and successor. But why should not the Turks say that this great building was fit to be the church of all nations, and let it be a place into which any reverent person might go and say his prayers? It was the most wonderful sacred building in the world, the most impressive, the most subduing, and the most uplifting, and he would like to see it a place where there should be no quarrelling of sects, such as disgraced the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, but a place where men could go and think solemnly and sacredly, none disturbing them because of rival creeds. On all grounds, political and religious, this would be the best treatment of St. Sofia.

Of Salonika he said that it had a splendid geographical position; but if neither Serbs nor Bulgars used the port, the prospects of business there were very poor. At the present time he understood that the Spanish Jews, who were the backbone of the industrious population of the town, were beginning to leave it. But while the British Army remained the Jews would still be able to do business.

The Government of India, with the approval of the Secretary of State, has extended the State of Benares by the inclusion in it of Ramnagar, the town on the bank of the Ganges opposite Benares, where is situated the palace-fort in which his Highness resides, and seven adjacent villages. The additional area comprises five square miles.

THE LEBANON HOSPITAL: ASFURIYEH, SYRIA.

The Lebanon Hospital for Mental Diseases, which is the only one of its kind in Syria, has just issued its twentieth report—for two years ending March 31, 1919. This institution was allowed to stand unmolested throughout the war—a remarkable tribute paid by the Turks to its value. The experiences of the hospital staff during the war were very trying, largely owing to the scarcity of food. Things greatly changed, however, with the entry into Beyrout of British troops, whose behaviour was characteristically generous. The report points out in its conclusion that five years of practically a state of siege inevitably caused deterioration to the hospital, and that there are debts to settle, reparation and replenishment to be done, and schemes of improvement to be carried out. For these purposes a sum of £15,000 is necessary, towards which there is in hand £1,300. The Committee therefore appeal for £13,700. All communications should be addressed to the General Secretary, Miss A. M. Gooch, Lebanon Hospital Office, 35, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.

INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT.

At a meeting held on July 2, at the Essex Hall, at which many members of the Indian community in London were present, Mr. Surendranath Bannerjee gave an address on Mr. Montagu's Bill for the reform of the Government of India. Lord Islington, who presided, said that as one who had been closely associated with the scheme under consideration, he trusted that the Select Committee and then Parliament might between them succeed, at an early date, in threshing out a settlement which on the one hand would promise a fair prospect of success in working, and on the other hand would be found acceptable to reasonable opinion throughout India. Mr. Bannerjee said: We have a population of 300 millions devoted to the British connection and ready to be spent in the service of the Empire. We believe that with the British connection are bound up the best prospects of Indian advancement. Self-government would allay Indian unrest and extinguish the last traces of the revolutionary movement.

News has been received, says *The Times*, that the ex-Shah Mirza Mohammed Ali has returned to Persia after long exile, and is at Kazvin, 100 miles north-west of Teheran, on the road to Tabriz.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

A report reaches me that very interesting developments in the matter of aviation may be expected shortly in Yugoslavia. In the course of the next few weeks it is confidently expected that there will be in operation a regular air service, postal and passenger, between the three chief towns of the new kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Not the least interesting feature of the enterprise is the fact that a British firm will be responsible for the service.

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Elsewhere will be found a report of the first annual general meeting of the British-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce. Lord Bessborough, who presided, referred to the good opening that it was believed would exist in Roumania for British business, and remarked on the gratifying interest now being taken by a large number of firms in trade with Roumania. The Chamber of Commerce has undoubtedly done much to awaken this interest, and it is most satisfactory to learn that a similar organisation is to be established in Roumania. Working together, the two Chambers should be able to do work of incalculable value for the development of British commerce.

***

The resignation of Sir Arthur Steel Maitland raises afresh the question of the organisation of our commercial intelligence system. The new Department of Overseas Trade was intended to provide a common ground on which the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade could unite in furthering British trade interests. The task of the head of the Department as an Under-Secretary of the Foreign Office, and also as an additional Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Trade, was one which carried the possibilities of difficulty, but the compromise seemed to work perfectly under Sir Arthur Steel Maitland, who has greatly enhanced his reputation during the past two years, during which the Department has more than justified its existence, and by its initiative and enterprise has gone far to convince the business community that they may look to the authorities for real support in commercial matters. In the light of Sir Arthur's letter it is to be assumed that the system of dual control has, after all, proved unsuccessful. If that is the case it remains to find speedily some more practicable method of dealing with the question of commercial intelligence.

***

The fruit report of Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, shows that the prospects for the export of fruit from Turkey this year are most unpromising. Stocks of figs and sultanas on the market are small, and as regards this year's harvest all fruit crops are reported to be in a bad way. The tree crops, it is stated, have very little fruit; "a disastrously small yield of sultanas" is foreshadowed by reports from all over the country; and the only relief is forthcoming from the fig districts, but even there the crop estimate is less than last year.

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The estimated yields for the war period show that the fig crops were throughout very considerable, but that the yield of sultanas decreased every year from 44,000 tons in 1915 to 25,000 tons in 1918. Turkey was naturally deprived of large markets for her fruit crops by the war, but a demand arose for the fruit for the production of alcohol, and this, we are told, contributed in no small measure "to the absorption of a substantial proportion of the fruit crops"; and then after Bulgaria entered the war there was a steady business with the Central Powers. The new market for the fruit and the depreciated currency are reflected in the prices to which the produce rose. Thus, sultanas, which varied from 1¾ to 4 piastres the oke in 1915, reached 42 piastres in 1918, while figs, which realised an average price of 85 piastres per kintal in 1915, rose to 1,250 piastres in 1917.

***

As the outcome of the visit of the Greek Commercial Mission to this country last year the Greek Interests Bureau has just been opened at Dorland House, 16, Regent Street, S.W.1. The bureau will be primarily concerned in advancing the interests of Greece and Britain in agricultural, industrial and commercial matters, but other phases in the relations of the two countries will not be ignored, and besides the promotion of tourist traffic when adequate hotel accommodation has been found in Greece, literary, artistic, and scholastic matters will also fall within the scope of the programme. The bureau, which owes its origin to the goodwill and enterprise of the leaders of the Mission, and enjoys the co-operation of the Greek Minister, M. Caclamanos, is under the direction of Mr. William Hill, who accompanied the Mission during its tour.

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At the general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Sir Marcus Samuel stated that the production for the present six months—127,604 tons against 136,241 tons last year—bore out very fully the anticipations of the directors that until the Egyptian Government comply with the request to give the company more territory there can be no great expectation of maintaining a large production. They were working, he pointed out, on a small anticline, and when a great well came in it necessitated the shutting down of pumping in all the other wells because the flow of gas was so great as to render it extremely dangerous to continue working. They had also ample experience that gushers did not last long. He was convinced that with a fluctuating production such as they had, no other company could, unless circumstanced as fortunately as the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, carry on the business.

***

Shipping companies serving the Moroccan ports have notified shippers that, in consequence of the extra heavy expenses of working and the detention experienced by the steamers, they are compelled to raise their tariff rates by about 10s. per ton on and after August 1 and by a further 10s. for the winter months to Rabat, Laraiche, and Saffi.

***

At this week's general meeting of the New Egyptian Company, Mr. Baumann, the chairman, was able to give a satisfactory account of the past year's operations. The gross revenue of the company amounted to £79,456, from which has to be deducted the expenses of administration in Egypt and in London, £20,061, and the interest on the debentures, £4,196, leaving a balance of £55,196, which with £24,482 brought forward, gives an available balance of £76,679. Out of this a dividend of 1s. 6d. per share, equal to 10 per cent., is to be paid, absorbing £33,478, and the large balance of £46,200 is to be carried forward, in view of the recent disturbances in Egypt and of the fact that considerable damage was done to the company's property. As regards prospects it may be noted that the sale of a further 648 feddans at an average price of over £150 was completed after the closing of the accounts, while from January 1 to May 31 of the present year deeds have been signed for 304 feddans, and in addition 371 feddans have been sold at an average price of £155.

***

Mr. Baumann drew the obvious moral for the shareholders that their dividends and the continued sales of land in Egypt depended on the settled order and the good government of the country. Commenting on the mixed nature of the population of Egypt, with its four classes of persons, the fellaheen, the effendia or official class, the European residents, and the sprinkling of British officials, he said that the trouble about Egypt was, that it was neither Egyptian nor British, and if they were to succeed there they must make it either less British or more British.

***

The report of the Assam Oil Company for 1918 shows results very similar to those achieved in the previous year, the net profit being £85,850, compared with £89,800. The allocations to depreciation is again £25,000, the excess profits duty for 1915, 1916, and 1917 takes £38,578, which is roughly equivalent to the amount brought forward, and the dividend on the ordinary and the preference shares is maintained at 8 per cent. While the production was less than in 1917 the various products realised good prices. Wells are being drilled in two new areas, and during the year a well was completed on the Makau field, in which oil was found, though not in paying quantities.

COMMENTATOR.

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CONSTANTINOPLE BUSINESS LETTER.

Hindrances to Trade.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Constantinople, June 14.

So far as business is concerned, things are very quiet in Turkey at present, in spite of the paucity of the stocks of good class manufactured goods. No one is prepared to buy more than is absolutely necessary to keep things going, and even then, only goods that can be delivered almost immediately. A couple of months ago considerable quantities of manufactured goods, such as hosiery, underwear, and cotton piece goods, were dumped on the market from Greece, where there has been a severe commercial crisis owing to the inability or reluctance of buyers to accept goods ordered shortly before the Armistice in the expectation of the prolongation of hostilities. These goods are of very poor quality, but as they arrived at a time when the market was practically bare, they were sold without much difficulty, and Constantinople is now almost flooded with them.

Business is rendered almost impossible at the present moment by the heavy charges for freight and unloading, in addition to the lack of Customs accommodation and quay space Goods remain in lighters for three or four weeks. In addition to a freight charge of £8 per ton, it costs £4 a ton to discharge goods. As an instance, four cases of tinned meats costing £14 cost £3 14s. to deliver to the port, and by the time the goods were actually warehoused the total charges came to 50 per cent. of the invoiced cost.

Turkish Paper Money.

But the real key to the situation is the abnormal rate of exchange, as well as a feeling of nervousness and uncertainty as to the ultimate value of Turkish paper money. To-day British £1 Treasury notes are sold for about 400 piastres paper, although soon after the Armistice they could be bought for 150. Under the present circumstances business can only be done on a cash against documents basis, and no one will take Turkish paper money in payment. Therefore a merchant is obliged either to buy cash at the current rate of exchange, or to buy a cheque upon London, Paris, or elsewhere at an exorbitant premium. In the interval between the placing of the order and the delivery of the goods the rate of exchange, which fluctuates very considerably, may go heavily against him.

It is somewhat difficult to say how far the feeling of uncertainty as to the ultimate value of Turkish paper has to do with the unfavourable rate of exchange. No doubt there will be an improvement as soon as it is possible to export goods from Turkey. There is a considerable amount of material available for exportation, even apart from wool, which is on the list of goods of which the exportation is prohibited. But here again, the heavy freight charges form in many cases an insuperable obstacle. Such low-priced materials as valonea and rags cannot possibly bear a freight charge almost equal to their value. There is a good deal of mohair available, and shortly the dried fruits should be ready, which may help matters somewhat.

Nevertheless, the present heavy discount upon Turkish paper money is certainly due to some extent to a widespread feeling of doubt as to whether it may not suffer the same fate as the "caimé," as the Turkish paper currency, issued during the war of 1878, was called. Everyone recalls the disastrous results of the repudiation of the "caimé," which was burnt in stacks in the streets of Stamboul, and to-day, in consequence, everyone prefers any sort of money to Turkish paper Even the pre-war notes of the Imperial Ottoman Bank are at a premium of about 80 per cent. It is supposed that as Germany will be obliged to yield up to the Allies all securities, etc., placed in her custody to guarantee loans and emissions of paper money, the Allies will thereby become responsible for Turkish paper, especially as all German concessions obtained in consideration of financial obligations are also to be cancelled. But even this has had not the slightest effect upon the situation. If it were possible to accord Turkey a European credit the situation would be considerably improved. And after all, friends are affected as much as, if not more than, enemies, and surely there is enough potential wealth in the Ottoman Empire to cover the comparatively small Ottoman debt. For presumably, however the Empire may be carved up, each portion will have to bear its share of the financial burden.

Competition.

In the meanwhile there is every sign of an exceptionally severe struggle to capture the Near Eastern market. France, the United States, and Japan are all well in the field. The French have opened a well-organised information bureau, where samples are exhibited and requirements are studied. The Americans are equally well prepared for the fray, and a few days ago an American, Mr. R. I. Thomas, obtained a concession to exploit an oilfield which was discovered at Gallipoli. A Japanese commercial mission, consisting of thirty professors and business men, has recently arrived for the purpose of studying the situation and, if possible, of securing big contracts.

Nevertheless, British commerce has the initial advantage of unequalled prestige, and if the cards are rightly played Great Britain ought to capture the bulk of the business. One thing is absolutely essential: the peculiar requirements of the market must be carefully studied and met. In the past it has been a source of constant reproach to British manufacturers that even when they had the information they would not try to meet the peculiar requirements of the Ottoman market The German did, and got the trade. The moral is obvious. In the next place, a good agent is a necessity. A good agency is not necessarily a big concern handling nearly everything under the sun. There are many importers whose financial positions are perfectly sound, who do a considerable business by specialising in two or three particular lines which are allied to each other. It is these concerns which in the past have always been the most loyal and satisfactory supporters of British commerce in this part of the world, and for that reason they should now be encouraged and helped.

The Future.

For some time to come, engineering must be one of the most important factors in the Near Eastern situation. Roads, ports, railways, and works of all kinds are needed everywhere, while in Constantinople alone, fifty thousand houses would barely replace what has been destroyed by fire during the last five years. Agricultural machinery will also be in great demand, but hitherto the United States has produced more suitable machines than Great Britain. During the war the Germans were working a little scheme for the supply of motor ploughs, but of course that is now a thing of the past.

Shipping.

The ships of the old Austrian Lloyd Line are now being run by the Italians under the new title of "Lloyd Triestino." The old Austrian ships still bear the same names, and Italian merchant shipping has undoubtedly received a magnificent accession of strength. A direct service has been inaugurated between Constantinople and Taranto, in addition to the usual itinerary of the Black Sea and Ægean ports.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

EGYPT.—ALBERT J. HALFON.—P.O. Box No. 1182.—ALEXANDRIA, British Agent, in touch for twenty years with the best clients of Egypt. Complete and unique organisation (also for visiting the provinces). Highest references. Would like to secure serious REPRESENTATIONS. Correspondence invited.

MESSRS. T. S. BOUTAGY and SONS of Palestine and Syria can export specialities of these countries and wish to represent shipping firms as well as maritime and fire insurance companies, and import English articles into these countries.—Address, T. S. BOUTAGY & SONS, Haifa, Palestine.

ROUMANIA.—S. N. Iancovici, Bucharest, Str. Academiei 6, desires to obtain English agencies. English correspondence. First-class references.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN TURKEY.

Production of Raw Materials.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Smyrna.

During the six or seven years preceding the general war considerable strides in the textile industry were made in Turkey, particularly in Smyrna town and district. At present in Smyrna alone, more than £500,000 is invested in these industries, the greater part of this capital, approximately 80 per cent., being British owned, and the balance Belgian or French. It is worthy of note that the whole of the textile industry with British capital is also run by British subjects, and it is not too much to say that so soon as the administration of the country is set in order and a stable and reliable form of government established, large orders will inevitably be placed with English firms, for the increase and extension of existing plants. It is an undoubted fact that Asia Minor being practically a virgin country, good government, security and justice will eventually offer an inducement for the investment of capital and for the development of the manifold industries which are at present lacking.

Two great factors on which the success of the textile industries in this country depend, should, however, be primarily considered. They are the following: (1) Development of cotton growing and (2) the rearing of sheep. The production of cotton might easily be doubled, but in order to attain this end it would be necessary to invest considerable sums in schemes and enterprises in the construction of dams for irrigation purposes, and the confining of the Meander River and its tributaries in new beds by which means thousands of acres of the best soil would be available for cultivation, and thousands more now insufficiently watered would have their complement.

In regard to wool, experience has shown that the country is naturally among the best adapted for sheep rearing, but hitherto the lack of security, and of scientific protection from disease, have proved serious obstacles. It would appear that the formation of a syndicate is at present under consideration, having as an object the amalgamation of five of the largest farms lying along the Aidin Railway Line with a total area exceeding fifty thousand acres for the purpose of sheep rearing. The plan is to centralise the working of these farms under the management of British or American expert farmers, so as to ensure their development on modern and scientific lines. It is reckoned that the capital needed for buying, stocking and working these farms will amount to some £600,000, but the success of the undertaking will, of course, greatly depend on the form of government eventually to be established in this part of the world.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

The Glenrazan, the first steamer despatched by the Moss Steamship Co., Limited, to the Near East after the signing of the Armistice returned to Liverpool on the 4th inst. with a cargo of 3,000 tons of manganese ore, making the round voyage in four months, the vessel having called at Poti, Batoum, Samsoun, Souchem, Constantinople, Smyrna, and Alexandria, at all of which ports it was apparent that the events of the last five years had greatly dislocated business, and that it will be some time before conditions are again normal, particularly in the case of the Black Sea ports, owing to scarcity of labour and lack of loading and discharging facilities. Whilst the Glenrazan is in Liverpool her name will be changed to Amasis, so that this nomenclature will conform with that of the other steamers of the fleet.

Messrs. John Birch and Co., Ltd., export engineers, of London, announce that they have undertaken the overseas agency of William Beardmore and Co., Ltd., the well-known Glasgow engineering firm. The Beardmore workshops are rapidly being converted from war to peace production of metals and machinery for distribution throughout the world. The Birch organisation, already far-reaching, is being further extended to meet these new requirements.

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BRITISH ROUMANIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The First Annual Meeting.

The Earl of Bessborough (Vice-President and Chairman of the Council) presided at the first annual general meeting of the British-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce, held at the London Chamber of Commerce on July 8, and amongst those present were Mr. H. Locke, Mr. H. C. Field, Mr. John F. Cleeves, Mr. E. W. Morgan, Mr. E. Dean, Mr. E. W. H. Barry, Mr. J. G. Evans, Mr. R. H. Rowell, and Mr. E. Agius.

The Chairman, in presenting the first annual report, which had already been circulated to the members, said:—"It would appear to be a happy augury for a useful and prosperous future for our Chamber that its first annual general meeting should be held a few days after the conclusion of Peace. I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Council and the statement of accounts. In doing so, I may say that the various gentlemen and firms who have associated themselves with the establishment of this Chamber have good grounds for satisfaction, in view of the progress that has been made in so short a time.

"I do not know that at this moment, immediately after the signing of Peace, when many of the political problems of the Near East are not yet definitely settled, it is possible for me to say much about the future. It is generally thought that the new Roumania will comprise within its boundaries some of the most fertile land in Europe, which must, as the resources of the country are developed, bring in its train increased opportunities for trade. I believe that there will be a good opportunity for British business in the future. The Chamber is now assisting in the development of this business so far as is possible. I have every reason to hope that in the future its opportunities will be largely extended.

"I understand that steps are being taken in Roumania to form there a British Chamber of Commerce, which will work in close relationship with our own. When this Chamber in Bucharest is formed, I hope that every effort will be made by them to create a Court of Arbitration, a vital necessity for the furthering of British trade. As you will see from the report, the Council has taken action whenever occasion for action has arisen. I believe I am right in saying that such concerted action as has been taken by this Chamber has not yet been taken by any body of traders which comprises so many interests in this country having relations with Roumania. It is gratifying to find that a large number of firms here are already interested, or are intending to interest themselves, in Roumania in the near future, and I have no doubt that the work of the Chamber will be of assistance to these firms; and that they will ultimately join us, and the Chamber will be very pleased to extend to them a hearty welcome." In conclusion, he moved:—"That the report and accounts for the year ending May 31, 1919, be received and adopted."

Mr. H. C. Field (of Messrs. A. Field and Co.) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. E. W. Morgan (Howse, Mead and Sons, Limited), seconded by Mr. John F. Cleeves (Cleeves' Western Valleys Anthracite Collieries, Limited), it was unanimously resolved:—(a) "That his Excellency M. Nicolas Misu, Roumanian Minister in London, be and is hereby re-elected President of the Chamber for the ensuing year." (b) "That Sir Albert K. Rollit, D.C.L., LL.D., Consul-General for Roumania, and the Earl of Bessborough, K.P., C.V.O., C.B., be and are hereby re-elected vice-presidents of the Chamber for the ensuing year."

The Chairman stated that there were ten vacancies on the Council, and the following gentlemen, who retired according to the rules, were eligible for re-election, namely:—Messrs. George Bonar (Low and Bonar, Limited), G. Boncesco (Roumanian Commercial Attaché), A. Bornemann (Ruston and Hornsby, Limited), F. C. Fairholme (Thos. Firth and Sons, Limited), H. C. Field (A. Field and Co.), Fredk. Greenish (J. Greenish and Sons, Limited), J. K. Lees (A. and A. Crompton and Co., Limited), C. C. Railton (Calico Printers' Association), J. Spence (Debenhams, Limited), and W. H. Suddards (J. Cawthra and Co.). The Chairman moved, and Mr. John F. Cleeves seconded, that these gentlemen be re-elected members of Council. There being no further nominations, the proposal was put to the meeting and carried unanimously, it being understood that the period of service in regard to these members would be for three years, in accordance with the articles of association.

The Chairman then moved:—"That Mr. H. Locke, hon. treasurer, and Mr. Charles E. Musgrave, hon. secretary, and Mr. Francis W. Pixley, hon. auditor, be re-elected to these positions. In doing so, he referred to the fact that Mr. Musgrave, the hon. secretary, who took a great interest in the work of the Chamber, was unable to be present that day owing to official duties connected with the visit of members of the London Chamber to the port and docks. The motion was seconded by Mr. E. Dean and unanimously adopted.

Mr. H. C. Field then proposed:—"That a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to the Earl of Bessborough, and also to Mr. H. Locke, Mr. C. E. Musgrave, and to Mr. Francis W. Pixley, for their services since the formation of the Chamber." This was seconded by Mr. E. Dean, and was carried unanimously, Lord Bessborough briefly returning thanks.—The proceedings then terminated.

DISTRESS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, dated July 4:—

Owing to agricultural operations, the number on works decreased in Bankura District, Bengal, Bundelkhand Agency in Central India and in Central Provinces. Distress in Bhagalpur District of Bihar and Orissa shows signs of decrease, while distress in Angul District of Bihar and Orissa, and in Etawah District of United Provinces, is acute, and in Karauli State of Rajputana is increasing. Situation generally is unchanged in Bombay, but good rain has fallen in affected districts of Gujarat and Deccan, also in Kathiawar. Numbers relieved. Bengal.—Relief works, 7,305; test works, 2,456; gratuitous relief, 19,623. Bihar and Orissa.—Relief works, 3,498; test works, 6,079; gratuitous relief, 24,317. Feudatory States, Orissa.—Test works, 16,865; gratuitous relief, 23,278. United Provinces.—Test works, 18,741; gratuitous relief, 18,828. Rajputana.—Relief works, 1,055; test works, 4,968; gratuitous relief, 2,500. Ajmer Merwera.—Test works, 372; gratuitous relief, 203. Central India.—Relief works, 13,781; gratuitous relief, 10,565. Central Provinces.—Relief works, 10,806; test works, 10,567; gratuitous relief, 48,530. Bombay.—Relief works, 31,999; dependants, 13,894; village works, 5,510; test works, 1,193; gratuitous relief, 94,358. Madras.—Relief works, 56,399; test works, 2,493; gratuitous relief, 90,227.

INDIA'S COTTON YARN PRODUCTION.

According to the Department of Statistics, the total production of cotton yarn in Indian mills for the twelve months ended March last, was 615 million lb, as compared with 661 million lb. in the preceding twelve months, or a decrease of 7 per cent. Compared with the average of the five pre-war years the total shows a decrease of 32 million lb. or 5 per cent. The total quantity of woven goods manufactured during the period under review was 350 million lb., a decrease of 31 million lb., or 8 per cent., compared with the quantity manufactured during the preceding year, but an increase of 90 million lb., or 35 per cent., over the pre-war average.

The Indian gold output for May amounted to 38,608 oz., an increase of 360 oz. compared with the total for April.

The India Office announces that up to June 21 Indian Treasury Bills were issued to the following amounts—October 16, 1917, to March 31, 1919, Rs136,39,05,000; April 1, 1919, to June 21, 1919, Rs14,30,45,000; Bills discharged or discounted, Rs98,90,10,000; Bills outstanding on June 21, Rs51,79,40,000. Owing to cessation of sales, future notices regarding amounts outstanding of Indian Treasury Bills will be issued monthly instead of weekly, as hitherto.

ROUMANIAN COMPANIES.

Notice to British Shareholders.

The Roumanian Legation in London notifies that the previous notice on the subject of shares held by foreigners in Roumanian companies is cancelled and replaced by the following:—

"Persons and companies domiciled in the United Kingdom who hold shares in companies incorporated under Roumanian law which on or after August 28, 1916, have been sequestered or placed under the control of the Roumanian Government are hereby notified that, in order to comply with the provisions of the Decree-Law of the kingdom of Roumania, No. 1,353, of March 29, 1919, and the decision of the Department of Industry and Commerce of the Roumanian Government, No. 5,452, of March 5, 1919, they must within ten days from July 8 present their share certificates in such companies to the Roumanian Legation, 4, Cromwell Place, London, S.W.7, for the purpose of being vised and stamped. In the case of shares which were held by the present owner prior to August 28, 1916, proof must be produced in support of this. With regard to the securities which have been transferred or negotiated since August 28, 1916, proof must be given that on that date they were not held by or for account of subjects of countries with which Roumania has been at war nor in the meantime have been so held. The share certificates must be accompanied by a schedule in triplicate, giving the numbers and denomination of the shares held."

The following is the list of companies to which the present notice refers:—Erdoel Industrie, Societatea Express (in liquidation), Societatea Erderti (Bacau), Societatea Forestiera, Societatea Feher and Comp, Societatea Fenix, Societatea Furtuna (Jassy), Societatea Filaret, Fabrica de Tricotage a Societatii Anonime Romana, Societatea Goetz, Societatea Gruia Dudesti, Societatea Coroana (Fabrica de Produse Chimine), Societatea Ganz, Societatea Ilfov (Fabrica de Cherestea), Societatea Import-Export, Societatea Continental (Campina), Lissing and Maelman (Buzau), Societatea Lignitul Fabrica Luther, Societatea Motru, Lloydul Roman, Societatea Lessel, Loteria de Stat, Magazinele Generale si Antrepozitele "Obor," Societatea Marasti, K.K. Delsyndicat (Ploesti), Orenstein and Loppel, Petrol-Block (under control), Societatea Rahova (Lak-Blau), Societatea Romana-Germana, Societatea Anonima Silvica Romana, Societatea Anonima de Comert, Societatea Siemens Schukert, Societatea de Navigatie de Vapoare pe Dunare, Societatea Romana de Produse Chimice, Societatea "Stella," Societatea Romana-Germana (Telega), Societatea Austro-Ungara-Romana, Heinrich Schwarz Soehne, Societatea Germana-Romana pentry Valorificarea Matelor, Societatea Tisita, Societatea de Electricitate "Tudor," The Putna Saw Mills Company, Ltd., Societatea "Union." Societatea "Vega," Brown-Boveri, Societatea Auxiliara Arges (under control), Societatea Auxiliara, A.E.G. (Uzina Electrica), Societatea de Asigurari "Ancona" Societatea Agrara, Societatea Alianta, Banca Generala Romana, Banca de Credit Roman, I.M. Bendik and Comp, Societatea Anonima fosta Behles, Berliner Holz Comptoir, Buhusi (Fabrica de Postav), Societatea Buzau Nehoias, Creditul Petrolifer, Societatea Concordia, Societatea "Carpati" Fabrica de Zahar Chitila, (under control), Companla Generala de Electricitate, Societatea Carbon, Societatea "Coroana Romana," Societatea "Ceres," Societatea "Ceahlaul," Societatea "Carpatia," Societatea "Caminul Propriu," Dresdner-Bank, Societatea "Districutia," Societatea "Diana" Societatea Electrica, Societatea Silvica "Marnero" (Bacau), Societatea Co-operativa (Botosani), Societatea Co-operativa "Viitorul" (Botosani), Societatea Tramvaiul Electric (Jassy), Societatea "Vasilatu" (Valcea), Holtz-Comptoir Company (Dolj), Moara "Raiul" (Jassy), Uzina Electrica (Jassy), Fabrica de Tabscarie "Concordia" (Jassy), Fabrica de Tricotage Hodan and Cave (Jassy), and Societatea "Astra Romana."

A branch of the Eastern Bank, Ltd., has been opened at Mosul.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

As a result of the continuance of the strike, business has been almost at a standstill. Although fresh negotiations are taking place for a settlement there does not seem to be very much hope of an early resumption of work in the mills. The position of affairs is still very complicated, chiefly owing to the lack of unity amongst the operatives. Egyptian cotton rates show no change, and limited business has been done. Mixed reports are being received relating to the crop. It is feared that the output per feddan will be much below the current season as the plants have been injured by cold weather. Only retail lines have been put through in Egyptian yarns, and most spinners have refused to quote. A fair amount of demand has been met with in piece goods for Egypt and Near Eastern outlets, but buyers and sellers have found progress blocked. Shippers are anxious to place orders as there is a steady appreciation in values. Only isolated transactions have occurred for India in piece goods. Very little has been done for China. Manufacturers remain in a strong position, and there is no probability of cancellation of contracts as a result of late deliveries. American yarns have been flat and prices are strictly nominal. It has been very difficult to arrange sales in shipping yarns, very few producers being prepared to sell.

The Bland Line has established a weekly service between Tangier and Casablanca.

According to latest advices, the rate of exchange of Georgian roubles is 220 to the pound sterling.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The directors of the Batu Caves Rubber Company announce an interim dividend of 20 per cent. (4s per share), less tax.

The directors of the Singlo Tea Company have declared a final dividend on the Ordinary shares of 3s. 6d. per share, less tax at 5s. 9d. in the £, payable July 28; 20 per cent. for 1918.

The directors of the Dooars Tea Company have declared a final dividend on the Ordinary shares of 4s. 6d. per share, less tax at 5s. 9d. in the £, payable July 28, making 27½ per cent. for 1918,

Hope Tea.—Including £23,999 brought forward, the accounts for 1918 show a profit of £53,167. Further dividend of 10 per cent., making 30 per cent., less tax, for year, carrying forward £16,202.

The directors of the Bank of British West Africa recommend a final dividend to March 31 of 4½ per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year, plus bonus of 1 per cent., less tax.

Meenglas Tea.—The accounts for 1918 show a profit, including £8,034 brought in, of £22,327. Further dividend of 20 per cent., making 25 per cent., less tax, for the year, carrying forward £2,402.

The directors of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank have declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year ended June 30 on the £20 shares (£5 paid), payable August 1.

The directors of the Bengal Dooars Railway Company have declared an interim dividend of 3½ per cent on the Ordinary stock on account of the year ending September 30 next, payable, less income-tax, on August 1.

The directors of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company have declared an interim dividend for the three months ended March 31, 1919, of 3s. per share, payable, free of tax, July 15.

The directors of the Bank of Bengal announce a dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum and a bonus of 3 per cent. per annum, both free of tax, placing to reserve Rs5,00,000. pension fund Rs1,00,000, and carrying forward Rs5,51,065.

Preference transfer books of the Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway Company will be closed from July 17 to July 31 for the purpose of preparing the interest warrants payable to those shareholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

Debenture stock transfer books of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company will be closed from July 17 to July 31 for the purpose of preparing the interest warrants payable to those stockholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

Bank of British West Africa, Ltd.—The transfer books will be closed from July 12 to July 23, both dates inclusive, to permit of preparation of final dividend to March 31 of 4½ per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year, plus bonus of 1 per cent., less tax. Warrants will be posted to shareholders on the evening of July 23.

The accounts of the Assam-Dooars Tea Company for 1918 show that, including £16,330 brought in, there is a disposable sum of £49,362. Further dividend of 15 per cent., making 20 per cent.; placing £5,000 to reserve, increasing it to £30,000; carrying forward £16,591, subject to excess profits duty.

An aviation company has been formed in Ceylon, with a capital of one and a-half million rupees.

It is reported from Budapest that the Hungarian Bank has issued new bank-notes of 5, 10, and 20 kronen.

Mr. W. H. Inskip has been appointed joint general manager of the London County Westminster and Parrs Bank, in place of Mr. J. W. Buckhurst, who is retiring, after 47 years' service.

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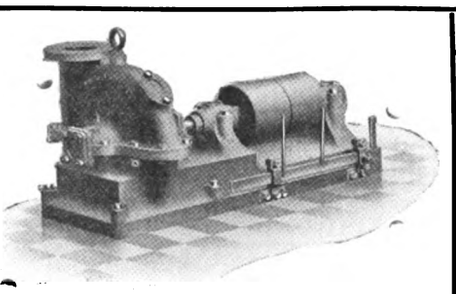

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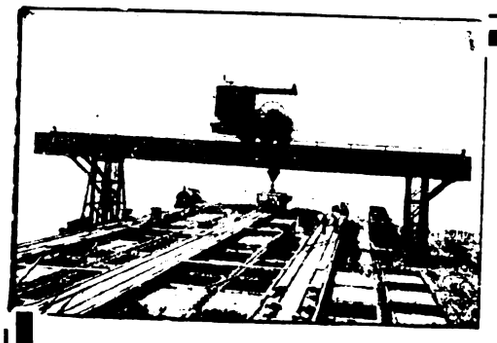

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Agricultural Machines for Thrace.

In Thrace, and especially in the district of Adrianople, the use of modern agricultural machinery and implements has been growing in recent years. At present, ploughs, sowing, reaping, and threshing machines, with straw cutting and bruising apparatus, are required. Machines driven by steam or oil, but not with any highly explosive oil, are preferred. Small grinding (flour) mills with stones, and not iron discs, are popular. Such mills, light in weight or able to be taken to pieces for transport over hilly countries, would meet with a good sale. They are used for grinding wheat, Indian corn, or, usually, barley, and a mixture of barley and wheat, for bread. French burr stones are too hard for producing flour in accordance with the requirements of the peasants. Derbyshire stones are more suitable: but often the buyers require only the frame, into which they fit native stones. British firms hitherto had no representatives there, nor did they send travellers to that important district. German and Austrian firms were well established there before the war, and were doing a good trade. With the new state of affairs, however, and as the people are generally impressed with the well-known superiority of British machinery and implements, British manufacturers will not find difficulty in competing with foreign firms. Hardware, tools, and cutlery are also in good demand. The latter, of British manufacture, were hitherto imported indirectly by foreign or local firms who seemed to do very brisk business.

Utility of the Tractor.

In view of the great scarcity of labour and of draught animals in the Near East, the general utility of the tractor is a factor of very great importance to landowners there, since experience is showing that the tractor's use is far more extensive now than it was a few years ago. Apart from the present scarcity of labour and animals the farmer, under the stress of severe competition, is compelled to economise labour at every turn. Horse traction must be dispensed with to insure profitable returns, and manual labour must be reduced to the minimum. The tractor enables the farmer to dispense entirely with his horses, except for pleasure; for if he has an agricultural tractor it will perform every function that he is likely to require. Not only will it till his ground and reap his produce, but it will grind and cut it as well, and haul it to the market. With this machine every possible operation that is at present carried out by animal, manual, or even steam power, can be accomplished. Further, the possession of a tractor of the agricultural type entails practically no expense beyond the cost of the machine itself—a noteworthy circumstance in any scheme involving the displacement of animal by mechanical power. Any agricultural implement that has previously been utilised in connection with animal traction can be pressed into service, the only alteration necessary being the removal of the poles used when a team of horses are hauling, and the substitution of an inexpensive special spring coupling.

For stationary work, such as driving threshing machines, chaff-cutters, churns, &c., it constitutes an admirable source of energy. The power is transmitted from the engine direct through a pulley and belt. The advantages of this system are obvious. It does not necessarily entail the cartage of the material to be treated to one common centre, which is essential in the case of a stationary engine, but the tractor can be taken to the scene of operations. Another very important use, especially in the East, of an agricultural tractor on an estate or farm is its adaptability for pumping purposes. A rotary or centrifugal pump mounted on a portable base so that it can be moved from one place to another may be attached to the tractor, and when the house reservoir has been filled it can be taken to other parts of the estate and turned to account for general irrigation purposes, or for emptying a lake or pond for cleansing purposes, or drawing away water from a trench or conduit that has to be dug, &c. Consequently, an agricultural tractor need have no period of idleness, and can be a money earner throughout the year. In conclusion, however, it must be pointed out that for carrying out the operations with complete satisfaction, well designed and adequately-constructed tractors are needed, strong and reliable; and such are the British-made tractors, which for *general* use on an estate or farm have proved unsurpassable.

Motor Wagons for Persia.

Reference has been made to an order which the Persian Government has given to manufacturers in Italy for the supply of a number of motor mail-wagons; and according to recent information there are great possibilities for the establishment of a transport service by motor-wagons in Persia in the very near future. In South Persia the growth of cereal crops along the coastal belt is rendered very precarious by the liability to drought, while across the mountains the production of grain is so much in excess of local requirements that considerable quantities are burned because growers find its does not pay them to cut the crops. In the absence of animal transport this grain cannot be conveyed to the coast for export, but if motor wagons were available there is no doubt that a valuable shipping business in grain could be developed. Before the outbreak of the war a German firm was submitting proposals to the Persian authorities for the organisation of a transport service, but the war interrupted the negotiations, and it appears that new proposals will soon be submitted from other quarters. The British steam or oil wagon is recognised as the best and most reliable for this purpose and there should be great scope for makers of such wagons in Persia. Enterprising British firms who would be willing to undertake the organisation of transport service in the country should not lose the opportunity, for with these services there will be also harbour improvements and other engineering works to be constructed.

Irrigation Works in Roumania.

Before the war it was known that plans for the irrigation of the plains lying between the Danube and Bucharest, known as the Baragan, and also for the connecting of the city with the river by a navigable canal, had been prepared by the Roumanian Ministry of Public Works. The area to be irrigated amounts to 600,000 hectares, or about 1,500,000 acres, and the cost of the work, including the construction of about 500 kilometres of canals, is estimated at 250,000,000 francs. The plans were approved by the Government in principle, and a sum of 100,000 francs had been voted at the time to cover the cost of further investigation. It is calculated that the return on the outlay would amount to 300,000,000 francs yearly. According to recent reports a representative of an American syndicate is studying the matter on the spot, and it is expected that this country will also not be behindhand.

Chromiferous Ores in Greece.

Great interest is being shown in Greece and elsewhere in the development of certain mines in that country, especially those of chromiferous iron. Owing to the rapid development of the low-phosphorus chromiferous iron ores of Cuba, containing appreciable quantities of chromium, nickel, and cobalt, and the production therefrom of pig-iron and steel possessing exceptional qualities and used for special purposes similar deposits in Greece acquired unusual importance. These deposits occur in the western part of Greece, in the districts of Lokris and Boeotia, and in the island of Euboea (Negroponte), Skyros and other islands of the Ægean Sea. The most important are situated in the district bounded by the bed of the drained Lake Copais and the west coast of the Talanta Channel, and are all within a few miles of the coast, which, being much indented, furnishes excellent loading ports. Chromiferous iron, however, occurs in many other parts of Old Greece, in Argolis, Laconia and Arcadia, and in Acarnania and Doris, all the deposits, with the exception of those in Arcadia, being near the sea. If it is proved that the deposits in Greece are similar to those in Cuba, very interesting developments of the mining industry may be expected in the former country.

Motor-Boats for the Persian Gulf.

American Trade Commissioners have already advised American motor boat builders and exporters that there will be a demand for motor boats and automobiles in the Persian Gulf district; and have suggested to them that catalogues and price-lists should be sent to them in order that they may be ready for use as soon as peace conditions make it possible for these officials to assist importers and exporters of these lines. It is hoped that British motor boat builders and others will take notice of the expected demand, and that the suggestion will not be lost on the British authorities on the spot, and that they will facilitate propaganda in favour of British boats and cars.

Knitting Machines.

Stocking and flannel-knitting machines, hand and power driven, have hitherto been imported to an increasing extent in all countries of the Near East. Germany was the principal supplier, and a few were imported from England, although British-made machines are preferred, and are greatly favoured by the people. Makers of such machines who have decided to exhibit in the forthcoming exhibition at Athens may be sure of obtaining good orders.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Turkish Fruit Crops.

After an interval of four years the well-known fruit report of Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, again makes its appearance. The present report which, in the circumstances is of exceptional interest, states :—

Our last report was issued on April 1, 1915. So far as circumstances then permitted, we estimated the receipts of the 1914 fruit crops at that date at the following figures :— Sultana raisins, about 36,500 tons; figs, 76,000 loads or 16,500 tons. The crops undoubtedly yielded a higher return, and subsequent arrivals which were mainly absorbed for distillery purposes, justify the estimates of a total production for the season of 90,000 loads or about 20,000 tons figs and 44,000 tons of sultanas.

In June, 1915, a blockade was established against the coast of Asia Minor, and exports by sea were entirely suspended. Imports, however, of alcohol having ceased, local distilleries both here, in Constantinople, and other parts of the country commenced utilising the lower grades of sultanas and figs, and this industry steadily developed and has contributed in no small measure during the war to the absorption of a substantial proportion of the fruit crops, more especially the inferior and cheaper grades.

Later on, after the entry of Bulgaria into the war and the opening of direct railway communications with Central Europe, regular shipments of sultanas and figs were made to Constantinople, and a steady business developed with Austria-Hungary and Germany.

Exchange.

Throughout the years 1915, 1916, 1917, and 1918, exchange between the Central Powers and Turkey ruled in favour of Turkey, but with the progressive issues of paper currency, gold in this country steadily advanced, finally reaching a premium of over 500 per cent. Gold and silver gradually disappeared from circulation, being largely hoarded by the native element, and all dealings were based on paper currency.

Up to 1914, the par value of the £ sterling was piastres 110, the Turkish pound being worth piastres 100. When the Armistice was signed last November, the value of the £ sterling at the time was nominally about 185 piastres. But as soon as the partial resumption of trade relations between Turkey and Entente countries was permitted, exchanges speedily adjusted themselves, and since the beginning of the year, exchange for sterling cheques has fluctuated between 360 piastres and 400 piastres per £ sterling.

This question of exchange is necessary to understand in view of its bearings on the prices of fruit on our market. In 1915 there was no premium on gold. In 1916 the premium, from about 15 per cent. in the early part of the year, advanced to 95 per cent. in December. In 1917 the premium steadily advanced month by month, reaching 525 per cent. In 1918, the premium declined to about 470 per cent. It now stands at about 430 per cent., but with foreign exchange freely obtainable, very few dealings in gold are reported.

Sultanas.

We give below the estimated results of the yields in the years 1915-18 and the average of prices for inferior and choice qualities. We quote the prices in native currency, first purchase cost from the dealer, without taking into account cost of packing, etc. :—

Year.	Yield.	Prices.
1915	about 44,000 tons	1¼ piastres to 4 per oke.
1916	,, 33,000 ,,	6 ,, ,, 9 ,,
1917	,, 27,000 ,,	10 ,, ,, 40 ,,
1918	,, 25,000 ,,	18 ,, ,, 42 ,,

In the spring months of 1916, the market spurted to about 15 piastres per oke.

After the signature of the Armistice in November, 1918, the market underwent a temporary collapse and receded from the maximum price of 40 piastres to about 25 piastres. But confidence was restored in January, and prices have been ruling steady between 18 piastres and 30 piastres and have recently advanced about 20 per cent.

It is clear from the above prices, that every allowance made for the premium on gold and for the depreciation of paper currency, sultanas have been selling at an average of over 300 per cent. on pre war prices, and this is easily accounted for by the reduced yields, the high cost of labour and transport, and the destruction of the vineyards in many districts.

The stock of sultanas on the market is presently very small, and consists mainly of low grades suitable for distillery purposes only. Total stocks remaining in the country are estimated at about 5,000 tons but in view of present political uncertainties and the unfavourable prospects of the vines, very little of this stock is likely to be released for sale presently.

Figs.

We give below the estimated yields, and average prices realised per Turkish kintal during the following years :—

	Estimated yield.		
1915	75,000 loads	av. per Kint. realised	85
1916	80,000 ,,	,, ,,	340
1917	65,000 ,,	,, ,,	1,250
1918	80,000 ,,	,, ,,	970

The load is equal to about 4½ cwt.

Stocks now remaining are small and market latterly has become firmer. No figs are left which may be considered suitable for shipment.

Crop Prospects.

The average rainfall in this province is about 23 inches. Last year (September 1917-18) the rainfall was below the normal having been about 14 inches. The present year has beaten all known records, and has so far exceeded 60 inches. Weather continues rainy.

All fruit crops are reported to be in a bad way. The tree crops have very little fruit. Reports reaching from all parts of the country, if reliable, would foreshadow a disastrously small yield of sultanas. The fig districts send more encouraging advices but the yield is assessed at less than last year.

Conditions generally at present are very uncertain. It is unlikely that shippers will have any desire to undertake business for forward delivery until the season actually opens and the question of exchange, labour, shipping, etc., can be gauged more closely than is presently possible.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The returns of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended June 26 were: cattle markets £378, general markets £486, total £864, total for year £31,001. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918 ended June 27 were: cattle markets £315, general markets £452, total £767, total for year £27,160.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

NEW EGYPTIAN.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting of the New Egyptian Co., Limited, was held on July 8 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Arthur A. Baumann (chairman of the company) presiding.

Mr. Thomas Day (London manager and secretary) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The company has had a very good year, but as the accounts are voluminous and somewhat complex I shall select what I consider to be the chief points of interest. Taking the balance-sheet first, you will see that the total assets, taken at or under cost, amount in round figures to £756,999, while our liabilities amount to £587,735, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of £169,264, which is equal to 7s. 7d. per share. That is taking the cost of the land at £50 per feddan—I refer, of course, to the average book cost—but if you consider that we have lately been selling land at £150 per feddan you will see that the excess of assets over liabilities was certainly a good deal more than 7s. 7d. per share. This excess of assets is represented by reserve for profits on sales of land, not yet encashed, amounting to £49,186, capital reserve amounting to £40,398, and the profit and loss account amounting to £79,679. With regard to the reserve for profits on sales of land not yet encashed, amounting, as I said, to £49,186, this item compares with £19,284 for the previous year, or an increase of £29,901. Turning to the profit and loss account, you will see that the revenue from the company's land amounts to £23,209. After deducting the reserve for profit not yet encashed from the profit on sales of land, we get a net balance of £40,372, which compares with £17,275 for the preceding year. From the gross revenue you have to deduct the sum of £20,061, which you will find accounted for on the other side by expenses of administration in Egypt and in London, and that leaves a balance of £59,392, from which you must deduct the interest on the debentures, which is £4,196, so that we have a final balance of £55,196 available. To this we add £24,482 brought forward from last year, giving us a final available balance of £79,679.

With your consent we propose to dispose of this balance in the following manner: We propose to pay a dividend of 1s. 6d. per share, equal to 10 per cent., less income-tax at 5s. 9d. in the £, and this will absorb £33,478, and will leave a balance of £46,200, which we propose to carry forward to next year's account for reasons to which I will recur in a moment. A further 648 feddans were sold at an average price of over £150 per feddan, but the deeds were not signed at the conclusion of the financial year, and therefore, following on our previous method, they have not been taken into account. From January 1 to May 31, 1919, deeds have been signed for 304 feddans, and in addition to that a further 371 feddans have been sold at an average price of £155 per feddan, so that our prospects for the coming year seem to be good enough, providing that the political and social conditions of Egypt remain satisfactory. You will see that we propose to carry forward the sum of £46,000, having a view to the recent disturbances in Egypt and to the fact that some considerable damage was done to the company's property. That damage has been estimated at from £10,000 to £15,000, and we are making a claim against the Government. I wish the shareholders, both those who are here and those who will read the report of this meeting, to realise that their dividend and our continued sales of land in Egypt depend on the settled order and the good government of that country.

Recent Disturbances.

The recent disturbances in Egypt have been either concealed from or misrepresented to the British public. They have been alternatively represented as "unrest" or as "Bolshevism." As a matter of fact, the disturbances in Egypt were neither the one nor the other. They were a singularly well-concerted national rising, organised and executed by the two principal

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classes of society in Egypt—namely, the fellaheen and the Effendia, or official class. There are four classes of persons in Egypt. There is, first the fellaheen, or peasantry—docile, industrious, only asking to be governed decently, which is the right of every man in every country. There is, secondly, the Effendia, or official class, consisting of the Pashas and Beys and the students. The third class are the European residents in Egypt, merchants, financiers, surveyors, engineers, managers of companies. The fourth class is a sprinkling of British officials, cool, competent, disinterested, just, but without any executive legal authority. They are simply advisers and consultants of the Sultan. That is an unworkable state of things for any country. The trouble about Egypt is that it is neither Egyptian nor British, and if we are to succeed there we must make it either more British or less British. We must either govern the Egyptians properly or let them govern themselves. But, gentlemen, there are two reasons why we cannot give Egypt Home Rule—the Suez Canal at one end and the Sudan at the other end of Egypt. We cannot leave the Suez Canal to a Levantine Effendia, and if we were to withdraw military protection from Egypt we should have the Sudan coming down upon Egypt and crunching the Egyptians as a bear crunches a rotten apple.

The Future.

I admit that the local discontent has been aggravated by the war levies and requisitioning of material, but that is now over, and it is for the British Government to see that we either govern the Egyptian fellaheen properly ourselves or make the Egyptian Pasha class do so. We must put an end to this double system under which the Sultan is a merely nominal ruler, and we have to create a new citizenship, which is a very difficult thing to do. I suggest that that new citizenship should be British, that British officials should be given executive authority and that it should be made perfectly clear in future that every resident in Egypt is a British subject, and that the Sultan is the Viceroy of King George of England, very much in the same way as the great Princes in India are the subjects of their Emperor. As you know, Lord Milner is going out to Egypt in October on a special mission. There is certainly no living man who is more competent to straighten out this crumpled condition of politics than Lord Milner, for in his early manhood he spent a good many years in Egypt as the Financial Adviser to the then Khedive. We can trust Lord Milner right enough; we can trust him to recommend the right thing, but I am by no means sure that we can trust either the Government or the House of Commons to adopt it. That is why I thought it important in my position as chairman of this company to say what I have said in the hope that both those who hear it and those who read it may feel the extreme importance of focussing public attention upon Egypt, because unless we do so most assuredly we shall find ourselves with a new Ireland on our hands in the most vulnerable spot in the British Empire—namely, the half-way house between London and Bombay. I now move: "That the directors' report, together with the annexed statement of accounts, duly audited, be received, approved, and adopted, and that a dividend of 10 per cent., or 1s. 6d. per share, less income-tax of 5s. 9d. in the £, be paid."

Mr. Edward Nathan seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then proposed the re-election of the retiring directors (Sir Ernest Spencer and Mr. H. E. Barker).

Sir Westby B. Perceval, K.C.M.G., seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Crowther, seconded by Mr. Parker, the auditors (Messrs. Cooper Bros., and Co.) were reappointed.

The proceedings then terminated.

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ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.

Need for Larger Areas.

The eighth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Ltd., was held on July 10 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Marcus Samuel, Bart. (Chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. Y. Kennedy) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Since we last met there has been very little alteration in your affairs. The report which we have sent you gives a very full account of the operations of the company during the year under review, and there is not very much that I can usefully add to it. It is desirable to call your attention to two favourable paragraphs in the report. I refer to the two last paragraphs on the first page, in which we are able to inform you that we have discharged the arrears of interest on the income bonds amounting to £76,352 1s. 9d., and that we have also been able to pay £56,229 11s. 6d., the arrears of dividend on the cumulative preference shares. It follows that if the prosperity of the company should continue—and we hope it may—those will be non-recurring charges on revenue. The profits for the year are enumerated, and I must say that the item which you will find as set aside for depreciation—namely, £55,000—is not as large as we should like to see, but so long as we have the faulty income-tax laws which we now have, and which override the discretion of directors of the experience of your board, so long will British enterprise suffer. The amount which we have set aside for depreciation is the full amount which the revenue authorities allow us to write off.

Production.

On the question of production, the figures for last year you have in the report, and they are quite satisfactory. As to the present six months, the production up to date has been 127,684 tons, against 136,241 tons last year, and it bears out very fully the anticipations of your directors that, until in their wisdom the Egyptian Government comply with the requests which have been made to them to give to this enterprising company more territory which they can explore, we have no great hope or expectation of maintaining a large production. The difficulties are very great. We are working on a small anticline, and when a great well comes in it necessitates the shutting down of pumping on all the other wells, because the flow of gas is so great as to render it extremely dangerous to continue working; and the managers are constantly faced with this great difficulty, that when a gusher comes in all other production has to be temporarily closed down. We have had ample experience now that the gushers do not last, and when they are exhausted, as you have seen by the weekly reports which we publish—and that is the only form of information that we can give to the shareholders—our production goes down to 2,000 tons a week. I am quite sure you will sympathise with the managers on the immense difficulty of working a field under those conditions. Indeed, if it were not that we are very fortunate in our associates—I mean our commercial associates, as quite distinct from our partners, the Egyptian Government, who do nothing to help us—if it were not for the great help that we get from our associates in giving us steamers just at the time we want them and removing the produce as it comes, we should not be able to carry on the business at all. No other company could; of that I am quite certain. With a fluctuating production of this sort, unless the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields were circumstanced as they most fortunately are, it would not be possible to carry on this business.

Contracts for Liquid Fuel.

Another point of immense importance is that we have been compelled, both in your interests and in the interests of Egypt, and indeed of the Empire, to accept large contracts for liquid fuel. Now just look how we should be placed, or any possible competitors would be placed, if we had not the very large resources of the Shell group to fall back upon. We have contracts which are stupendous as compared with the production of this company; indeed, the production scarcely covers the requirements of Egypt itself, and we are fortunate in having associated with us gentlemen of the calibre of Sir Henry McMahon and Mr. Hugo Baring, who was formerly the representative of the Egyptian Government. We can only hope that their representations, seconded by those which it is the duty of your managers to make, will at length bear fruit. If this company is to attain the success that we should desire, I repeat it will only be possible if the Egyptian Government abandon the attitude they have taken up and make up their minds to support us as loyally and as strongly as partners should. I referred last year to the prescience of Lord Kitchener, who stipulated that the Egyptian Government should have a share in the prosperity of this company if it was ever attained. It did not appear very likely then, and many years elapsed, as you know, before it reached a paying footing, but the Egyptian Government had in the aggregate—certainly up to this year—a far larger return from the field than the shareholders had. We do not regret it; on the contrary, we are very happy to see it, but we do plead that they should do something in return for it. Well, gentlemen, I do not think there is anything that I can usefully add to the report that you have now before you. The financial position, as you have seen, is satisfactory, inasmuch as we had at the end of the year very considerable funds, and these have not diminished since. I have only now to move: "That the directors' report and accounts be received and adopted, and that a final dividend for the year 1918 on the "B" shares of 10 per cent., making 25 per cent. for the year, and dividends on the "A," "C" and Preference shares in proportion according to their respective rights be paid."

Sir Henry McMahon, G.C.M.G., seconded the resolution, which was at once put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. H. W. Morrison, seconded by Mr. E. Hume, Messrs. Turquand Youngs and Co. were appointed auditors for the current year.

Mr. Morrison: Mr. Chairman, I should like to propose a most hearty vote of thanks to yourself and the Board for bringing this company, after many years of waiting for dividends, up to what looks like being a great success, in spite of your not being satisfied with 200 square miles.

Mr. J. H. Perry seconded the vote, which was unanimously accorded.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, we are much obliged to you for your vote, but you know 200 miles do not represent much unless they contain oil, and that is our difficulty. We are rather convinced that a great deal of that 200 miles does not bear oil at all, and in fact we have offered to return it to the Egyptian Government; we have asked them to take it back; so please do not found any hopes on mileage; it is oil we want.

The proceedings then terminated.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Igalkande.

The report of the Igalkande Rubber and Tea Estates Company for 1918 states that the profit amounted to £4,060, which with £1,114 brought in makes a total of £5,175. The directors have dealt with this amount as follows:—To reserve for renewals and contingencies, £500; payment of excess profit duty, £379. They recommend a dividend of 7 per cent., amounting to £3,080, and that the balance of £1,215 be carried forward

Credit Franco-Egyptien.

The net profit of the Crédit Franco-Egyptien for 1918 amounted to 701,715 frs., and the dividend is 9 frs. per share. The report points out that the general situation in Egypt during the last working period was much the same as in the preceding year. Although the cotton plantations may have suffered, the crop, nevertheless, gave a satisfactory yield. The high prices reached for this product, as also by agriculture in general, have attracted a considerable amount of capital to Egypt, which has favourably influenced the prosperity of the country. However, owing to Government control of the harvest and cotton exports, bank operations were less prosperous.

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Burma Ruby.

The report of the Burma Ruby Mines for the year ended February 28, states that the income and expenditure account shows a deficit of £562, and adding to this the debit balance of £6,754 from last year there remains a net deficiency of £7,316. 903,760 truckloads of ruby earth were washed at a cost of 10.4d. per load, as against 969,919 at 8.9d. last year, and the value of stones mined amounted to £44,168, compared with £50,123. The increase in the cost per load is due to the poor quality of the ruby earth which was being worked and to excessive rains in the summer, which carried large quantities of overburden into the open mines, all of which had to be passed through the washing machines though practically yielding no results; since January, however, richer ground has been worked, which is producing sapphires as well as rubies. Sales of rubies amounted to £50,843, compared with £54,598 last year. The local market in Burma and India was good all through the year, and in London the stock of stones, including recent consignments from Burma, was reduced from £13,115 to £11,910.

Assam Oil.

The report of the Assam Oil Company for 1918 states that profit was £85,849. After payment of dividends for 1917, the balance brought forward amounted to £38,052, making £123,901. Out of this sum the excess profits tax covering three years, 1915, 1916, 1917, was paid, and the interim and final dividends on the preference shares were paid on their due dates. The directors have transferred £25,000 to depreciation account, and propose to pay 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares and a further 1 per cent. on the preference shares in order to make their total dividend equal to that paid on the ordinary shares, both dividends less tax. This will leave £28,322 to carry forward, out of which the excess profits in respect of the 1918 accounts will be paid.

Rungajaun Tea.

The report of the Rungajaun Tea Company for 1918 states that the balance on the season's working was £550, to which must be added £10,377 brought forward and interest and profit on sale of investments, £112. After deducting income-tax, £2,099, there remains £8,940, which the directors recommend should be dealt with as follows: Preference dividend of 6 per cent., less tax, of which 3 per cent. already paid, £769. Ordinary dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, £1,282, leaving to carry forward £6,888. It is expected that a substantial sum will be received by way of refund on account of excess profits duty paid in previous years.

Dooloogram Tea.

The report of the Dooloogram Tea Company for 1918 states that profit was £5,241; £10,691 was brought in, which with adjustment of season 1917 account, £792, gives £16,724. Deducting income-tax £3,184 and garden managers' commission £611, there is left £12,929. The directors propose to place to reserve account £1,000 and pay a final dividend of 5 per cent. (less tax), making 10 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £7,574.

Mazdehee Tea.

The report of the Mazdehee Tea Company for 1918 states that most unfavourable climatic conditions prevailed during the season, and the garden was visited by a severe earthquake on July 8 last. Very considerable damage was done to the brick walls of the factory and bungalows, and manufacture for some time was carried on under extreme difficulties. Fortunately, no lives were lost, nor was any tea destroyed. Including the balance brought forward, after making sundry adjustments and crediting the amount refunded in respect of excess profits duty paid in previous years, there remains £4,553. The directors recommend a dividend of 5 per cent., less income-tax, and to carry forward £3,737. In common with most other estates, influenza broke out twice during the year, but fortunately the loss of life was not great. For the coming season the manager has estimated for a crop of 3,000 maunds, and the estimated expenditure is as follows:—At garden, Rs.73.500; at Calcutta, Rs8.500; total Rs82.000 at exchange 1s. 8d., £6.833; in London, including transit charges, £2,100, making £8.933. The Food Controller having ceased purchasing it is expected that the coming season's crop will be disposed of on the London market as in earlier seasons.

Ceylon Estates Investment.

The report of the Ceylon Estates Investment Association for the year ended March 31 last states that the balance carried forward was £1,133, which, added to excess profits duty recovered for year ended March 31, 1918, £82, and profit on the year's working of £1,326, makes £2,541. The directors propose a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent., less income tax, and to carry forward £1,163. The amount expended on manuring amounted to £1,264, which has been charged against the year's profits. The decrease in profit is due to the large increase in estate expenditure.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated July 3.

Good rains except to the north-west of India where, however, precipitation is expected.

Bombay cotton market firm. Fully good broach August 578. Piecegoods market quieter this week and rates have fallen generally. Calcutta jute market firm. Heavy jute goods firm. Hessians firm and prices higher all round, though only moderate business done.

NEW COMPANIES.

Anglo-Egyptian Flax Co., Ltd.

A private company with the above title was registered on June 21 with a capital of £55,000, in 50,000 participating preference shares of £1 each, and 100,000 ordinary shares of 1s. each. Its objects are to carry on in Egypt, the Sudan, Syria, Cyprus, Arabia or elsewhere, the business of growers and buyers of flax, brokers, produce and general merchants, importers and exporters, shipowners, shipping, foreign, colonial and general agents, etc.

South Russian Banking Agency.

The South Russian Banking Agency, Ltd., was registered as a private company on June 28, with a capital of £40,000 in £10 shares, to provide banking facilities of every description in and for the South of Russia. The first directors are to be four in number, whereof one is to be appointed by the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, one by Lloyds Bank, one by the National Provincial and Union Bank of England and one by the British Trade Corporation.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Thursday.

We have this week had an irregular market. With regard to Government stocks, after satisfying the Egyptian demand, prices are somewhat lower; but, on the other hand, in the case of certain land shares, the revived demand from Egypt has been sufficient to absorb all that were offering here, and this has led to a smart rise in prices.

Egyptian Unifieds, after a large turnover, finished one point lower at 85. The 3½ per cent. Prefs. have also declined a point to 72, at which price some business has been transacted.

In Bank shares Nationals have been in good demand, and a fairly extensive business has been done up to 21⅛, but they close unchanged at 21. In Agriculturals, all the shares offering here at 6⅛ have been taken, and the market closes strong at that price; which is 1-32 higher than last week. A feature has been the further sharp advance in Anglo-Egyptians, which are closing £1 up at 17¾.

In Land shares there has been a big enquiry from Egypt for Béhéras, and the price, after rising to 13⅛, closes 11-16 higher at 13, after a very fair number of transactions. Aboukirs, after changing hands up to 24s., close only 3d. firmer at 23s. 6d. Foreign Trusts are fractionally firmer at 14s. 6d., whilst, on the other hand, Delta Lands are slightly weaker at 13s. 9d. New Egyptians close unchanged at 23s. x.d. At the annual meeting yesterday the chairman stated that the intrinsic value of the shares, taking the unsold lands at their book cost of about £50 per acre, worked out at 22s. 7d., whilst the company has been selling land for some time past in the neighbourhood of £150 per acre. There was an unexpected enquiry for Sidi Salems yesterday from Egypt, and business took place up to 2⅜, a rise of ⅛ since last week. Another feature has been the rise in Sudan Plantations, which are closing 7-16 higher at 7 7-16. There was also a good enquiry from Egypt for Union Foncières up to 3⅜, but there are no sellers on this side now under 3½.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Salts and Sodas are ⅛ better at 3¼.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptians B close 3-32 better at 6 1-16. At the meeting held to-day the chairman made it clear that the future prosperity of this company depends upon fresh concessions being obtained from the Egyptian Government, who are partners in the concern. Roumanian Oils are 9d. better at 22s. 9d.

Amongst Greek securities, Monopolies are ¾ lower at 57¾, round which price rather large business has been done. The 1881 and 1884 loans were also extensively dealt in round the current quotation. The 1890 loan is no longer in demand, all the buyers having been supplied, and the price has fallen back 1½ points to 73. "Currant" bonds are also somewhat quieter at 95, but the market is rather a nominal one.

The Compagnie des Vapeurs Français has begun a service between Casablanca and Marseilles.

Lord Inchcape has presented £10,000 to the University of London as a contribution to the fund now being raised to establish a commercial degree.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	July 2	July 9
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	82xd	82
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	86	85
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73	72
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	75xd	75
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	75xd	75
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	58½xd	57¾
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	55	55
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	74½xd	73
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	65xd	65
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	66xd	66
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	64	64
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	86	86
Do. 5 % Currant	—	96	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	82½	82½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 3/16	6⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅝	7⅛xd	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	16½	17⅜
Bank of Athens	£2	72/6	72/6
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	8½	8½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	7⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	76	76
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	12
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9¾	9 9/16
Ionian Bank, Limited	5¾	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	6 5/16xd	6 3/16
London County and Westminster	—	16⅝	17
National Bank of Egypt	13½	21	21
National Bank of India	43	52	52
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7½	7½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	87	—	—
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	101½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc. Rail. 4½%.	90	68	68
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	23/3	23/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4¼	4¼
Béhéra Co.	8½	12⅞	13
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4 3/16xd	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	—	2/9	2/9
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	14/-	13/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	14/3	14/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2¼	2¼
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	24/-	25xd
Sidi Salem Co.	⅞	2¼	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	—	7	7 1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3 1/16	3 1/16
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord	1 1/16	23/6	23/6
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	3⅜	3½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	6xd	6
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4½	4½
Japanese 4½ % 1905 II. Series	90¾	99	99
Chinese 4½ % 1898	92	81	81
,, 5 % 1896	101	91	91
Argentine 5% 1890	—	—	—
,, 5% 1907	—	87	87
OIL.			
Anglo-Egyptian B.	3/16	5 3/16	6 1/16
Anglo-Persian	1 3/32	27/-	27/-
Anglo-Roumanian	—	—	—
Roumanian	1 1/16	23/-	22/9
Traiau (Roumanian)	—	13/-	13/-

CYPRUS OIL TRUST.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Cyprus Oil Trust, Limited, will be held at Winchester House, E.C., to-day, at 12.30 p.m., for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following resolution, viz., "That the capital of the company be increased to £75,000 by the creation of 550,000 new shares of 2s. each ranking for dividend and in all other respects *pari passu* with the existing shares of the company. In a circular it is stated that the new capital to be created will be employed in (a) the purchase of certain rights over 2,500 acres of oil-bearing lands situated in the Tazlau Valley District of Bacau, Roumania, (b) in the purchase from the Anglo-Bulgarian Oilfields, Limited, of 1,000 acres of oil-bearing land situated near Dedeagatch on the Ægean Sea, and (c) for the purpose of working capital and the general business of the company. It is proposed to offer to the shareholders 100,000 of the new shares for subscription.

A prize of 2,000 francs for English is to be given by the Association du Commerce, de l'Industrie et de l'Agriculture pour l'Enseignement professionnel au Maroc, the condition being that the prize is to be used to pay the cost of spending some months in England.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
ALBERT MIRABAUD.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER: 25, Pall Mall.
MARSEILLES: 41-43, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. | Beyrout. Damascus. | Hamah. Homs. | Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.
(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

Paid-up Capital, Drs. 3,000,000.

Head Office - ATHENS.

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS:
Investigations in connection with, and the promotion, organisation and financing of, Limited Joint Stock Companies, with a view to exploiting agricultural, industrial and mineral resources, executing technical works, etc.

COMMERCIAL AND SHIPPING DEPARTMENT:
Purchase and sale of goods on account of clients. Warehousing, Advertising and placing foreign products on the market. Agents for foreign companies and large commercial and industrial firms abroad. General Shipping Agents.

POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.

Correspondents throughout Greece.

Established June, 1905, by the National Bank of Greece and a group of Capitalists.

CAPITAL - Drs. 1,500,000.
RESERVE FUND - Drs. 2,500,000.
Deposits and Credit Accounts, Drs. 100,000,000.

The Bank specialises in the collection of Bills payable in Greece; it accepts goods on consignment, and undertakes their sale, and transacts every kind of Banking business.

General Manager: D. LOVERDO.

TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST.

The Bank of Athens extends special facilities for business with the Near **East** to manufacturers, exporters and importers.

The Bank has offices in all the principal towns in **Greece,** also in **Egypt,** Cairo and Alexandria, in **Cyprus,** Limassol, in **Constantinople,** in **Smyrna,** and in **France,** Marseilles.

Inquiries from interested parties are invited.

BANK OF ATHENS.

PAID-UP CAPITAL : £2,400,000. **HEAD OFFICE IN ATHENS.**

London Office: 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 3.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 2,364,793.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches:—**Piræus, Salonika, Patras, Volo, Syra. Calamata, Corfu, Cephalonia, Candia, Chios, Argos, Pyrgos, Vostizza (Ægion), Nauplia.**

AGENTS IN ALL PARTS OF GREECE, THE LEVANT, AND ABROAD.

The Bank conducts every kind of Banking, Commercial and Stock Exchange business and extends special facilities to traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts.

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT:
The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

GREECE.

Area (1914), 25,128 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,800,000 from Germany and Austria Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 24·30 Drachmæ to £1.

FREIGHT.—From England, 160/- + 10% primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ¾ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: PIRÆUS, SYRA.

CAPITAL - Drs. 10,000,000.

Fully represented in all parts of the world for all kinds of commercial, financial, and shipping business.

President. L. EMBIRICOS. *Manager.* D. MIAOULIS.

BANK OF PIRÆUS.

For COMMERCE, INDUSTRY and SHIPPING.

Capital Paid-up - Drs. 5,000,000. Reserve Fund - Drs. 3,095,000.

OFFICES at PIRÆUS and ATHENS.

Every kind of Banking business transacted.
The Bank's connections throughout Greece enable it to offer foreign clients special facilities for the collection of Bills, etc.
Correspondence invited.

BANK OF INDUSTRY OF GREECE.

Head Office: 14, Stadium Street, Athens.

Capital Fully Paid-up - Drs. 15,000,000

The Bank has been established for the encouragement and development of Industry and Commerce, and undertakes every description of banking business.

BANK OF ORIENT.

Capital Paid up - Drs. 25,000,000

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: SALONIKA, SMYRNA, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MITYLENE, SERRES, ZAGAZIG, MAGNESIA, PERGAMA, SOMA.

Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

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NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

HEAD OFFICE IN SOPHIA.

ESTABLISHED IN 1879.

Capital, 100,000,000 Levs, Fully Paid. **Reserve Funds at December 31, 1918, 57,752,277,96 Levs.**

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN ALL CITIES OF BULGARIA.

The Bank effects the following transactions:—

1.—Executes the service of deposit treasury in the country and the treasury service of the State.
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4.—Collects country and foreign bills. 5.—Opens current accounts under deposit of merchandise, interest-bearing effects, stocks and shares, warrants, bills of lading, precious metals, bills, and at the guaranty of at least two persons.
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 428.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The news that the Bulgarian Delegation is expected in France on July 25 brings the prospect of a settlement of the Near Eastern question appreciably nearer. Some weeks have passed since the Bulgarian Government was invited to select delegates to proceed to Paris, and expectations have run high in the country regarding the opportunity that might be afforded of pleading Bulgaria's case before the Conference. Whether the delegation will be given the same privileges as the Turks remains to be seen. In order to avoid the risk of receiving the Allies' sentence without an opportunity of being heard the Bulgarian Government is understood to have proposed that the fate of the contested territories should be decided by a plebiscite. As the Allies' chief aim must be to eliminate irredentism from Europe, they will have to be very sure of their ground if they reject the suggestion. In districts where nationality is lightly changed to suit the views of the interrogator self-determination alone can settle the question, but it is essential that the plebiscite should be carried out with an impartiality above suspicion. Great Britain, France, and the United States are not concerned whether a certain village or region calls itself Serbian, Greek, or Bulgarian; but they are vitally interested that the decision should represent the wishes of the majority of the inhabitants, and consequently have some chance of finality.

There are indications that the Allies are losing patience with Bela Kun. In entering upon negotiations with him they chose the easiest course regardless of its morality, and now find themselves exactly where they were months ago, but with much valuable time and some prestige lost. Unfortunately, the line taken with the Hungarian Bolshevist is only a reflex of the general policy adopted towards Bolshevism, and it is to be hoped that the change in the Allied attitude towards Bela Kun will be followed by a reconsideration of the measures required to end the present *impasse* in Russia. Time is essentially a factor in all our dealings with the East. Quite apart from the undeserved successes that the Russian Bolshevists are obtaining owing to the weakness of the forces in the field against them, testimony is being borne from a variety of independent sources to the restoration of German influence in the country. A correspondent in this issue quotes the evidence of a competent Roumanian observer, who has been in close contact with the Russian military forces in virtue of his position in Bessarabia. The daily press reports a similar tendency in the north. The delay in the settlement of Eastern Europe has already done incalculable harm, but nowhere are the results likely to be more serious than in the case of Russia.

The protest made by a correspondent elsewhere in this issue against the abnormal delays in the postal service between Great Britain and the Near East is timely. Indeed, it is a matter for surprise that the actual state of affairs has been tolerated so long. While the war lasted and communication was precarious, delays were accepted as a matter of course. The grievance to-day is that the British Post Office does not avail itself of the steamer and railway services actually in existence, although the fullest possible use is made of them by foreign post offices. Our correspondent instances his experience in Constantinople, where letters may be three weeks in arriving from England; yet there is a daily train service from London to Bucharest, and it is possible by that route to reach Constantinople on the sixth day; via Taranto the journey takes seven days, but is capable of being accelerated. Belgrade can be reached in forty-eight hours from Paris, and the French mails are delivered within the two and a-half days; but it is exceptional for a letter from London to take less than seven or eight days.

As far as the lay mind can discover no attempt has been made by the British postal authorities to take advantage of improved communications. It is true that our French Allies control most of the services in question, and possibly they are not averse from seeing British trade hampered by the lethargy of the British Post Office. They may even consider it within their rights to place obstacles in the way of the British authorities; but that is no reason why the latter should not take steps to remove them. On one occasion there is reason to believe mail bags from Constantinople sent to Bucharest for despatch by the Orient Express, which leaves daily for Paris, were refused transport and were returned to Constantinople. Such an incident does not promote friendly relations between the peoples concerned in the Near East. We feel confident that the matter only requires investigation by a competent authority to have the existing anomalies speedily removed.

Last Friday, Signor Tittoni told the Italian Chamber that the Adriatic question was likely to be settled this week, but that the question of Asia Minor had to

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wait until President Wilson ascertained the wishes of the American people. The first part of this statement will have been received with heartfelt relief not only in Italy, but throughout all the Allied and Associated countries; for, when the speaker added that a point had been reached when a decision was absolutely necessary and every delay was dangerous, he was in no wise indulging in hyperbole. Up to the time of writing no announcement is forthcoming regarding the solution to which Signor Tittoni referred, but we hope that his estimate will not prove too optimistic in regard to time.

The statement regarding the future of Asia Minor is less satisfactory, chiefly because events seem to indicate that, while America has done much for Turkey, and while there are many Americans who are particularly well informed regarding that country, the American people as a whole are but little concerned as to what may happen to it. It is, therefore, much to be hoped that the well-informed few will, in the interests of justice, spare no pains to put the case as fully as possible before their countrymen. We do not doubt that Italy would develop any portion of Asia Minor that might fall to her quite satisfactorily, or that she would administer it fairly. But the fact remains that if the principle of self-determination is to be ignored in the case of Asia Minor, the Turks will have a perfectly legitimate grievance to nurse. Of course, if Italy is to make good her " claims " by conquest, that is another matter—and one regarding which there might be a great deal of uncertainty.

In the meantime, it is pleasant to note that the present Italian Government shows far greater readiness than did its predecessor to recognize that there are two sides to every question; and that the Italian people, beginning to realise whither Signor Orlando's intransigence was leading the country, and to see what Italy would lose by insisting too closely upon her pound of flesh, are showing a desire to live up to their best traditions. Both Signor Nitti and Signor Tittoni have made it clear that they value the good opinion of their Allies more highly than any shallow triumph that might be gained at the cost of losing that good opinion; and though Signor Tittoni hinted in the Chamber that sacrifice might be called for on the part of the Italian delegates in Paris—and, therefore, on the part of Italy—the Government on Monday secured a vote of confidence by a highly satisfactory majority.

Relations between Mecca and Er Riadh have not been friendly for many years, and even the Great War failed to render them entirely cordial; the fact being that in Arabia policy follows lines utterly unlike those along which it moves in Europe, and statesmen are swayed by considerations which, apparently, lost their force in England at the Restoration. The Wahabite Arabs of the Nejd have all the fire and fanaticism of the Puritans, and they have their own opinion—truth to tell, it is none too high—of the Arabs of the Yemen and other parts of Arabia. So, it is hardly matter for surprise to anyone who has followed events in that peninsula that friction has led at last to something like a pitched battle between the forces of King Hussein and those of Ibn Saud. The trouble was brought about, nominally, by a dispute over Khurma, a district north-east of Taif; and the Hejaz force was actually commanded by the Emir Abdullah, son of King Hussein, who greatly distinguished himself in the recent war. It was, however, defeated by Ibn Saud's army, which captured all its guns and machine-guns, and returned in triumph to Riadh. The quarrel is regrettable, because it may afford an opportunity to agents of Turkey —or other mischief makers—to stir up further trouble amongst the Arabs, and thus, possibly, to disturb the world's peace. But it is certain that outside interference would be welcomed by neither party—unless, of course, it should take the form of armed help to one or other—and it is to be hoped that nothing of the kind will be attempted before the consequences have been carefully weighed.

It is too early to venture to predict that there will be no recrudescence of trouble in Egypt, but upon the whole the prospects are more favourable. The student class and certain intransigent elements at El Azhar are still ready to lend a ready ear to the tempter, or to play the part of tempter themselves when suitable occasion offers, but the bulk of the people show an inclination to settle down to work again. That, at least, would appear to be the view of the Council of Ministers, since they announced the abolition of the Press censorship as from the date of the signature of peace, and they should surely be in a position to form a trustworthy estimate of the situation.

Punishment has already overtaken some of those who were responsible for some of the worst outrages during the recent disturbances. At Wasta, three natives found guilty of murdering an English engineer have paid the extreme penalty; while at Minia the members of the self-constituted Soviet have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from six months to fifteen years, with fines of £500 up to £1,000. The Military Courts have pronounced sentence of death in fifty-one cases in connection with the murders at Deir el Mawab and Deirut, but one of the condemned has been pardoned, and in sixteen cases the sentences have been commuted —in some instances on the direct appeal of the President of the Council to General Allenby.

In thus exercising clemency General Allenby is doubtless acting wisely, in full knowledge of all the circumstances of each case, but it is a little surprising to find that he has agreed to " the liberation of those who have been interned on political grounds in connection with the recent troubles." The step will enhance the prestige of the Council of Ministers, but its effect in other directions is less certain. On the other hand, there can be little doubt that the imposition of collective fines upon some of the districts that made themselves notorious in the recent disturbances will be entirely beneficial. The Egyptian Fellah is accustomed to the idea of a village, or district, being held collectively responsible for wrongdoing within its borders; and he will readily recognise that damage to the railway or to other Government property is of the very kind that must be paid for in such fashion. But his recognition of the system does not make him any the more eager to contribute to such payment, and we may safely conclude that he is now doing some thinking that will have a salutary effect upon him.

The report that the ex-Shah had returned to Persia now turns out to have been incorrect. Mohammed Ali is still in residence on the island of Prinkipo, where he was lately visited by the Persian Ambassador at Constantinople. It is permissible to congratulate both the royal exile and Persia upon the inaccuracy of the former report. At the same time it is distinctly unsatisfactory that practically no trustworthy news of any importance reaches this country from Persia, and that rumours of the kind that has just been contradicted should be allowed to circulate for days uncontradicted.

Damad Ferid Pasha and the other members of the Turkish delegation to Paris appear to be in no hurry to return to Constantinople, having turned aside for a visit to Lausanne *en route*. How this dilatoriness will be regarded in Constantinople it is hard to say; but the Cabinet is certainly having a good many difficulties to contend with at the present time. The *Times* correspondent reports that its conflict with the Union and Liberty Party has degenerated into a violent personal dispute between the Acting Grand Vizier and Colonel Sadik Bey, and at the time the message was despatched the arrest of Colonel Sadik was expected. Another of the Cabinet's preoccupations, and a potentially much more serious one, is provided by Mustapha Kiamal Pasha, who is reported to be organising what is described as " a national army " in the Eastern Provinces, and has convoked meetings of notables. As he continues to hand over war material in accordance with the terms of the Armistice, it would seem either that he has no intention

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of proceeding to extremities or that he is not yet sure of his ground.

The Turkish court-martial which has been trying the leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress has condemned Enver, Talaat, and Jemal Pashas to death *in contumaciam;* Javid Bey and the ex-Sheikh-ul-Islam have been sentenced to fifteen years' hard labour; while Rifaat Bey, ex-President of the Senate, and Hashim Bey, ex-Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, have been acquitted. The sentences have been submitted to the Sultan for sanction—which is unlikely to be withheld. Their execution will probably be a matter of extreme difficulty, but for the sake of Turkey and for the peace of the world it is to be hoped that the difficulties will be overcome; for until Talaat and Enver at least are rendered powerless for further harm, not only Turkey, but the whole Near East must be kept more or less in a state of suspense.

It is deplorable indeed that these utterly conscienceless adventurers should have had it in their power to work such harm to the Turkish Empire, but it is much more deplorable that they should have contrived to appeal to the sympathy, and win the admiration of a large section of Moslem opinion outside Turkey. For it is notorious that they themselves had no regard for Islam save as a means for furthering their own ends and self-advancement; and whenever it was a question between Islam and Turkey the former had to give way —the teachings of Mohammed were always subordinated to the "Turkification" of everything and everybody. In its young days the C.U.P. did undoubtedly render real service to Turkey, but in later days it undid most of the good it had first done, and did more than anything else to hasten the labefaction of the Turkish Empire. With the exception of courage, it would be difficult to name any redeeming virtues in either Enver or Talaat. Jemal, although he earned the worst possible character for himself in Syria, yet showed certain likable characteristics at times, and probably has still a few friends among Englishmen.

The Spaniards have not yet come to an end of their troubles in Morocco, but, having grappled with their difficulties, they seem determined to see the thing through. On Sunday their posts and lines of communnication between Larache and Tetuan were attacked by an enemy force led by Raisuli, and the Spanish High Commissioner's report declares that this attack was more violent than any before it. It was, however, repulsed with considerable loss to the enemy, and the message added that all necessary steps had been taken "to continue the resistance and to prevent any advance on the part of the rebels." Unfortunately, later reports and rumours indicate that the Spanish losses have been extremely heavy; and, as *The Times* Tangier correspondent puts it, "the care with which all information is being suppressed leads to the belief that the Spaniards have suffered a severe check." At some points the Spaniards have admittedly been hard pressed, and Raisuli's force claims to have taken some prisoners and to have captured much material.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 21.

Politics and the Weather.

The month of Ramadan will be over before these lines reach England, and there is little reason to apprehend that it will terminate less tranquilly than it began. On the 23rd the Sultan and the whole Cabinet adjourn to summer quarters at Alexandria, which, presumably, will become the centre of whatever activity the dog-days may leave to the Nationalists. Up to now, it may be remarked, there has been no heat to mention in Cairo, and an overcoat is worn with comfort driving, or sitting on a balcony after dinner.

Cairo itself has also been rather sleepy after the strenuous days of March, April, and May. In the provinces, however, Courts of Inquiry and Courts-Martial are busy from one end of Egypt to the other. The only important trial that has come to a conclusion is that of several score of prisoners at Minia for high treason and inciting to various offences. It has resulted in a general conviction; but the sentences have not yet been given out. The higher authorities have been carefully revising every sentence pronounced, and in a large percentage of cases have considerably reduced the penalties. This proof of justice tempered with mercy has undoubtedly produced a good effect. The widespread presence of British troops in the provinces and the intercourse between the officers, judges, and counsel with the population, especially with the more educated portion of it have also led to frequent modification of the hostility that was shown to everything British. It is often said now that if Egyptians had been spoken to in the same way earlier, and if they had been argued with and shown sooner how mistaken were some of their ideas and aims, much of what has happened might never have occurred. This would seem to augur well for the results of the labours of the Royal Commission if this body really holds its doors and its ears open to all comers. It will probably hear a good deal that will astonish it, but in return it will be able to convince the Egyptians of the absurdity of the chimeras with which they have been fed by their irresponsible leaders.

Leaders and Dupes.

Except for the nightly meetings at the Azhar, where inflammatory speeches are made by the Sheikhs and any nondescript orator who chooses to mount a pulpit, and for a steady flow of revolutionary literature in various forms, there is little outward sign in Cairo of any unrest. The propaganda is issued in the shape of newspapers, pamphlets, "red" books, "black" books, and such-like professedly historical records, and the diurnal flysheets and poems. One or two attempts have been made lately to seize this undesirable sort of reading for the masses, but without much real success. As long as

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the notorious ringleaders are allowed to meet and organise each step in their campaign it is indeed hardly worth while to shut a printing press or arrest a couple of street Arabs distributing the noxious papers. And, as has been said in previous correspondence, for reasons of policy the Cabinet shows great reluctance to proceed to any violent measures of repression against the chiefs, and has done very little to stop the furious barking of the National pack, except now and then in the way of throwing out a sop to it by pardoning and releasing a member or installing some notorious Nationalist in a Government post.

So much for politics, which may with advantage be left for the moment to professional agitators. As long as the pot only simmers it need not be watched with anxiety.

The Profiteer Once More!

The gradual increase in facilities for travel—very gradual indeed, but still appreciable—is leading to a great exodus, first of refugees who are returning to Palestine, Syria, Asia Minor, and Turkey; and, secondly, of merchants and traders, principally Greeks and Jews, who, having made a certain amount of money in Egypt during the war, are now off to use it as only Greeks and Jews know how in countries where cash is scarce and where everything that man and woman needs is bought up as soon as imported at almost any price. Rice, for instance, would fetch over £50 a ton now in Greece if it could be landed there, and everything that can be purchased in Egypt and the Sudan, or indeed anywhere else, and dumped down in the Levant is snapped up by the famished populace.

Palestine and Syria and their Future.

The American members of the International Commission for sounding the wishes of the indigenous population as to their future "mandatory" protectors have already "started in" with characteristic energy. It is said that the members of other nationalities are expected ultimately to join them, but unless these expedite their arrival the *plebiscite* will practically be over before they arrive. Little birds warble gently that the *vox populi* is, so far, rather in favour of the British wherever opinions have been taken, but the latest arrivals from Palestine say that, whereas a few months ago the people would have voted solid for a British mandate, there are some districts now that are inclining towards an Arab suzerainty. The reason given is that the British representatives of various military or civil departments have not been too affable, and that as they are not acquainted with Arabic they work through exclusively, or almost exclusively, Christian interpreters. This, of course, gives an immediate advantage and handle to Pan-Arab propaganda.

The Emir Faisal is also said to be very active, and fairly popular in pushing the idea of a Great Arabian Empire. At one time the suggestion of placing the Mesopotamian and Syrian Arabs in any way under a Hejaz dynasty or sovereignty would have been greeted with mild amusement, but the alarming spectacle of Italian and Greek ambitions running riot in Asia Minor and the Archipelago has probably led the Arab-speaking races to reflect, and to wonder whether it might not be wiser to amalgamate all Arabic-speaking folk under an Arab sceptre, rather than establish any Western mandate over themselves, even if it were given to so well-tried a governing nation as the British, or to so disinterested and liberal a republic as the United States. Later on, the more educated and clever Arabs of Mesopotamia and Syria—the Baghdadis and the Damascenes—may be trusted to rise to the top of any Arab Empire or Government. In any case, the conclusions of the International Commission will certainly prove interesting reading for everybody directly or indirectly concerned.

Reuter's Constantinople correspondent writes:—The statement published a few days ago in London to the effect that the ex-Shah of Persia, Mohammed Ali, had returned to Persia and had reached Kazvin is incorrect. The ex-Shah is still residing on the island of Prinkipo, in the Sea of Marmora, and was visited on July 8 by the Persian Ambassador here.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY AT JAFFA

HOW IT WAS KEPT.

The following is an extract from a letter recently received from Jerusalem:—

"A very nice incident happened at Jaffa on June 3. The Greek Orthodox community invited the British Military Governor to a service. He found thousands of people awaiting him, and on entering the church found the Greek bishop and his clergy awaiting his arrival to bless a huge silk Union Jack, some 20 ft. long. It had been made from P.T.1 subscriptions from poor and rich alike. The Governor accepted the flag, and the immense concourse of people accompanied him to the Town Hall after the service with the Union Jack carried in state before the procession. There a reception was held, and the rest of the day was given up to a series of festivals."

JERUSALEM ON ITS FUTURE.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Jerusalem, June 15.

The American members of the Inter-Allied Commission for settling the Near Eastern question have arrived from Jaffa, and are quartered at present in the Grand New Hotel, inside the city wall. The British Administration here sent to the various communities of the city asking them to choose a representative delegation to meet the Commission. These communities were informed that they had to choose a Power to act as a mandatory over them, and that they should not ask for independence, as it was agreed by all the Allied Powers not to grant such a thing at present.

Special days were appointed to the different sects and societies on which they could go to express their views to the Commission. This, of course, caused quite a stir in the city and much discussion.

This morning the Arab party and (it is said) the Christian-Moslem Society, flew from the balcony of the Arab Club and the Palestine Hotel white sheets bearing the following inscription:—"We demand total independence from Taurus Mt. to the Canal. Palestine an undivided part of Syria. We protest against Zionism. We protest against immigration." On another sheet were the words:—"Moslems, Jews and Christians alike demand the independence of their country." And on the third was this:—"Long live our Emir Faisal and the Allied Powers." It is not quite known who flew them, although it is known which party was responsible for them. These flags produced a sensation, and crowds gathered to see them and what was written on them. At 10.30, however, they were taken down by order of the Government, and no trouble took place.

It is said that the Commission will visit Hebron on Tuesday afternoon to hear the views of the people there, and on Friday, Beersheba and Gaza, thus finishing with the southern part of Palestine.

The people are waiting impatiently for the decision of the Great Powers in regard to their country.

One word more about the different parties of the country. As far as I know, the Jews compose one big party, who ask that they be allowed to settle in Palestine as their national home. To this both the Christians and the Moslems object. The Christians on the whole would rather have Great Britain in charge of the administration, with the understanding that they are to restrict the immigration of the Jews. The Moslems, on the other hand, were wont to ask for the Shereef's mandate, whereby they thought to do away with Zionism. This demand they have altered recently, and now they are asking that Palestine should form the southern part of Syria and that both should have the same mandatory Power. One can, of course, conceive of a small part asking for France and of a bigger one asking for America, but I believe that in reality they do not mind who gets the mandatory power over the country. Their chief wish and demand is the restriction of Jewish immigration; upon this they are united.

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BELGRADE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, July 8.

"Vidov Dan."

Saturday, June 28, was Vidov Dan. The famous battle of Kossovo was fought on the day of this obscure saint in 1389, and the anniversary of this disaster has been celebrated by all Serbs ever since. The defeat was avenged at Kumanovo in 1912, but this year saw the first celebration of the national day since the liberation of the country and the reunion of all the Yugoslavs. A solemn thanksgiving was held at the cathedral at Belgrade, which was attended by the Crown Prince, Sir Charles de Graz, the popular British Minister, General Plunkett, the Military Attaché, and Admiral Sir Ernest Troubridge. At Novi Sad, the centre of Serbian intellectualism in Southern Hungary, there was a great gathering of *sokols*, or members of the all-Slavonic gymnastic society, which, beneath its purely athletic exterior, has for years concealed the germ of a national organisation, and carefully cultivated the national sense of all oppressed Slavs. From every part of Yugoslavia they came in their hundreds, looking very picturesque in their striking costume of crimson shirt, grey trousers and jacket, hung hussar-wise across the shoulder, and crimson pork-pie cap with nodding plume. They came from every part of Croatia, Slavonia and Slovenia, Dalmatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, even from Trieste, where they must hve successfully dodged the lynx-eyed Italian authorities.

The body of Tsar Lazar, last independent Serbian prince, who won a martyr's crown, in the popular estimation, at Kossovo, was moved about sixty years after the battle to the monastery of New Ravanitsa, in the picturesque groves of the Frushka Gora in Srem, not far from the prosperous township of Ruma. Here devout Serbs congregate every Vidov Dan from all parts of the Serbian territories, and this year in particular it was anticipated that there would be a record attendance. But the difficulties of transport are still too great, and most of the crowd, which was quite dense enough, came from the neighbouring provinces. The coffin containing the martyr's remains was exposed in an orchard near the monastery, while the Bishop conducted a requiem service which lasted two and a-half hours; then the body was reverently conveyed back to its resting place in the chapel, where the crowd of devout pilgrims visited it, depositing their humble kronen, and kissing the withered and blackened hand, bejewelled and clad in a golden gauntlet, which is exposed to the gaze of the faithful. Lazar must have been a man of small stature; for even with his lofty diadem, he falls far short of the splendid build of the average modern Serb.

The natives of Belgrade witnessed two days later the unusual sight of the procession of a corps of *sokols* through the town, on their way to a parade and exhibition of exercises. Three companies of *sokolitsas* added a peculiar charm to the picturesque parade, which was a very real emblem of the union of the Yugoslav peoples.

Belgrade After the War.

Belgrade has suffered heavily from the war, as was to be expected. The district near the old fortifications has been battered out of shape, but the main part of the town has suffered little; the picturesque suburb on the Topchidere Hill has had most of its houses more or less knocked about, but the greatest part of the damage has been done during the occupation; for the Austrians removed everything movable that was of any value. There are few houses where the greater part of the furniture is not missing, and it is quite a common thing for visitors to a house to recognise and claim articles of their own which had been moved about by the enemy to suit their own convenience. Large qauntities of furniture have been removed to Austria and Hungary, some of which is gradually coming back in the form of booty; in fact, the Director of Booty is one of the busiest public officials at the present moment, when the whole Government staff is working with unusual zeal and energy in the attempt to restore normal conditions to their long-suffering capital.

Apart from the inevitable dearness of living, the native of Belgrade has many inconveniences to put up with. For six months there have been no trams, and the lighting service has been erratic and precarious. The concession of the Belgian company which worked these services was the subject of many acid comments in the local press. Seeing their concession nearing the end of its period, they were unwilling to indulge in any heavy expenditure, until the town lost patience, and the municipality took control. From Vidov Dan, the natives enjoyed the unusual spectacle of seeing trams running, and, crowded and hot as they are, they are a great boon to the inhabitants.

Belgrade is still almost isolated from the surrounding country. The traveller from Europe leaves the train at the terminus at Zemun, and as the Orient Express is often late, he is frequently unable to catch the last boat across to Belgrade, and so is obliged to sleep an extra night in his *wagon lit*. The main line from Nish is at last open to traffic as far as Semderevo or Semendria, at the head of the Morava Valley, whence there is daily communication by boat to Belgrade. The line from Belgrade is only serving a few suburban stations. The enemy on retreating, as is notorious, did the maximum damage to the railway, destroying bridges and tunnels, which take a long time repairing, especially under present conditions. The railway bridge over the Save was to have been completed this month, but the contractors, the Reshitsa steel works, are troubled by political reasons; for the line of demarcation runs through their property, and to complicate matters there is now a strike, so that all work on the bridge is suspended for want of materials, although only one span remains to be completed.

Serbia at the Conference.

Considerable speculation has been aroused by the departure for Paris of the Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Stoyan Protich, and the Ministers of Mines and Forests, Law, and of the Constituent Assembly and Unification of the Laws. The general opinion is that they have gone to Paris to press Serbia's cause for an adequate indemnity and reparation for the cruel wrongs which the country has suffered, as there was a widespread belief that the Peace Conference had finally decided that Serbia, alone among the smaller countries destroyed by the enemy, was to receive no compensation.

Currency Perplexities.

The difficulties of transport have aggravated the cost of living, already high enough, owing to the flooding of the country by enemy currency. The coinage in Serbia is now very complicated; the standard unit is, of course, the dinar, which is said to be well covered by the gold reserve held in Paris; the dinar is divided into a hundred centimes, called "para," usually specified as *pare dinarske*, to distinguish them from the old Turkish para, which was worth just half. Consequently when a Serb refers to "a hundred paras" he means a hundred Turkish paras, i.e., 50 centimes, unless he specifies *pare dinarske*, when, of course, he means half a dinar or franc. A five para piece is a *maryash*, and a 20 para piece is the *grosh*, again borrowed from the Turkish. Simultaneously with this old Serbian currency, there is an enormous mass of Austro-Hungarian paper money, with inscriptions in about a dozen languages, called *krune* and *filire*.

The bewilderment of the stranger is increased by the fact that while shopkeepers, as a rule, cabmen and the peasants in the market place always quote their prices in krune, the Government only recognises them unwillingly. From time to time an official rate of exchange is announced, which at present is three dinars to one kruna, and on this rate all transactions with the Government are reckoned. But this rate rarely agrees with the current rate in the town, which fluctuates constantly, to the delight of a whole flock of money changers which has sprung up. To-day every other shop in Belgrade, apart from its legitimate business, exhibits a notice that it changes money at the most favourable terms; at the present moment, these terms are about 3 or 4 per cent. below the Government rate. As a matter of experience krune are the most useful currency to carry in one's pocket, especially when going *preko*, or across the river, where dinars are very unacceptable. The ratio of dinar to krune varies, too, in different parts of Serbia, and in the districts that were occupied by the Bulgars there is a mass of Bulgarian levas to complicate the situation.

Russian Refugees.

The fall of Odessa has reacted on Belgrade by scattering thousands of Russians to the various cities of the Levant, and from Salonika a large number have arrived in Belgrade, where the Serbs have accorded a hearty welcome to the "Brother Russian." As they only received about 25 centimes for the rouble, many were in great distress; a few of the better qualified have secured posts in banks, but most were passed on by the authorities to the prosperous towns across the river. Belgrade was already far too congested to be able to accommodate the two thousand and more Russians for more than a few days. The influx has now stopped. The papers were filled with an appeal for help for their Allies, once so great, now so helpless, to which the generous Serbian people make a gallant response. A concert was held at the Oficirski Dom, where a crowded audience listened to some of the masterpieces of Russian music, in aid of Russian refugees, and a fund was organised. No Russian will be able to complain of want of hospitality in Serbia.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 30.

M. Take Jonesco's Home-Coming.

The leader of the Conservative Party arrived in Bucharest on June 25, taking up his residence in the house of his parents, his own luxurious and hospitable mansion having been completely gutted by the Germans. At an early hour he found himself surrounded by friends, political followers and journalists; but refused to make any specific declarations of a political character. He announced his intention of making a firm stand against the political corruption of the day, and briefly sketched the lines to be followed by Roumania in her relations with the outer world: "Roumania must uphold the policy of close alliance and warm friendship with the great democracies of the West, and prepare the way for solid friendships with all the States of Eastern Europe, which, like ourselves, have issued, in their actual formations, from the collapse of the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires."

He was no more communicative regarding his own political plans at a meeting of the Conservative Club subsequently convoked, but it is assumed that he and General Averesco, who have both been received in audience by the King, will join forces and prepare for combined action against the Liberals. M. Bratiano's return from Paris has long been announced in the papers, and it was even reported on good authority about a week ago that he had submitted his resignation to the King. The whole truth is not known, but it would appear that preparations are being made for a political change.

The Wolf in the Sheep's Skin.

Occasional observers cannot be too strongly warned against the fallacy of judging people, including those of the Near East, by appearances. You cannot hope to feel the true pulse of a nation by listening to the clamours of extremists or gazing upon the kaleidoscopic scenes of the Calea Victoriei; and presumably this principle applies in an equal degree to other small peoples in this part of the world besides the Roumanian. Certainly they all have their extremists, and I doubt not their Calea Victoriei, too, whatever the local name for it may be; and like Roumania they possess also their moderates. I am at present struck by the consternation manifested in a quiet way by apparently quite ordinary people who, taking a matter-of-fact view of events, never seemed to be deeply stirred by sentiments either chauvinistic or idealistic. Belonging to this class are many individuals who to-day show manifest symptoms of disappointment at the turn events are taking in the West. Quite apart from the subject of the Banat, or the Minorities, or any one of the vexed questions so hotly discussed, these men and women betray their latent idealism in their indignation against those who dispose so lightly of European destinies, in their bitter disillusion that the high principles, in virtue of which so much of the sacrifice of the last years has been borne, are steadily retiring into the background, and being replaced by considerations of a purely mercenary character.

The Late M. P. P. Carp.

There passed away on June 22, in the person of M. Carp, one of the most notable figures of modern Roumanian history. Born in 1837, he was educated in Germany, where he became ineffaceably tainted with the spirit of Prussian *Junkertum*. Returning to Roumania, he founded the literary society "Junimea," and translated "Macbeth" and "Othello." He entered political life about this time, and went as Diplomatic Minister to Vienna in 1882, where he rendered his country signal services in the question of the Danube. Subsequently he became leader of the Conservative Party and was twice Prime Minister.

In external politics he was an unwavering partisan of the Central Powers and an enemy of Russia. An uncompromising Conservative in internal politics, his autocratic tendencies caused him to be ever at loggerheads with his political friends, and perpetually out of touch with public opinion, for which he professed complete disdain. He was an autocrat convinced of his own crushing superiority—a conviction to which, by the way, many of his contemporaries subscribed—to whom democratic ideas appeared both hateful and absurd.

He left a deep mark on the political life of modern Roumania, although his political career, as such, was singularly barren. The influence he exerted was rather the result of what he was than of what he did. Though possessed of intellectual gifts of a high order, he was totally unable to adapt himself to the changing spirit of the times, and his ideas, clear and inflexible, did not always conform to the interests of his country. He will be remembered in Roumanian history as a man of granite whose uncompromising rectitude shone forth brightly amid the murky squalor of the political world in which he lived.

BOLSHEVISM IN BESSARABIA.

A correspondent writes:—

In a previous number of The Near East reference was made to the discovery of a Bolshevist plot in Bessarabia. According to more recent information this plot would appear to have been more serious and extensive than was to be inferred from the first reports. It is now claimed that the movement involved a widespread organisation, supported principally by the Jewish population, in which a number of persons of high standing were implicated, including, among others, an ex-general of the Russian Army. Unfortunately, French troops stationed along the Dniester do not seem to have escaped the Bolshevist contagion. If the statements now vouched for can be relied upon, the French soldiery had long been murmuring against the circumstances which kept them under arms so far from their homes, for purposes which were beyond their comprehension. Fraternisation followed between them and the Bolshevists across the river, and early in June affairs came to a climax. Bolshevist troops crossed the river from Tiraspol, and occupied the greater part of the town of Bender, including the historic fortress, and were met with but a half-hearted resistance from a portion of the French garrison. A battalion of Roumanian soldiers was hurried to the support of the Senegalese troops, and with the help of the latter, whose conduct is reported to have been admirable, they succeeded in ousting the Bolshevists. The population of Bender is represented as having sympathised with the Bolshevist attack. Subsequently searches led to large stocks of arms and munitions being discovered in private houses.

INDIA AND PEACE.

In a message dated June 30, Reuter's Simla correspondent writes:—Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy, has issued the following notice:—

"His Majesty's gracious message on the signing of peace will appeal to all hearts in India.

"Germany's attempt to enslave the world has failed, and her power for evil is broken. The people of India have borne their part in the struggles and suffering of the war. I call upon them now to rejoice in the victorious peace. Such an epoch of our history calls for grateful celebration, and days will be set apart for thanksgiving and rejoicing throughout the length and breadth of India, in which every subject of his Majesty, soldier and civilian, old and young, rich and poor alike, may join in commemorating the triumphant peace which, under the mercy of Providence, has been vouchsafed us."

It is understood that these public celebrations will be held in December, but all cities and towns are already beflagged, and general rejoicing is taking place.

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THE REBELLION IN EGYPT.

A BRITISH RESIDENT'S VIEW.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The ostensible causes of the recent troubles in Egypt are so many and various that it is difficult to point to any one reason for this extraordinary outbreak, which has come at the most inopportune time for its promoters, for to make trouble when the country was full of hardened troops was surely the culmination of ineptitude. As for any real political yearning amongst the mass of the population, few believe that it exists, and the genuine cry for political independence is confined to those to whom British administration is irksome, and who long for the good old times when a man in Government service paid for his job the amount of his nominal yearly salary—in fact, the Government sold their posts much in the same way that a doctor sells his practice now in England. Everyone who has the most elementary knowledge of Egypt, knows the hollowness of the cry "Egypt for the Egyptians," but for those who believe in the omniscience of a popularly elected representative I will quote the words of Mr. Villiers Stuart, M.P., who was sent out to Egypt after Arabi Pasha's rebellion to report to Parliament on the causes of the unrest. From an exhaustive inquiry into the state of the country and the desires of the inhabitants we may take the following as typical of the general state of the country. It is the evidence of the villagers living on the plain of Thebes, near Luxor:—"Once the entire plain belonged to us, but about eight years ago the Government took possession of about 500 feddans. They themselves fixed the price arbitrarily at £7 per feddan; that is far below its real value, but we had to part with our land at the price whether we liked it or not. When the time for payment came, the Government made claims against us for arrears of taxes, and we received nothing." Mr. Stuart's opinion is summed up in the following, from his report:—"It would be a mistake to be too squeamish about interfering with the Turkish Governors of Egypt, for they have hitherto abused their power, neglected their duties, and cruelly oppressed and misgoverned the people for their own selfish purposes. The cry of 'Egypt for the Egyptians' is very misleading; really it means Egypt for the Turks, Egypt for the bureaucrats, Egypt for the small minority of office-holders who have hitherto preyed upon her vitals, and betrayed the interests of her population for their own benefit."

"Egypt for—the Turks."

Nearly thirty years later—in fact, shortly before the war broke out—a distinguished public servant who though not connected in any way with the Egyptian administration, yet had unrivalled opportunities for knowing the true feelings of the real Egyptians, wrote as follows:—"A certain section in the community is always crying 'Egypt for the Egyptians,' and many of its members cannot see that they are being cleverly worked by emissaries from abroad whose real aim is 'Egypt for the Turks.' These emissaries do their best to blind the minds of the unthinking lower classes to the fact that they owe their freedom from the whip, the corvée, and slavery to the British rulers in Egypt. . . . Happily, the Anglo-French agreement permits England to continue her great civilising work in Egypt . . . . and there is now no fear that Egypt will sink back into the misery and corrupt state to which it had been brought by Turkish misrule." Anyone who knows anything about the country will endorse thoroughly what these authorities say.

Foreign Instigation.

The incidents of the recent outbreak in Egypt bear too close a resemblance to the German-encouraged Bolshevism of the continent of Europe to escape the conclusion that they are closely related both in inception and organisation. The senseless destruction of public property, such as railways and irrigation canals, on which depend the whole prosperity of the country, the murdering of Englishmen, the futile processions, the strikes, are all exact replicas of different phases of Bolshevism; while the fantastic accusations against our troops are a perfect echo of German official and unofficial communiqués during the war.

Nothing shows the hollowness of the strikes and their absolute dependence on a head organisation more than the cabbies' strike in Cairo. As long as they received strike pay they refused to work, but when that stopped the strike stopped too, and the only demand which I ever heard they advanced was for the abolition of the R.S.P.C.A., which, as all who have been in Egypt will know, is one of the most necessary organisations, and with far too few branches and far too little support.

The Killing of Armenians.

However, what puts the origin of the disturbances beyond all doubt is the absolutely unprovoked attack on the Armenians, both in Cairo and Alexandria. The leaders of the disturbances in Cairo asked for the removal of the pickets of troops from the Mousky, as they said that the sight of British soldiers was liable to inflame the mob. Their request was granted, and immediately the rioters started murdering the Armenians. Very much the same thing happened in Alexandria, though the authorities there were able to remove the Armenians to a place of safety before many lives were lost.

Now the murder of some Englishmen can possibly be conceived of as tending towards the political independence of the Egyptians, but how will the death of more Armenians help? However, when one thinks of the attempted Turkish extermination of the Armenian race, and the tacit encouragement of the Germans, of how the Bolshevists handed thousands of Armenian refugees back to the Turks, one gets the key to the present outbreak; from the innumerable Turkish flags carried in the processions and demonstrations, the massacres of the Armenians, the organised propaganda, and the sinister activities of the leaders of this movement during the war, one is forced to the conclusion that a political catchword is being made the cloak for a diabolical plot, which, if it succeeds, will make Egypt a second Russia.

Dupes and Rascals.

What has prepared the natives for this outburst? The country has never been so prosperous as during the war The official requirements of the Army have caused quite a boom in trade, as every single production of the country has been in great demand; labour is scarce, and consequently the labourer can get unheard-of wages; and, to crown all, the private expenditure of most members of the Army has been far in advance of the silliest of tourists. It is a case of Jeshurun waxing fat and kicking, for prosperity has turned the Egyptian's head, and made him a prey to every rascally lawyer on strike, and every semi-educated student who has read a garbled translation of Wilson's fourteen-point speech.

Any Englishman who has a soul beyond the parish pump knows that as long as the British Empire lasts we can never relinquish our hold on Egypt: that it is essential to our safety and the safety of our Empire that we remain paramount in Egypt, and that no half-measures will do; and that whatever measure of self-government the Egyptian may fit himself for in the distant future, yet we shall remain the dominant authority in the country. No responsible statesman seems to have put these facts clearly before the Egyptians.

SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE TURKS

Speaking at the National Liberal Club, London, on July 10, Sir Theodore Morison said that extensive territories in Europe and Asia Minor, where the population was predominantly or entirely Turkish, were apparently to be given over to various European States. This was a direct denial of the very principles for which the Allies had fought, and was in contravention of a pledge publicly and solemnly made by Mr. Lloyd George in the beginning of 1918. Wherever there was a predominantly Turkish occupation the Turk should rule.

Lord Islington, who presided, said that one of the chief objects of the Allied Powers had been the establishment of nationalities formed from peoples hitherto under a foreign yoke; and the introduction of foreign Powers into the heart and kernel of the Turkish Empire would be a direct reversal of this policy. Its effects would be far reaching, not confined to the disruption of the Turkish nationality, but having a seriously disturbing effect on the whole Moslem community throughout the East. The British Empire numbered among its subjects millions of Mahommedans, and, although these had played an important and patriotic part in the war against Turkey, they would resent what would amount to the extinction of Turkish nationality. Turkey should bear her full share of the stern conditions imposed on the countries defeated in a war upon which they had entered without real justification; further, the cruelties committed against the Armenians should not be forgotten, and regard should be had to the aspirations of Arabs and others. But, after taking into account all these important considerations, he hoped that the Ottoman Empire in regard to those parts which constituted the symbol of its nationality—Constantinople, Thrace, and Asia Minor, where it was predominantly Turkish—should not be handed over to a foreign authority.

Mr. Harold Spender said the Turks did not rule Christians justly, and in regard to the coasts of Asia Minor, where the Greeks were in a majority, it would be a terrible responsibility to hand these people back to the Turk. But the Turk had a right to the interior of Asia Minor. With regard to Constantinople, where the Christian population, taken as a whole, was in a majority, but where there was not a majority of any one Christian race, that city should be internationalised.

Another speaker said that he had been on the front where the Turks were opposing us, and he had found the individual Turks valiant and honourable, and had a great admiration for them. He had also been in Salonika, and had found the Turks there the finest people in that cosmopolitan city. But to consider the qualities of the individual Turk and to consider the political outlook after the contract was signed and sealed were different matters. Our policy towards the Ottoman Empire in the past had been disastrous to the Christian peoples there.

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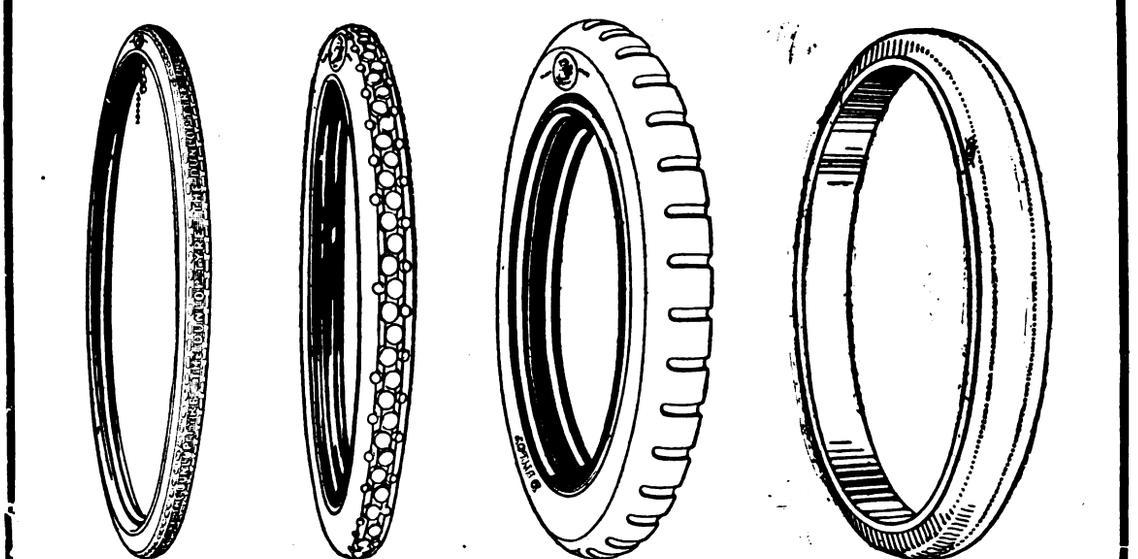

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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THE POSTAL SERVICE TO THE NEAR EAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I should like to call your attention to the anomalies of the postal service between Great Britain and the Near East in the hope that it will be possible to effect some improvement without delay.

I left Constantinople on July 3; travelled viâ Taranto to Rome and Paris, and arrived in London on the 10th: that is seven days. Before leaving Constantinople we were kept six hours on board ship; at Taranto we arrived at two and could not leave until 6.30. At Rome we spent the best part of the day sight-seeing—that is, from ten till nine o'clock at night. At Paris I arrived at ten o'clock in the morning to leave at 5 p.m. In spite of these delays I arrived here on the seventh day. Yet I have received a letter to-day which was posted in Constantinople on June 18.

The day I left Constantinople I received a letter that took just one month coming. The same letter mentioned two telegrams that had been sent me, which I never received. These telegrams I find are not sent by cable but by any available route, which means by ship or rail. We are losing business by these delays, and it is a matter that should be taken up in the interests of British trade. —I am, etc.,

ARTHUR BAKER.

London, July 14.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Though tempted to comment on the wholly inaccurate statement of my arguments for the retention at present of Cyprus as "summarised" by the "Cyprus Deputation" (THE NEAR EAST, July 11), I cannot venture to trespass further on your space. English readers, to whom the case on both sides has been fully presented, will have formed their own conclusions as to which contention carries most weight.

It is to be hoped that the Statesmen responsible for a decision will regard in its true perspective this important portion of an area in which the causes of future trouble and complication appear to be at present, if not increasing, certainly not diminishing.—I am, etc.,

FORESIGHT.

GREAT BRITAIN AND PALESTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—THE NEAR EAST, in its issue of May 30, published an extract from an article in *Palestine* respecting Palestine, Great Britain, and the United States. The article states that the masses of the population who for many years to come will have no mature political understanding will always be at the mercy of an agitation which appeals to religious passions. This agitation need not be a very serious menace; but a political fabric cannot be built upon so unreliable a foundation. British policy must seek something more stable. That stability will only be found in a Jewish Palestine.

Taking it from a historical point of view, we find the following contrasts:—(1) Whatever the civilisations of India and Egypt might have been, we find that they were in a state of constant division and strife, and there was want of unity in their affairs. Although the invaders gained the ascendency throughout and dominated all parts, yet they were never able to unite the various tribes of the aborigines and make of them one homogeneous people, nor could they unite among themselves. This was owing to their caste and class system. On the other hand, we find that the people living in Palestine at that time were living more or less in peace, and, instead of strife and division, they were looking after their commerce and welfare. History repeats itself, and we can say with perfect certainty that the same precepts are followed at present, and will continue to be followed in the future. Thanks to the good policy of the British Administration, these agitations are at the present time neither so frequent nor of so serious a character as might be expected. (2) Every nation needs for its proper development contact and reciprocal intercourse; to learn from others whatever they have produced superior to their own. It has to cast off the shackles of prejudice, and frankly accept guidance and knowledge from other nations. It has to learn the advantage of mutual dependence of nation upon nation and of mutual help. These the peoples of Syria and Palestine have commenced to learn on a large scale, and now we find that the emigrants of this country in Egypt, the Sudan, Europe, and America occupy remarkable places and are highly regarded.

As to the Zionist movement and Palestine, we have to bear in mind the following:—(1) Palestine has been our country for over thirteen centuries, whilst the Jews occupied it for only a short period; besides, the Jewish Mission has long been completed in Palestine. Upon what rights and grounds should this country be given over to the Zionists? (2) Palestine is a great religious centre for the three chief religions of the world, and I believe it would be quite unfair to give this country to one party and deprive the other parties of their right in the land of their birth. The article issued in *Palestine* commences with appealing to feeling, and ends in *argumentum baculinum*. As to this I say nothing, for from the first appearance it points out clearly the inconsistency of the argument. (3) In conclusion, I should like to mention that the people of this country at large—Christians as well as Mohammedans—would like and infinitely prefer to be under the British Administration, as they know well that they are much better off under Great Britain than under any other country. Even the minority who have asked for American administration on the arrival of the American Commission have clearly stated that, if by being under the British Administration they would not be separated from Syria, they would prefer Great Britain to any other country. —I am, etc.,

G. K.

Jaffa, June 19, 1919.

A COPTIC FESTIVAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Referring to the very interesting description of the "Pardon" of St. Dimiane (pronounced in Arabic Doumiana) that has been published in your issue of to-day, I respectfully beg to ask your correspondent whether he is sure that he has been entertained by "Basileos" Metropolitan of Jerusalem. So far as I know, the Coptic Metropolitan of Jerusalem, Gharbiya, Kalyubiya, Sharkiya Et Autres Lieux, is El Amba "Timotheus" (Timothaos), the only Prelate in the Holy City who escaped deportation, which all the other Christian Patriarchs of Jerusalem suffered, when the notorious Jemal was retreating towards El Shaam (Damascus)

When I was in Cairo last year, I was studying the Coptic language, and my Coptic teacher, the late Egyptologist, Cladius Bey Labeeb, introduced me not only to the venerable Coptic Ethnarch, Cyril the Vth, but also to "Basil" (Basileos), Metropolitan of Abutis (Abu-Tig), the only Coptic prelate of that name.

I am, therefore, afraid that your correspondent has made a slight mistake in the name of the prelate. Having left Egypt a few days before the Armistice, I am not aware of the fact that the Coptic Metropolitan in Jerusalem has safely returned to Egypt. El Amba Timotheus, together with El Amba Iohannes of Alexandria, with whom I also am acquainted, are the leaders of the Coptic Reformation spirit. I should be very pleased, indeed, to hear that Timotheus of Jerusalem, not "Basil," is again once more in Egypt, because, after all, he might be the officiating pontiff, mentioned by your correspondent, at the Festival of St. Dimiane (the St. Catherine of the Greeks and the Latins), as the aforesaid convent is in the province of Gharbiya, under the diocese of Jerusalem.—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONAS.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester, July 11, 1919.

YUGOSLAV CELEBRATION IN LONDON.

On July 12 the seventy-fourth birthday anniversary of King Peter I. of Serbia was celebrated by the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in London. The King sent a congratulatory message during the morning by his Master of Ceremonies, the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh, to Dr. Koyitch, the Serbian Chargé d'Affaires, who in reply said he was convinced that King Peter and his Yugoslav subjects would never forget the sympathy which his Majesty and the British people had shown to them, especially in their struggle for national independence and unity.

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THE REORGANISATION OF RUSSIA.

A ROUMANIAN OPINION.

(From Our Bucharest Correspondent.)

A distinguished Roumanian officer, who has recently returned from Bessarabia, where he held a high military command, has made some interesting statements for the benefit of readers of The Near East. Regarding the present state of Bessarabia, he remarked that the presence on its soil of a highly disciplined army was producing an excellent effect so far as the maintenance of order was concerned, providing as it did an efficient barrier to the encroachments of Bolshevism. The absence of trained officials in the province had entailed a heavy drainage on the resources of the Kingdom in this respect; but this lack of officials and functionaries, as he pointed out, is not limited to Bessarabia. Russia, as a whole, is suffering from the lack of trained functionaries, as well as trained officers. These two classes, which are essential for the successful reorganisation of the country, have been completely exterminated as a result of the Bolshevist movement. Great armies led by efficient officers would be necessary for the establishment of some semblance of order, and these would have to be seconded by a no less important army of trained officials if there were to be any prospect of maintaining the order once established. Military operations would take the form of a war of manœuvres, presenting insurmountable difficulties in a country as vast as that of Russia. Nor are the immense masses of men essential for this purpose available; indeed, the forces of which Admiral Koltchak disposes are totally insufficient.

A Russian soldier refuses to serve unless paid something like 50 roubles a day, and the pay of an amateur officer, devoid of military training and even of elementary education, runs into hundreds. There was no reason for assuming that there were two types or categories of soldier in Russia. Bolshevist or not, the Russian soldier is the same everywhere. (The French mission in Roumania committed this mistake in the winter of 1917-18, when they endeavoured to convince the Roumanian military commanders that they could raise and equip 60 divisions in Ukraine, under the illusion that the Russians of Ukraine were more trustworthy or less susceptible to Bolshevist contamination than Russians elsewhere.) Without efficient leaders the Russian soldier is valueless. It is the military inefficiency of the Bolshevist armies which enables Roumania to hold her own on two fronts with a handful of men, and there is no reason for believing that Admiral Koltchak's forces are made of material different from that of the Bolshevist troops.

My informant declared himself very pessimistic regarding Admiral Koltchak's qualifications for bringing the task he had undertaken to a successful conclusion, even granting him to be seconded by the right men and to have the necessary elements at his disposal, which is not the case. (It is interesting to note that the Admiral is of Roumanian origin, his name being spelt here Colceag.) Of General Denikin, with whom he is personally acquainted, he appears to have a very poor opinion.

Asked if the re-establishment of order in Russia would present any danger to Roumania, in view of Admiral Koltchak's refusal to recognise Bessarabia's union with the Mother Country, my informant assured me that all fears on this ground were unfounded, as there was no prospect of Russia becoming a homogeneus unified state for many years to come. On the other hand, a strong unified Russia would present a very real danger to Europe from the fact that her German sympathies are as widespread and as deeply rooted to-day as they were at any time.

W. MORPHY & SON,

Steamship Agents and Commercial Representatives,

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

The wisdom which I have been able to cull from the ordinary man's views upon the Peace Conference has not been remarkable. And I have, I confess, become a pessimist on the subject. Human converse failing, I decided last week to have a heart-to-heart talk with my bulldog on the matter. Breaking through the pride of his dogmatic silence, I managed to discover some very plain truths. "What is all this yapping of little terriers?" he said. "Are you, too, deceived by it? Surely, you who have known me so long should be able to tell the pure-bred from the mongrel! These young hybrids will always be at one another's throats, and no example which I and my few compeers may set them will stop this." "All right," said I, "I know all that, but have you nothing more?" At this he became exceedingly grave. "Master," he said, "there is more. I hear very plainly a growl from the East. I think it comes from very big dogs, and I have told my friends all about it. But, unfortunately, they prefer to listen to a queer mongrel who is living with them in their kennel. About him I don't know much, except that his father was a wolfhound, that he has the smile of a collie, and that he gets most of the bones. Also he doesn't hear the growl from the East."

***

More than this I could not get from my bulldog. It is obvious, however, what he thought of Bolshevism and the Oriental religions and civilisations. His view was that it is folly to spend one's time in trying to ward off colds from slight breezes when there is a mighty wind blowing which may take ones breath away. Now he may be wrong over Bolshevism—that may disappear when those conditions vanish which gave it birth—but what of the other things? Are Christians trying to bury a live corpse, or are they in stripping a dead man, unable to see his stalking spectre? You probably know that bulldogs can, more than other animals, "see" things which are apparently non-existent; but on this occasion I think my bulldog's apparition was real. And he would, I know, convince those little terriers of its reality if he were able to get hold of them. For though he admires an occasional full-throated bark, be it from friend or opponent, those irritating whinings and pleading whimperings he cannot endure. It is his conviction that for the sake of dog-land he should stand over these yelping creatures, ready to shake them to their senses at any necessary time.

***

Readers of this journal are wearily familiar with the heroical declarations of Bolshevists. They know that in Russia the idea of Bolshevism, its application and consequent disasters, are very real; but it has been thought that in other countries, Austria and Hungary, for instance, it is not Bolshevism at all, but merely the anarchic expression of the people's sufferings, which gives these places a Reign of Terror. The following motion, however, which Bela Kun succeeded in getting passed at Budapest, looks like the real thing:—"As mild treatment not only does not bring reason, but encourages *bourgeois* counter-revolutionary activities, the Central Executive Committee make full use of the Proletariat Dictatorship to punish without pity, and authorises the Governing Council, if necessary, to suffocate in blood the counter-revolution." A pleasant prospect, is it not, for some of us? The words of this notorious member of the Ancient Race, who has cast aside all its wisdom, may have suffered in translation, but the intentions are clear enough. In pitiless baths of blood the ineffable *bourgeois* are to be drowned. We understand; for over four years we have tried to grow accustomed to such things; but we also know that those who talk most do least. Words fall from the lips of men as acorns from the branches of the oak; and how many in a thousand take root? Bela Kun at the present time is enjoying one long debauch in his own rhetoric, and in the disgusting example quoted he seems to have been ultra drunk; but these things cannot be done with impunity, and one day he will find his mug empty and the dregs exceedingly bitter.

Corsair.

The extraordinary temperature of 127 degrees, the highest ever recorded in India, was reported from Jacobabad on June 11. The previous highest recorded temperature was 126 degrees, from the same station in 1914.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"ROUGHING IT" GENTLY.

Of all countries in the world Asia Minor is probably the fullest in past and future history. Its past stretches to unknown lengths, and its future seems equally unknown. Adequately to describe the region is almost beyond the task of one man, so varied are the qualifications and so unique are the experiences necessary; and it cannot be said that Mr. Hawley has succeeded. His qualifications are many—an eye to natural beauty, a fair sense of history, a power of observation very close, though mathematically and not poetically so, and much else—but they are not sufficiently numerous. And his experiences are those which a European (or American, as in the case under review) traveller would normally choose; for our author appears only to have "roughed it in the best hotels" of Asia Minor.

But the book is certainly interesting—the subject would indeed have to be treated very badly not to be interesting—and it is more the method of description than the style of narration that grows tiresome. The author keeps close to the beaten (i.e., metal) tracks, but what he thence sees he relates with minute detail and obvious pleasure.

Starting from the Asiatic shore of the Sea of Marmora, he proceeds to most of the towns on the Ægean, visits some of the interior towns, and ends his account with the towns on the Southern shore of the Black Sea. Of all the cities on the Ægean he is most fascinated with Ephesus, largely for its classical associations, but also for the calmness of the valley from Ayasoluk to the sea—a calmness in which he can dreamily and very delightfully reconstruct the past. One of the most pleasant spots in all the Levant he finds in a pool at Hierapolis, where the limpid, sparkling water, banks of wild oleanders, dandelions and maidenhair, and three young Yuruk nymphs combined to give an extremely happy experience. And his finest sight was the dawn of the morning at Angora.

As a sample of the author's chief merit, an exact and pleasing observation, we may give this description of part of the town of Eski-shehr:—"Some of the streets close by are used for an open market, which on fixed days brings a motley concourse. Men from the country, wearing turbans, and during winter and spring dressed in long coats trimmed with fur, come with their ox-carts to bargain with men wearing fezes and baggy trousers. Hundreds of women, dressed in red and yellow, as well as black, cross the causeway from the Hill District, and sitting in rows on the ground of the market place, display embroidered garments of home-made stuff, bowls of curdled milk, eggs which have often an unsavoury flavour, bunches of fowls with tied feet, vegetables, heaps of raisins and dried fruits, all exposed to the dust and dirt driven by every wind. Slightly apart from the others, shrewd-looking men squat beside innumerable old suits of clothes of every size, shape, and condition, and gaze alluringly out of their little eyes. From morn till eve a crowd of Jews, Turks, and Tartars, as well as Greeks and Armenians, when unmolested, wander about and sit in groups, chatting far more than buying, and evidently enjoying, as do the women, this opportunity to satisfy gregarious instincts as at a country fair."

Mr. Hawley makes very clear the natural fondness of the Turks for trees and flowers, though he does not seem to love particularly that or any other race in Asia Minor. The most hospitable, he says, are the Yuruks, the old nomads of the Turkoman race.

Of the political situation the author, perhaps wisely, says very little. But we venture to disagree with him when he says, at the end of his book, "When the women are accorded the same rights as men, and the men have risen to a higher place of thought . . . when just laws regulate their rights among one another, and when a stable Government insures the enforcement of those laws and the performance of its obligations, Asia Minor will occupy a far more important place in the world's activities than it has enjoyed for many centuries." It is rather because Asia Minor refuses to understand the modern idea of progress that she retains her importance; if she is raised or reduced to the level of other countries her history, as that of a separate entity, will be wholly in the past.

It remains to say that the map with which the book is provided is wholly inadequate, and that the interest of the plenteous photographs would be greatly increased by a better reproduction of them.

* "Asia Minor." By Walter A. Hawley. (London: The Bodley Head. 12s. 6d. net.)

INSIDE AND OUT.*

The decision of a wife to concentrate upon, and be content with, her home life rather than to embark upon the wide seas outside that home is not so easily made, however desirable it may be. Rabindranath Tagore has written a story of the problem presented by these two and opposing pulls upon the woman. A normal wife, Bimala, married to a rather abnormal husband, Nikhil, is swayed almost from her natural and conventional allegiance by Sandip, a Nationalist who flows in strongly on the tide of the *Swadeshi* movement. We are given a quite modern description of the conscious helplessness of the female to resist the impersonator of Success and Power (Sandip), and her inability to extract the heat of love from intellectual greatness (as existing in Nikhil). But this helplessness is only temporary, and by a somewhat clumsy contrivance of incident at the end of the book things right themselves. On the whole, the "novel" is extremely well done. Nikhil, a kind of super-European, who regards Truth as the Mount Everest of life, is an interestingly drawn character, and Sandip, a kind of Sinn Feiner, who understands and practices Nietzsche (if such a thing be possible!), does inspire just that amount of hatred which is intended. Nikhil goes through life building rows of lamps, but has no passion with which to light them; Sandip erects an arc lamp, and lights it, but the resultant rays are a false glare. The contrast between these two men's ideals is very cleverly made, and the way in which Bimala nearly loses herself in the gap which ever widens between them is shown convincingly. The matter of the book, however, is better than the form of it, for it is not difficult to see where the joints in the machinery come. What is gained by telling the story from three different points of view (Bimala's, Nikhil's, and Sandip's) is not obvious. Of colour in the tale there is little, and the incident is of no account. But with all these defects the book does, by means of its intellectual power, carry itself along satisfactorily.

* "The Home and the World." By Sir Rabindranath Tagore. (Macmillan and Co. 6s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

We have received with the usual delight the summer number of "Mr. Punch." This organ is more than a superficially good representative of the British nation, and the present number, which is devoted chiefly to Peace Celebration, faithfully reflects the dignified national joys. The very great service which Mr. Punch performed during the war of keeping up good spirits is here fittingly ended.

The *Quarterly Statement* for July of the Palestine Exploration Fund reprints Dr. E. W. G. Masterman's article, "A Jewish Feast," which was originally published in THE NEAR EAST. It also contains an interesting account of "English Improvements at Jerusalem," based on a communication of Father L. H. Vincent, in which the well-known archæologist pays tribute generously to what has been accomplished by our countrymen. An article on "On-Ann, Heliopolis" and many archæological notes come from the ready and industrious pen of Mr. Joseph Offord; and the *Statement* is as interesting, and as useful for the purpose of record, as ever.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Glimpses of the Great War." (London: The Theosophical Publishing House. 3s. 6d. net.)

"English Self-Taught for Jews" and "English for Russians." (London: Marlborough. 3s. net each.)

"By Jaffa Way." By Lieut. H. G. Mansfield, M.C. (London: Robert Scott.)

"A Singer in Palestine." By Armel O'Connor. (Ludlow: Mary's Meadow Press. 2s. net.)

"India's Nation Builders." By D. N. Bannerjea. (London: Headley Bros., Limited. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Land of Promise." By Rev. H. G. Harding. (London: Church Missionary Society. 2s. net.)

"The Sepoy." By Edmund Candler. (London: John Murray. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Albania, Past and Present." By Constantine A. Chekrezi. (New York: The Macmillan Co. $2.25.)

"The Future Government of India." By Ernest Barker, M.A. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd. 1s. 6d. net.)

ARMENIAN NATIONAL UNITY.

The Armenians have formed a new party to unite certain of their existing political and social organisations. The movement, which has the support of a large number of influential Armenian personalities and leaders, will be national and Liberal in character, and free from all extremist tendencies. Its main object will be the whole-hearted and patriotic support of the mandatory Power in its work of reconstruction and repatriation.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. July	1919. July		1337. Shawal	5679. Tamuz
18	5	Friday	20	20
19	6	Saturday.....	21	21
20	7	Sunday	22	22
21	8	Monday	23	23
22	9	Tuesday	24	24
23	10	Wednesday	25	25
24	11	Thursday	26	26

M. Naville, Director-General of the Banque Franco-Serbe, has returned to Paris *en route* for London.

The Maharaja and Maharani of Cooch Behar had the honour on July 15 of being invited to luncheon with their Majesties.

The Viceroy proposes to hold an investiture at Viceregal Lodge about the middle of September.

The Maharaja of Kashmir and Jammu flew from London to Paris by aeroplane on July 13.

Lord and Lady Francis Scott have arrived in London from Minto House, Hawick.

M. George Danielopol, the Roumanian Minister at Washington, arrived in London on July 11 from Paris.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania, accompanied by Colonel N. Arion, the Roumanian Military Attaché has arrived in London from Eton.

The Turkish delegation to the Peace Conference has broken its return to Constantinople, and is spending a few days at Lausanne.

Sir William Brunyate, Adviser to the Ministry of Justice, who is now on leave in England, will return to Egypt at the end of August or early in September.

Mr. A. W. MacNair, I.C.S., on return from leave, is appointed to officiate as Commissioner of Rohilkhand. On being relieved Mr. Sladen will revert as Magistrate and Collector of Bareilly.

The representatives of the India Moslem League, now in England, are Mr. Yakub Hasan, Mr. M. A. Sinnah, and the Hon. Mr. G. M. Bhurgari.

Sir Thomas Holland, who recently arrived from India, will be staying with Lady and Miss Holland at 3, Whitehall Court, S.W., until October.

Sir Michael O'Dwyer, upon relinquishing his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, was received in audience by the King on July 14.

Mr. J. D. V. Hodge, Under-Secretary in the Home Department of the Government of India, is shortly to proceed on leave, and will be succeeded by Mr. F. J. Nobes, Under-Secretary to the Madras Government.

Princess Marie Louise opened at Claridge's Hotel, on July 14, a Slava Fête, which had been organised as a Victory thanksgiving for Serbia. The proceeds are to benefit the Hon. Evelina Haverfield's Fund for Disabled Serbian Soldiers.

The marriage arranged between Lieut.-Colonel H. Castle Smith, Suffolk Regiment (attached Egyptian Army), and Miss Maude Evans will take place at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, on Tuesday, July 22, at half-past two o'clock.

The marriage was celebrated on July 1, at the Oratory, by the Rev. Edward Crewse, assisted by the Rev. John Talbot, between Major C. A. B. Hamilton, 1/3 Gurkhas, Lansdowne, India, son of the late W. Roberts Hamilton, I.C.S., and Barbara, youngest daughter of Mrs. Elliott Smith, 3, Pond Place, South Kensington.

Brigadier-General W. E. Fairholme, upon relinquishing his appointment as his Majesty's Military Attaché at Athens, had the honour of being received by the King, when his Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Military Division).

A marriage has been arranged between Captain Charles E. F. Osborne, Indian Army, attached 2/88th Infantry, second son of Lieut.-Colonel G. H. Osborne, late Royal Irish Fusiliers, and Margaret Anson (Peggy), only daughter of Lieut.-Colonel Coldstream, Royal Engineers.

The marriage was celebrated on July 14, at St. Margaret's Church, Downham, Essex, by the Rev. R. T. Ratcliffe, assisted by the Rev. J. F. Twist, between James Stuart, youngest son of William Leslie, Esq., of Downham Hall, Billericay, and Calcutta, and Margaret, daughter of the late Edward Septimus McLaren.

Among the recipients of Civil List pensions granted during the year ended March 31, 1919, is the name of Mrs. Wells. She receives a pension of £75 in view of the valuable work performed by her late husband, Professor Charles Wells, in the study of Oriental languages.

Sir William Meyer, upon relinquishing his appointment as Finance Member of the Viceroy's Council, India, and Sir James Meston, upon his appointment as Finance Member of the Viceroy's Council, India, had the honour of being received by the King on July 15.

The engagement is announced of Mr. V. H. T. Fields-Clarke, Indian Forest Service, eldest son of the late Mr. G. T. Fields-Clarke and Mrs. Fields-Clarke, of Bedford, and Gertrude Helen, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert King, of Broom Manor House, Biggleswade.

The marriage arranged between Major Nelson Rooke, Highland Light Infantry, younger son of the late Dibney Rooke, Esq., and Mrs. Edith de Chair, and Marjorie, elder daughter of Sir Alexander and Lady Wood Renton, took place at the Garrison Chapel, the Citadel, Cairo, on July 1.

His Majesty inspected on July 12 a detachment of Indian officers, non-commissioned officers, and men belonging to Divisional Ammunition Columns, Royal Field Artillery, under the command of Captain R. Manners, Indian Labour Corps, who are on short leave from France.

Captain Horace C. Watson, who commanded the armed mercantile cruiser Hildebrand during the latter part of the war, entered on a new appointment on July 15 as Captain Attendant and King's Harbour Master at Malta, where he relieved Captain F. A. L. Andrews, who has served in that capacity since July 27, 1912.

Mr. Faris Yussef, the well-known Syrian philanthropist of Cairo, who has given several donations to the British and Allied Red Cross Societies, recently sent another donation of £E250 to the Right Hon. David Lloyd George for the benefit of maimed British soldiers returning from the war, and submitted to him an ingenious economic project for the benefit of British troops.

Lord Leverhulme lent his garden at The Hill, Hampstead Heath, on July 12 for the annual gathering of the Union of East and West, under whose auspices the Indian Art and Dramatic Society presented for the first time in English an Indian play based on an old Hindu legend, "King Haris Chandra," by Kedar Nath Das Gupta and K. C. Chunder.

The marriage was celebrated on June 17, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta, by the Rev. C. Stokoe, between Jocelyn C. P. Rawlins, Bengal Pilot Service, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. T. D. B. Rawlins, of Bournemouth, and Mabel Mary, the only daughter of Captain and Mrs. Mayston, Port Officer, Orissa Ports.

The engagement is announced of Reginald Percy Ellis, Major the Durham Light Infantry and Machine Gun Corps, younger son of the Rev. A. T. Ellis, M.A., Vicar of All Saints', Walworth, London, and Helena Dorothy Edna, third daughter of Miralai G. S. Randall Bey, Governor of Tura Convict Prison, Tura, Egypt, and of Mrs. Randall.

The amelioration of the scale of Indian Army Pensions was discussed at a preliminary meeting of Indian Army officers held on July 14 at the headquarters of the Comrades of the Great War. A sub-committee was appointed to draft a memorandum on the matter for submission to the Secretary of State. Indian Army officers interested are invited to communicate with the General Secretary of the Comrades, 8, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Charu Chundar Ghose, barrister-at-law, to be a judge of the High Court of Judicature, Calcutta, in succession to Mr. Justice Chitty, who has retired from the Bench.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Shafi, C.I.E., to be an Ordinary Member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General of India, in succession to Sir Sankaran Nair.

The King has approved the appointment of Rai Bahadur Krishna Sahai to be a member of the Executive Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa, in succession to Sir Ali Imam, who is about to take up an appointment under his Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad.

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The Bishopric of Persia, which was left vacant owing to war conditions when Bishop Stileman retired in 1916, has been filled by the appointment of the Rev. J. H. Linton, of the Church Missionary Society. The new Bishop was trained for the mission field at the C.M.S. College at Islington, and served first in West Africa. He went to Persia in 1908, where he became Principal of the Bishop Stuart Memorial High School for Boys, Isfahan.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on July 11, at Brighton, of Francis John Preston, C.I.E., M.I.C.E., late of Bombay, aged fifty-five.

The death of Mr. A. W. Ward, who was Professor of Physics at Canning College, Lucknow, for thirty years, is announced.

The death occurred on July 2, at Malta, of Colonel Alexander Mattei, formerly Commanding Royal Malta Artillery.

Mr. Charles Rock, the well-known actor, died on July 12. He was the son of Surgeon-General de Falbeck, and was born at Vellore in 1866.

The death took place on July 13, at Dalhousie, of Lieut.-Colonel Louis Maurice Foster, late of the Indian Army. He served with the Chin-Lushai Expedition in 1889-90, on the North-West Frontier of India in 1897-98, when his work at Mohmand earned for him a mention in despatches, and in the Tirah campaign.

The death occurred recently in Edinburgh of Lieut.-General J. T. Dalyell, aged ninety-two. He entered the Army in 1847, and served with the Royal Scots Fusiliers in the Crimea. He held the medal with three clasps and the Turkish medal. General Dalyell was the only son of Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Dalyell, Bengal Light Infantry, who fell in the Indian Mutiny.

News has been received in Simla of the death on June 6 of the Maharaja of Ajaigarh, Bundelkhund. The late Maharaja was born in 1848, and in 1859 was placed on the *gaddi*. His rule has been notable for the successful measures which he took to place his State on a sound basis financially. During the famine of 1896 his labours for the relief of his subjects were rewarded, and in the following year the distinction of Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire was conferred upon him.

Sir Percy Sanderson, K.C.M.G., died on July 11 at Grove Hill, Caversham. Born in 1842 ,he joined the Royal Madras Artillery in 1859, and from 1865-66 was A.D.C. to Sir William Denison, Governor of Madras. In 1868 he acted as A.D.C. to Lord Napier, Governor of Madras, but retired from the Service in 1870. Six years later he became Consul at Galatz, and in 1882 Consul-General for Roumania and Commissioner for the navigation of the Danube. Afterwards he acted for some years as Chargé d'Affaires at Bucharest.

Sir Bertram Sausmarez Carey, who retired from the Burma Civil Service a short time ago, died at Worthing on July 14. He was appointed to the Burma Police in 1886. In his earlier days in India he distinguished himself, and was twice thanked by the Viceroy—first for his work as Political Officer in the Chin-Lushai campaign of 1889-90, and, secondly, for his services, again as Political Officer, in the operations in the Chin Hills in 1891-92. He was appointed a Commissioner for Burma in 1890. Sir Bertram was made a C.S.I. in 1914 and a K.C.I.E. in January, 1918.

Colonel Peter Edward Hill, C.B., late of the Royal Artillery, who served in the Crimean campaign, the Indian Mutiny, and the Afghan War of 1878-79, died at Reading on July 13 in his eighty-sixth year He entered the Army in 1853. In the Crimea, in 1854-56, he fought at Balaclava and Inkerman, and was also at the siege of Sevastopol. For that campaign he had the medal with three clasps, the Fifth Class of the Medjidie, and the Turkish Medal. For the Indian Mutiny campaign, when he served in the North-West of India, he had the medal, and for his work in the Afghan War he was mentioned in despatches and received the medal.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A Greek Legation is to be instituted at Helsingfors.

A mail service has been established between Baghdad and Czecho-Slovakia.

A large number of Jains assembled on the consecration of the new Jain Temple at Simla.

Close on a lakh and a-quarter of rupees have already been promised towards Bombay's Willingdon Memorial Fund.

Syrian emigrants, who have been in Egypt for the past few years, are returning to their country in large numbers.

The Victoria and Albert and the Bethnal Green Museums will be closed to-morrow.

The German troops who had been detained in Turkey and at Salonika are now on their way home by sea.

The Government of Mysore have constituted a Soldiers' Board to deal with all questions affecting the interests of serving, discharged, and demobilised soldiers.

The Constantinople correspondent of *The Times* states that it is expected that the British evacuation of Transcaucasia will begin in the course of the present month.

At the Leicester Galleries is now to be seen an excellent collection of "Ancient Art of the East"—Chinese, Indian, Persian, Greek, and Egyptian.

Until further notice the official guide (Mr. Leslie O. Faraker) will conduct visitors and lecture, at 3 p.m. daily, in the Exhibition of War Memorials at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington.

An inquiry was held in the Law Courts on July 10 to put it on record that bonds worth £400,000 belonging to the ex-Tsar Ferdinand of Bulgaria were forfeited to the Crown by the outbreak of war between this country and Bulgaria.

Prussian papers, according to a message from Germany, report that all the silver belonging to the King of Serbia which at the capture of Belgrade was handed over to the officers of the German 45th Infantry Regiment, is now, on the disbanding of the regiment, to be distributed among the officers as a souvenir.

A delayed Reuter telegram states that on June 29 the mail train from Delhi collided with a goods train near Rohtak, in the Punjab. Thirty-five Indians were killed and forty-three injured, two of the Indian railway staff being killed and three European passengers slightly injured.

News has been received from Casablanca that on July 8 1,500 natives attacked the French blockhouse at Sidi-Bou-Knedel, in the Upper Matmata District of Tunis. The assailants succeeded in reaching the barbed-wire entanglements round the blockhouse, but were finally driven off, losing thirty killed and wounded.

Throughout Serbia, on July 12, the festival of St. Peter and St. Paul, King Peter's name day, was celebrated. At Belgrade Prince Alexander, the Regent, accompanied by representatives of the British and French Armies, rode to the cathedral, where a Te Deum was sung.

At the Middlesex Guildhall on July 14 a court-martial was opened for the hearing of charges against a warrant officer, a Eurasian, who was British medical officer at the hospital at Bagtsche. The charges were concerned with the condition of British prisoners of war in Turkish hands after the fall of Kut. The case was adjourned until August 6.

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Editorial and Publishing Offices:
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FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1919.

THE FUTURE OF THE INDIA OFFICE.

The Report of Lord Crewe's Committee on the Home Administration of Indian Affairs completes the *dossier* relating to the pending scheme of constitutional reform. Its publication has been greatly delayed, and the text justifies the rumours which have been current that the delay was due to serious divergence of opinion; on the main questions for decision, the Joint Committee will not have the advantage of a unanimous report, but will have to choose between various lines of action, for each of which a certain amount of authority can be claimed. The issue is of real and practical importance, because the India Office constitutes a key-position in the reformers' campaign; whatever may be decided by Parliament, and whatever may be done in India, in practice the situation will be dominated largely by the day-to-day activities of Whitehall, and the task set before Lord Crewe and his colleagues was to indicate the lines on which these activities should proceed. The India Office, like some other familiar institutions, is in great measure a creature of tradition. Its roots strike deep into the old days, when the relations between England and India were predominantly commercial, and while it has gradually acquired control of the entire administration it has continued to discharge a variety of functions of a definitely commercial nature, the performance of which has reacted on its administrative business in a way that has long been recognised as injurious. The first step to be taken is obviously to separate the surviving agency business from the work of administrative control, and we are glad to observe that the policy of a clean cut, which has been steadily advocated in these columns, has been unanimously accepted by the Committee. Its execution must, of course, be gradual, but the recommendation that action should now be taken with a view to the transfer of all agency work to a representative of the Indian Government marks a definite stage, and justifies us in treating the Secretary of State as henceforward concerned primarily with administration. It is in regard to his administrative position that difficultes arise, and that divergence of opinion has become manifest. Parliament is supreme, the India Office is responsible to Parliament for the good government of the Dependency, and in order to bear that responsibility it requires full authority over the whole administrative machine. Parliament is, however, contemplating a practical curtailment of its supremacy so that the Dependency may become eventually a Dominion, and the realisation of that policy requires that the India Office, in turn, shall gradually curtail the exercise of its authority, and shall cease to interfere in those branches of administration which become subject to Indian popular control: the problem is to remodel the institution in such a way as to render it an efficient organ for this particular purpose, and there is so far no sign of agreement as to the lines on which this should be done. The discussion is complicated by many technicalities, but its nature can be indicated concisely by distinguishing between two schools, one of which would minimise, while the other would magnify, the position of the individual Secretary of State.

As an example of the former school, we may take the suggestions made in the joint report of Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu. They proposed that, subject to the consent of Parliament, the Secretary of State should from time to time abandon by formal orders his power to control specific branches of administration, and that he should delegate increased authority in matters which he did not definitely abandon. To enable him to act on these lines they proposed to surround him with the best advice, by modifying the constitution of his Council, and by staffing his office to some extent from the Indian Services, while on the other hand he would be brought into much closer relations with Parliament through a sessional Select Committee of the House of Commons. Under this arrangement the Secretary of State would require to have no policy of his own, but would stand out as an intermediary between Parliament and Indian opinion, interpreting each to the other, and concerned mainly to find a middle course in cases where differences arose. The majority of Lord Crewe's Committee have set aside these suggestions on practical grounds. They say in effect that the House of Commons cannot furnish a competent Select Committee, and that such a Committee as it could furnish would do more harm than good; that the Council needs to be abolished, not improved, and that very little can be done to staff the Secretary of State's office from the Indian Services. They propose to substitute for the present Council an Advisory Committee with no executive or initiatory powers, but available for consultation if the Secretary of State so chooses; they would transfer to him the control of essential Indian legislation; and they would retain for him the power of interference in any case where his responsibility to Parliament for the peace, order and good government of India might appear to him to require action on his part. The result of these proposals, taken as a whole, is not stated formally in the Committee's report, but is in effect to make the personality of the Secretary of State the dominant factor in the situation. He must now listen to his Council, which can moreover by the threat of its financial veto force him to refer certain matters to the Cabinet: under the proposed scheme he need listen to nobody at all. "Good government" is such an elastic phrase that even the pettiest details could be brought up for review; and a strong, self-confident Minister, responsible only to a tame or tired Parliament, would be left free to mould the destinies of India in accordance with his preconceived ideas, or with the views of any clique or junta which might happen to possess his confidence.

As we have said above, these proposals come from a majority only of the Committee. We have not space to state the grounds on which some or all of them are rejected by such acute critics as Sir James Brunyate, Professor Berriedale Keith, or Mr. B. C. Basu, or the alternative measures which these critics put forward; and these particulars are indeed unnecessary for our present purpose, which is to bring out as clearly as possible the nature of the main problem for decision. A time of transition has to be faced, during which authority is to be transferred gradually to Ministers responsible to the people of India, and we are searching not for any ideal or permanent constitutional organisation, but for something which will work during this time. Can we proceed by laying down regulations for this period in advance, or will it be wiser to trust the Secretary of State to deal with each question as it arises, relying on him to bring the vessel into port, and leaving the choice of the course to his individual judgment? That is in effect the problem raised, though no such general statement of it is to be found in the Committee's report. Recourse to a dictatorship is no novelty in constitutional procedure, even among the world's democracies; it works sometimes, but not always, and the result depends mainly on the individuality of the dictator chosen. Can we then be fairly confident that in the course of practical politics India will be assured during the period of transition of a Secretary of State gifted with the requisite qualities, a wide and dispassionate outlook, judicial impartiality, and an iron will? The examination of these questions will form not the least difficult portion of the task set to the Joint Committee, to which the whole scheme of constitutional reform has now been referred.

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THE BRITISH NAVAL MISSION'S WORK ON THE DANUBE.

One of the first tasks of the Allies on the cessation of hostilities in the Near East was to provide for the restocking of the countries that had been so systematically ravaged by the Germans. In this work it has been difficult to lose sight of the main chance, with the result that in the case of some military and relief missions it has troubled both onlookers and the people of the countries concerned to decide where a line, if any, could be drawn between the officer on active service and the energetic commercial agent bent on booking orders for his principals. The British Naval Mission sent to Belgrade has proved such a striking exception that its altruistic efforts on the Danube would deserve a niche in contemporary history, even if the actual work accomplished had not played the important part that it has in the resumption of the ordinary life of Serbia.

The British Naval Mission reached Belgrade empty-handed. It was accompanied by no boat-loads of goods for free distribution or to serve as samples for the booking of orders. But it brought something probably far more valuable to the Serbian nation at that particular moment—namely, driving-power and organising capacity. Its strength on the first day of its arrival was two—all told. Admiral E. C. Troubridge, with Commander Alfred Stead as the Chief of Staff, arrived in Belgrade on November 11, having left Salonika by motor-car three days earlier. The staff of the Mission began to arrive three weeks later. Serbia at that moment entirely lacked transport; but the Danube and Save were there, and Admiral Troubridge wisely decided that his first consideration must be to restore, as best he could, the water communications of the country. Three small steamers, manned for service, were immediately available, while up and down the waterways were seventy or more other steamers stranded for want of coal, and more than seven hundred lighters waiting to be taken possession of and pressed into service.

The organisation was placed in Commander Stead's hands, an advance of half a million kronen was made, and coal was obtained from the British Navy. On November 15, or four days after Admiral Troubridge's arrival in Belgrade, the service to Semlin (Semun) was inaugurated. Six days later the Pancsora boat started its regular sailings, and on November 26 services were opened to Shabatz, Smederevo (Semendria), and elsewhere. By June 1, 1919, ten regular passenger services in all were being maintained, representing a steamer traffic of over 1,400 kilometres daily, and in Belgrade alone the passenger traffic was at the rate of 3,000,000 a year. These services were as follow:—Between Belgrade and Semlin, *hourly* from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. *Daily:* Belgrade and Janchevo, Belgrade and Smederevo (Semendria), Belgrade and Titel. *Three times a week:* Belgrade and Gradishte, Belgrade and Segedin, Belgrade and Mitrovitza. *Twice a week:* Belgrade and Radujevatz (via Orsova and Turnu Severin), Belgrade and Baja, Belgrade and Brod. The table of passenger and freight receipts is not without interest.

	Kronen.
November 15-30, 1918	78,674
December, 1918	397,898
January, 1919	562,209
February, 1919	779,061
March, 1919	1,727,251
April, 1919	1,443,300
May, 1919	2,469,000
	7,457,393

These figures show the development of purely civilian passenger and commercial traffic, for all soldiers, together with refugees and prisoners, were carried free. All military transport was free, as well as the transport of all Government goods and the stores of relief missions. During this period the monthly expenditure remained less than 1,000,000 kronen, divided between some ninety steamers at 6,000 kronen per month and about 750 lighters at 600 kronen per month. (The rate of exchange for the kronen reached 150 to the pound sterling.) Accordingly, by the end of June not only had the original advance of 500,000 kronen been repaid, but a profit of nearly 3,000,000 kronen had been made and an efficient organisation had been created. The ship's officers were to a large extent enemy subjects; but they knew the Danube, they were wedded to their calling, and they appreciated the straight dealing that they experienced at Commander Stead's hands.

The success of the undertaking made a strong appeal to the Serbian Government, which soon became anxious to bring the steamer service under its own management. It was arranged that the transfer should take effect on July 1, and on that date the British Naval Mission ceased to be responsible for it. The future progress of the enterprise will be watched with interest, and it is to be hoped that neither shortage of coal nor any other cause will affect its efficiency. This river service has been something more than a mere convenience to the Yugoslavs. It has had its moral as well as its economic effects. The opening up of communications immediately after the Armistice had a settling influence on the people's minds; it enabled the first steps to be taken towards the resumption of the ordinary life of the nation, and it was a powerful factor against the spread of Bolshevism. The Naval Mission aspired to bring the whole of the Danube as far up the river as Pressburg into the scheme, and to this end a "treaty" was concluded on January 29, 1919, between Commander Stead and the Czecho-Slovak Government, by which the latter undertook responsibility for the steamship service on the Danube between Pressburg and Baia, and agreed upon a working arrangement with the Naval Mission at Belgrade. Unfortunately the advent to power of Bela Kun in Budapest stultified this agreement, and Baia remained the upstream terminus of the service, as well as the limit of Allied jurisdiction. Here a naval force kept watch and ward upon Bolshevist activities in Hungary, and after six months of desultory "scrapping" had the satisfaction of seeing towards the end of June six enemy vessels—two monitors and four vedettes—approach under the white flag. The crews had come to surrender the bulk of Bela Kun's "fleet." It is at least open to argument that, if during December and January the Allies had contrived to open up communications on the Upper Danube as systematically as had been done below Baia, the progress of Bolshevism in Hungary might have been arrested. When the attempt was made to extend the Yugoslav service to Czecho-Slovakia it was too late, and the British naval authorities, instead of inaugurating a service with Budapest, had to undertake an expedition to rescue the Allied missions from the Hungarian capital. Below Radujevatz, the last port in Serbian territory served by the Belgrade steamers, the river passed under the jurisdiction of the French, who, in spite of the object-lesson afforded them by the speedy transport of their troops on Admiral Troubridge's steamers from Semendria to Novisad, remained indifferent to the advantages of passenger services on the river within their sphere of influence. A ferry was maintained between Rustchuk and Giurgevo, but its essentially military character was emphasised by the fact that no attempt was made to ensure connection between trains arriving at Rustchuk and the trains that leave Giurgevo three times a week for Bucharest.

Great Britain is deservedly popular in the Near East, for her representatives have shown a disinterested desire to help the different people to the best of their power, but it would be difficult to find a more practical contribution to the rehabilitation of the Balkans than the prompt inauguration of a steamer service on the Danube, Theiss, and Save.

It is believed that the official decision to repatriate all Germans and Austrians in India will lead to the great Lutheran German missions coming wholly under the superintendence of the "C.M.S." and "S.P.G.," and possibly some of the American societies. For some time past the British missionary societies have been carrying on the work of these missions at the request of the Government with conspicuous success, particularly in an educational direction. Special care has been taken to guard against any charge of proselytising.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Macedonia.

The *International Review* of July contains an article on "The Fate of Macedonia," by J. D. Bourchier, F.R.G.S., in which the writer pleads strongly for the protection of the Bulgar element in Macedonia. He traces the history of the efforts to prove that Macedonia is not a Bulgarian land down to the latest theory that its inhabitants are a nondescript race without nationality. He then says:—

If the population of Macedonia is neither Serb, Bulgar, nor Greek, the obvious solution of the question would be found in the creation of an autonomous State. The nondescript "Macedonians" would have a right to govern themselves and to refuse absorption into any of the neighbouring States. But the Serbians and Greeks have always refused to hear of such a solution. They raise the objection that if Macedonia received autonomy she would soon follow the example of Eastern Roumania and proclaim union with Bulgaria. The objection is, of course, fatal to their own claims, but they justify it on the ground that Bulgaria, if augmented by the annexation of Macedonia, would become too strong. Even that consideration now loses weight, as Serbia and Greece will soon receive an immense expansion which will put each of them beyond the reach of Bulgarian competition. On the other hand, Bulgaria, anxious to maintain the integrity of the kindred race, and aware of its national sentiment, has always desired Macedonian autonomy. In order to assure this she has been willing to postpone or even to forego annexation. We are reminded of the mother who preferred to resign her claims to her child rather than to see it cut in twain by order of King Solomon.

Macedonian autonomy would probably be only a temporary solution, but it would be infinitely better than a confirmation of the unnatural arrangement of the Bucarest Treaty. It would be necessary that the country should be policed for several years by a neutral power—America for preference—in view of the intrigues and even the encroachments to which it would be exposed on the part of its neighbours. If the inestimable boon of protection were accorded to them, together with the right to speak their own language, to worship in their own churches, and to send their children to their own schools, the Bulgarian peasants of Macedonia would care little under what form of government they lived. Among the upper classes a considerable number of persons would prefer autonomy in view of the prospect of a political or commercial career which would be opened up to them at Salonika. That town would naturally become the capital of the new autonomous State. It is now the commercial capital of Macedonia, and its prosperity, as well as that of the interior, depends on the maintenance of unrestricted communication between the two. Its population is cosmopolitan, being mainly Jewish and Turkish; the Greek element, previously comparatively insignificant, has been increased since the town has fallen into Greek hands, while the Bulgarian, which formerly numbered some 12,000 souls, has been literally exterminated.

The article concludes with an appeal against the proposed partition of Macedonia, by which, the writer says, a million and a-half Bulgarians would be subjected to alien and hostile rule.

Mid-Asia.

In the *Glasgow Herald* of July 8 Louise Peralta has an article on "Mid-Asian Khanates." She refers to the supposed crash of the "Berlin-Bokhara" and the "Middle-Asian Thought" schemes, and then says:—

But has the crash been as fatal as some people are willing to suppose? In answering this question two all-important facts have to be borne in mind. The first fact is that the Ottoman Imperialistic Movement is older than the World War which has now ended. This Imperialistic Movement originated shortly after the Turkish Revolution of 1908. Like the Swadeshi Movement in India, and like most of the European Nationalist movements, including Sinn Fein, it was the outcome of a linguistic impulse. The Othmanli Turki, the literary and official language of the Ottoman Government, is as alien to the so-called Turki—which is saturated with Kurdish, Arabic, and Persian words and idioms—of the apricot-growers, the carpet-weavers and the nomad shepherds of Anatolia and Irak Arabi as are alien, one to the others, these peoples and the Rumeli-Epirote Semites who, for at least a dozen years, have formed the Government at Stambul. Yet, notwithstanding this, the "Pure Turki Movement" developed into a genuine social revival, concerning itself with the improvement of the economic condition of the peasantry and of the trading class. These elements of peaceful progress, however, converted themselves with extraordinary rapidity into potential weapons of war. What had been originally a language movement reached to an Othmanli Irredentist propaganda, militantly claiming kinship with the other Turkish peoples, inspired by the fact proclaimed by Enver Pasha that "no less than 70 per cent. of the Turki-speaking population of the world is to be found outside the Ottoman frontiers." This striding movement was scarcely interrupted by the Balkan War. The group of young Balkan Jews who had formed themselves into the Committee of Union and Progress, knew so excellently—backed by Germany—the movement's political capacity for aggression, that Pan-Turanianism remains at this moment a mighty weapon of offence in the hands of the Ottoman Government.

The second fact which leads to conclusion that the Turko-German Middle-Asian idea has received, instead of a check, an impetus, as the very impressive truth that Asiatic antipathy to Europe, for fifty years carefully veiled, boldly declared itself immediately after the Russian Revolution by the formation of the autonomous native State of Bokhara. The Chagatai Turks, whose example was followed by the Turks of Kirghistan, also lost no time in declaring for the complete severance of Mawara-en-Nahr from the Russian body politic. The Muslims of Nawara-en-Nahr and of Bokhara have been purely Asiatic peoples under European rule. Both have, outside the bonds of Islam and of Orientalism, almost no interests in common with the Tatars of Kazan and Baku. Yet the strength of those two bonds is illustrated by the history of the Muslims of Baku during the last eighteen months. Baku has long been the focus of the Islamic group on the outer edge of Russia. The interests of the Baku Muslims—in the days of Russian Imperialism conspicuous for their loyalty—centre in the industrialism of the oilfields. It was certainly at first their hope that Russia would hold together. But to say that they have been driven by anarchy out of the Russian orbit does not express the case. They—who with the Kazan Muslims form a group that has been more closely and for a longer period associated with Westerns than has any Eastern people—have been magnetised out of the Western sphere by Orientalism and by Mohammedanism. Together with the Kazan Muslims they are reaching after an autonomy supported on the one hand by the promises of the Stambuli would-be makers of a Central Asian Islamic Federation, and on the other by the anti-European influence of Bokhara. The moral is a portentous one. Orient wants to be quit of Occident. If they will but raise higher the eternity-old wall between the two, Orient does not scruple to use Bolshevist bricklayers.

The Future of Turkey.

The *Spectator* of July 12 takes up a strong attitude in regard to the pro-Turkish propaganda now being placed before the Allies. Especially it refers to the threats of the "Muhamadan world," which Sir Theodore Morison has recently said show that Islam is ablaze with anger at the prospect of partition. We give the following extracts as representing the high moral line of argument as opposed to the policy of expediency:—

It is well known throughout Islam that a Mohammedan under British rule is as free to practise his religion as he would be in Mecca, that the properties of the Mohammedan Church are a great deal more sacred to a British administrator than to a Turkish official, and that any anti-Mohammedan agitation, as in India, is sternly repressed. We act in this way, not because we have any desire to placate Islam, but because we believe firmly in religious toleration and abhor persecution. Wherever our rule has been criticised by Mohammedans, as in Egypt, it has been condemned on the ground that it was too tolerant. The Moslem fanatic, like some other fanatics, would rid the world of all who do not agree with him, and is impatient with the stolid British administrator who stands in the way. We have, therefore, a clean record in this matter, as all Islam knows, or ought to know. But it must not be supposed that because we are tolerant we are also timid. "The Muhamadan world" must not think that we treat our Moslem subjects fairly because we are afraid of them. Above all, it must beware of trying to intimidate us. British people have never been moved by threats, and are still less likely to pay attention to them at the close of the greatest and most successful war in our history. We shall deal justly with Turkey because it is our habit. We shall not condone the crimes of the Turk and allow him once again to work his will on his miserable subjects—most of whom were not Turks—because certain Moslems and their friends tell us that there will be trouble if we deal out stern justice to our beaten foe.

The only true solution of the Turkish problem is to expel the Turkish Government, "bag and baggage," from Europe, and to confine it to Anatolia, where, under European supervision, it may conceivably build up a civilised State. All the rest of the former Turkish Empire should be divided into autonomous provinces under European guidance. Armenia, Mesopotamia, Palestine, Syria and Cilicia, the Hedjaz, the Greek lands of Western Asia Minor, have languished for centuries under the alien Turkish rule, but their natural fertility is so great that they are assured of a prosperous future as soon as they are given peace and order. There is no greater tragedy in the world's history than the contrast between ancient and modern Asia Minor, and the severest critic of the Allied peacemakers would not suppose that they could fail so completely in their duty as to miss the chance of restoring Asia Minor to its former state.

Articles to Note.

"What Constantinople Means to Britain and Islam," by Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Yate; and "A Way Out in India," by John Pollen, C.I.E., LL.D., in the *Asiatic Review* (July).

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Deportations from France. July 10.

Lieut.-Colonel MALONE asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that arrangements are being made for the deportation of Miss May Kathleen Ydlibi and her father from their internment in France to Turkey; whether he is aware that Miss May Kathleen Ydlibi is a British subject and should presumably be repatriated to Great Britain; whether he can see his way to approach the French authorities to allow the family solicitors, Messrs. Enever and Aarons, to proceed to France in order to settle the domestic arrangements of this family and to have access to these persons; and whether, in communicating with the French authorities, he will request their retention in that country until their business affairs have been settled?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: Further investigations are being made into the case of Miss Ydlibi, and I regret that until they have been carried out I am unable to reply in detail. I hope, however, to be able to make a further statement before very long.

Government of India Bill (Deputations). July 11.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India if he would give the names of the members of the various deputations from the National Congress, the Indian Moslem League, the Servants of India, the Home Rule for India League, and similar associations who had been brought to England to give evidence before the Joint Select Committee on the Government of India Bill?

Mr. MONTAGU: My hon. and gallant friend is in error if he thinks that deputations have been brought to this country under Government arrangements. They have come from India of their own accord to place the views which they represent before the Joint Committee during the consideration of the Government of India Bill, and I understand that some of them have applied to the Committee to give evidence. Statements have appeared in the Press in regard to these deputations; but I have no official information as to the bodies represented or the membership of the deputations which have arrived in this country.

Army in Mesopotamia. July 15.

Mr. CHURCHILL, in answer to Lieut.-Commander Kenworthy, said that future policy with regard to the policing of Mesopotamia could not be definitely laid down until we received a mandate to administer the country. The possibility of using native levies to some extent was, however, under consideration. As regards the Army of Occupation, our future policy was to cut it down as much as possible and to employ as large a proportion of Indian and other native troops as possible. The extent, however, to which local native troops could be employed depended on their efficiency, which was at present an unknown quantity. It was hoped to make considerable use of the Air Service with a view to economising troops and their maintenance in the outlying unsettled districts.

Troops in Karachi.

Mr. CHURCHILL, replying to Mr. Hurd, said:—A report has now been received, and I am informed that the health of the troops at the Concentration Camp at Karachi is fairly good. There are nearly 700 troops at the camp, and the number in hospital on July 4 was twenty-three. There have been no deaths owing to the heat. As regards letters, I am informed that immediately it was decided to retain in India demobilisable men from Mesopotamia, orders were issued to intercept the English mails for such men at Bombay Base Post Office. It is regretted that some delay was unavoidable in retrieving mails already *en route* to Mesopotamia or awaiting delivery in Mesopotamia. With regard to the statement that letters have been returned direct to England, I can only suggest that this was due to individual requests made by men on their departure from Mesopotamia.

The State of Afghanistan. July 16.

Mr. MONTAGU (Secretary of State for India), in reply to Mr. Lyle, said that except for affairs of outposts there was now no fighting on the Afghanistan frontier, and there was every reason to hope that the Afghan peace delegates would present themselves at the British lines on July 22.

Commander VISCOUNT CURZON asked whether it was intended to allow the present ruler of Afghanistan to retain his throne in view of his recent unprovoked attack upon British territory?

Mr. MONTAGU: The Ameer has asked for an Armistice, and it is hoped that peace negotiations will be opened shortly. Our object is to secure our frontiers against a recurrence of such unprovoked attacks, and it is not our present intention to express any opinion as to who the future ruler of Afghanistan will be.

The Malta Disturbances.

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH (Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs), replying to Mr. Swan, said that in the riot which lately occurred at Malta three Maltese were killed and eight wounded. No casualties had been reported among the troops, but several were severely handled. The report that the riot was provoked by the action of British officers was entirely without foundation. An inquiry into the riot was proceeding at Malta, and the Secretary of State was awaiting the Governor's report.

Troops in Egypt.

Mr. CHURCHILL (Secretary of State for War), replying to Mr. L. Lyle, said that according to the programme now being followed by the forces in Egypt all men who joined the Colours in 1914 are due to embark for demobilisation by the end of this month. Those who joined the Colours in 1915 are to embark by the end of August. In addition, all men over 37 are to embark by the end of August, and other men who are eligible for demobilisation under current instructions are to embark by the end of September.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the Official Report.

GOVERNMENT OF THE SUDAN LOAN (GUARANTEE). INDIA: Karachi (Rest Camp).—Burial of British Soldiers.—Non-Commissioned Officers (Promotion).—Over-payments by Officers. ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS (EASTERN DRAFTS). MESOPOTAMIA (CIVIL ADMINISTRATION). (July 8.)

INDIA: Pamphlet ("Coercion and Repression").—Karachi Troop-Train Incident.—Government of India Bill.—Discharged Army Officers (Government Posts).—Afghan Frontier Rising (British Casualties). EGYPT: State of Provinces. DEMOBILISATION: Troops in Egypt. (July 9.)

PERSIA (EX-SHAH). ASIA MINOR. MONTENEGRO. GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (SELECT COMMITTEE). INDIA: North-West Frontier Military Operations. (July 10.)

GIBRALTAR HARBOUR (SURVEY). GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BILL (DEPUTATIONS). (July 11.)

GREEK RULE (ALLEGED MASSACRES). INDIAN ARMY (OFFICER'S APPEAL).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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This week the prospectus was issued of the British Overseas Bank, Ltd., which has been formed under the auspices of a strong group of banks, including the Imperial Ottoman Bank and the Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd. It is pointed out in the prospectus that it has been increasingly evident since the termination of the war that the future prosperity of this country will be largely dependent upon the early and rapid resumption and expansion of foreign trade, and that as a means to secure this end it is felt that increased and improved banking facilities will be necessary, and for this purpose the bank has been formed. The business of the bank will be conducted on specialised lines and effective co-operation with trade will be maintained by the presence on the Governing Council of trade interests, thereby securing benefits to the general business community as well as to the bank. The bank will facilitate the foreign trade of the British Isles and the Empire by specialising in all matters of exchange, payments, and receipts abroad, and the handling of foreign collections, documents, and securities. Commercial credits will be issued, and the bank will give its acceptance to bills in connection with Home, Colonial, and International trade, and agencies and branches will be established, if and where necessary.

***

The authorised capital of the bank is £5,000,000, divided into A and B ordinary shares of £5 each, of which the A class ranks first for a cumulative dividend of 6 per cent., and after a dividend of an equal amount has been paid on the B shares, the arrangement is that in any further division of profits the B shares shall receive twice as much as the A shares The constituent banks have taken up at par 200,000 of the B shares, and the issue made this week consisted of 200,000 A shares, 20,000 of which have been allotted to the Prudential Assurance Company. With the great advantage of the support of the eight constituent banks, the British Overseas Bank starts its career under the most favourable auspices. Of the need for an institution of this character there is no doubt, and it may be expected to play a very important part in future trade development. As to the regions with which it will specially concern itself, I have already mentioned that among the constituent banks are the Imperial Ottoman Bank, with its wide connections throughout the Near East, and the Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd. These banks are respectively represented on the Governing Council of the British Overseas Bank by Mr. E. W. H. Barry and Mr. R. J. Hose.

***

The report of the Bank of British West Africa, which has just been issued, shows that the past year was one of steady and continuous progress. The net profit amounted to £83,767, as against £71,514 for the previous year, and the dividend is at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less income tax, and 1 per cent. bonus, as against 8 per cent., £10,000 has been applied to writing down premises, and £12,500 has been added to the reserve, as against £10,000 last year, bringing that fund up to £250,000; while £3,000 is placed to the staff fund, and £5,000 to the insurance fund, as against £2,000, and the carry forward is £22,600 as compared with £21,612.

In recent years there has been a very marked extension of the activities of the Bank of British West Africa, particularly in Morocco, where the number of its branches is constantly being increased; while last year Egypt was brought within its sphere of operations by the opening of a branch at Alexandria. With a view to opening further branches, and for the expansion of the existing business, the directors have decided to issue the remainder of the authorised capital of the bank, namely 55,000 shares of £10 each, calling up £4 on each share. Shareholders are offered 40,000 of the new shares at £6 each, £2 representing a premium. As regards the balance of the shares, it is announced that the position of the bank would be further strengthened if the increase of capital was accompanied by the establishment of close relations with one of the leading London banks, and the directors have arranged with Lloyds Bank to take 15,000 shares at £7 5s. per share, and also to acquire 15,000 shares in the existing capital. There is no question that this arrangement should be of the greatest value to the bank in its work of development, and the fact that the greatest of the joint stock banks is now definitely, though indirectly, interested in West Africa, affords further ground for confidence, if such were needed that British interests in Morocco and elsewhere will be amply considered.

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Attention is drawn in the June issue of the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt to a question of considerable importance to British manufacturers. "It is to be regretted," says our contemporary, "that under the British Protectorate, and with the general desire to promote the interests of British trade in Egypt, the Egyptian Government should still issue specifications for contracts of a technical nature in French instead of in English. Apparently, under the changed conditions, no measures have as yet been taken to remedy a disadvantage which has been so detrimental to British interests in the past."

***

Trade requirements in the Near East form the subject of some interesting comments in our Constantinople Business Letter this week, in which our correspondent emphasises the necessity for British manufacturers to take into consideration what their competitors are doing. As an example, he asks why "certain not unimportant British firms made it an invariable rule to quote 'loco' prices and to insist upon cash with order," and points out that all American firms doing business with the Near East are willing to quote c.i.f. prices, and to allow concessions as regards payment; certain Swiss firms leave payment until a month after the receipt of goods; while Italian firms ask for cash against documents. This conservatism on the part of British firms is due as much as anything to the dislike of innovations. But that attitude will not do in the future in the Near East markets if really satisfactory results are expected. Only by concessions and by keeping pace with foreign methods will it be possible to develop trade in the Near East to the extent that is desired.

***

The profits of the Mortgage Company of Egypt for the past year amounted to £83,777, as against £107,390 for the previous twelve months, and deducting the dividend paid and accrued on the preferred shares, and adding the amount brought forward, there is an available balance of £68,250. The dividend is maintained at 8 per cent., the allocation to general reserve is £10,000, as against £17,500, to writing off the discount and expenses of the debenture issues £2,800 as before, and £35,450 is carried forward, as against £34,742.

***

It is now announced that the negotiations for the amalgamation of four English oil companies carrying on operations at Baku—the Baku Russian Petroleum Company, Bibi Eibat Oil Company, European Oilfields Corporation, and the Russian Petroleum Company—have been brought to a successful conclusion. A new company, Baku Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., has been formed, and it is proposed that the respective undertakings of the four companies shall be transferred to the new company, subject to the approval of the share and debenture holders of the various companies. The importance of the new company can be gathered from the fact that the total production of petroleum by the four companies for the years 1913-1916 inclusive was, approximately, 1,250,000 tons, or an average of 300,000 tons a year, the trading profit for the same period being £860,000, or an average of £215,000 a year. It is intended that the combine shall have an authorised capital of £2,500,000, divided into 1,250,000 "A" shares of £1 each (Preferred Ordinary) and 1,250,000 "B" shares of £1 each (Ordinary). The "A" shares will be entitled to a non-cumulative preferential dividend of 8 per cent. per annum, and to participate pari passu in any profits beyond 8 per cent. per annum on the "B" shares. The "A" shares are also entitled to priority in any distribution of assets.

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CONSTANTINOPLE BUSINESS LETTER.

Trade Requirements.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, June 20.

An announcement this week in the *Orient News* to the effect that the Federation of British Industries, generally known as the F.B.I., intends to establish an office in Constantinople is most welcome. We have already allowed others to steal a march on us in the matter of commercial propaganda, and the sooner the F.B.I. gets to work here the better. But unless British manufacturers realise also that the Near Eastern market is well worth having, and unless they are willing to make a bid for it by taking into consideration what their foreign competitors are doing, the F.B.I. will not be so successful as it undoubtedly could be. For instance, why do certain not unimportant British firms make it an invariable rule to quote "loco." prices and insist upon cash with order? There is not a single American firm doing business in the Near East that is not willing to quote c.i.f. prices and to offer certain concessions with regard to payment. The usual thing is 25 per cent. cash with order and the balance against documents. Certain Swiss firms, when dealing with merchants of sound repute, go so far even now as to leave the payment until one month after the receipt of the goods. The French are sending goods on consignment invoiced at 5 per cent. less than actual price, which provides for the agent's commission and makes for economy in the Customs. Italian firms, without exception, ask for no more than cash against documents. There are many instances of agents who have no difficulty in getting such terms from foreign firms, but who can get nothing better than cash with order and "loco." quotations from British firms! Of course, a great deal depends upon the agent; but it is no use having an agent who is not to be trusted. Neither is there any need to risk anything with such an agent. There are plenty of sound, straightforward British firms here who may be trusted to any amount. There are also hundreds of Armenian and Greek firms who are perfectly trustworthy.

Another mistake that is being made is to send samples by parcels post instead of sample post, with the result that the samples are held up, often for weeks, on the way and in the Customs.

The length of time required for delivery is also a great obstacle to business, and most especially at the present moment. There must be sufficient stocks in Great Britain to supply the comparatively modest demands of the Near East at the present moment, and surely it would be better to neglect the home market temporarily in favour of the foreign market, if by so doing a good market can be captured. The home market can always be brought back to the fold, but opportunities abroad will not come along every day.

Finally, there is the matter of language in correspondence and advertisement. French is the Esperanto of the Near East. It may not be very good French, but everyone speaks it and understands it, which, after all, is the main thing. English is very little understood outside the British and American colonies here. This is where the French especially have a great initial advantage. Only by corresponding and advertising in French can we expect to neutralise that advantage.

The British Chamber of Commerce

In my last letter I touched upon French and American organisation for the commercial struggle that is upon us. Although, as usual, we have had our hands so full that we come somewhat late in the field, yet our Chamber of Commerce here, when its organisation is complete, as it shortly will be, will in no way be behind the commerce bureaus of our competitors. Indeed, the scheme that is now being worked out will give us a commercial organisation superior to that of any of our competitors. But with one reservation: on condition that firms in England who are interested in the Near East give the British Chamber of Commerce in Constantinople adequate support. In the past, for some obscure reason, the Chamber received practically no support from firms in England. This is not as it should be. The Chamber is to British commerce what the British Embassy is to politics. But unless those for whose benefit it exists support it properly it cannot possibly fulfil its functions. For instance, before the war the French Chamber of Commerce had a membership of over a thousand, including many home firms of importance, although the French share of business was only 10 per cent. as compared with our 35 per cent., and it was with difficulty that we got four hundred members for the British Chamber of Commerce. The result was that, whenever it was necessary to approach the Turkish authorities with reference to some grievance, the French had far more weight behind them, and far more attention was paid to them than to us. The reason usually given by home firms for their refusal to become members of the British Chamber of Commerce in Constantinople is that they are already adequately represented, and that they do not see what the Chamber can do that the agent cannot do. But it is perfectly obvious that if the Chamber numbers, say, 500 British home firms of standing among its members, there would be very many things that it could do that would be utterly impossible to the most efficient agent acting alone. Furthermore, a powerful Chamber of Commerce would not only be an advantage to individuals, but would also be a great help to British commerce generally. It is, therefore, not only to the interest, but it is also the duty of every firm in Great Britain interested in the Near East to become a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Constantinople. The practical advantages will be numerous and important. For example, when it gets going the Chamber will be in a position to give sound information about any firm or individual in the Turkish Empire. Even if that were the only advantage it would be worth the membership subscription; but that will be only a small department of the really important and efficient organisation that is now well on the way to completion. The most perfect organisation, however, is abortive unless those for whom it is designed make use of it and give it their support. Inquiries should be addressed to W. Smith-Lyte, Esq., The Secretary, British Chamber of Commerce, Constantinople.

The Exchange.

The rates of exchange remain pretty firm, although £E1 have dropped to 111, after having touched 116 a few days ago. Sterling are back at 400, after a temporary drop to 397.

Markets.

The removal of the prohibition to export wool may have a favourable effect upon the general situation, wool being one of the most important exports. The price of Anatolian wool is about 40 piastres the oke. Mohair is 65-70 piastres the oke, according to quality.

With regard to foodstuffs, the market remains firm. Olive oil is 70-90 piastres the oke, according to quality; sugar is £T99-100 the case of 100 kilos; crystallised sugar is £T53 the sack of 100 kilos; and rice is 45-50 piastres the oke.

Tobacco.

The High Commissioner for Greece at Constantinople announces that the quantity of tobacco in the depots at Constantinople is about 30,000,000 kilos; in Bulgaria there is a stock of 40 to 50 million kilos. The prices are in Constantinople 85-145 piastres the kilo; in Thrace, 80-110 piastres; in Smyrna, 80-120 piastres; at Nicomedia, 80-110; at Samsoun, 80-150 piastres the oke.

ECONOMIC MISSION TO SERBIA.

Colonel Sir Hamar Greenwood, in reply to Mr. A. Short, said that the Economic Mission to Serbia was sent in two contingents, of which the first had already returned. The object of the mission was to investigate commercial conditions generally in Serbia, and also reconstruction problems in engineering and public works, transportation, agriculture, timber, mining, town-planning, and sanitation. The official members of the mission included no direct representative of any specific business interest. The mission was not intended to take the place of private initiative, but it was affording any facilities in its power to representatives in Serbia of British firms. The expenses of the official members of the mission were borne by the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement. The mission had no power to make recommendations with a view to legislation. A report of its investigations would be published on the completion of its work, and an interim report had already appeared in the *Board of Trade Journal* of June 19. A similar mission was sent out to Poland by the Department of Overseas Trade and the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement in the early part of the year. The report of that mission was at present under consideration.

[In a written reply Sir Hamar Greenwood states:—The first contingent consisted of Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins, commercial secretary for Serbia and Greece; Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Jordan Bell, R.E., War Office; Mr. F. A. Llewellyn, Office of Works; and Mr. W. Trask, nominated by the Federation of British Industries. This contingent was accompanied in an unofficial capacity by Mr. A. E. Tabor, of the Levant Company, and Captain T. G. Mapplebeck, of the Associated British Manufacturers. The second contingent consisted of Mr. F. A. Llewellyn, Office of Works; Captain E. C. Foot, Forestry Corps of Canadian Army; Mr. G. E. Farrar, Office of Works; Mr. C. L. K. Foot, ex-manager of Government Stock Farm at Alington; Mr. F. H. Cerrito, Office of Works; and Mr. G. W. Tully, Office of Works (Scottish Branch). Mr. Rawlins was in charge of the mission attached to it. Mr. F. A. Llewellyn had since been in charge.]

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THE YEMEN.

Development of Ports and Industries.

The *Board of Trade Journal* of July 3 contains an interesting article on the ports and industries of the Yemen, written in the light of a report to the Admiralty by a naval officer, who spent three and a-half years of the war on patrol duty between Jeddah and Perim, in which the writer deals with the ports and with industries, at present latent, which are capable of rapid development by means of ports. The article runs:—

Red Sea harbours between Jeddah and Perim have been little developed, and what had once been done has since been lost by deterioration. And yet most of the larger harbours are capable of great improvement at moderate cost. The coral reefs, a great natural advantage, could be carved into quays, small piers built in sheltered waters, mooring buoys laid down, and lights put up. The best known port is Hodeida, which the Turks had planned to connect by railway with their military capital of Sana. But, in the author's view, Salif, near the British island of Kamaran, will supersede Hodeida as the principal sea outlet of Southern Arabia. The caravan route from Hodeida to Salif is over firm, level country, and there would be no difficulty in carrying a Sana-Hodeida railway on to Salif. Between Perim and Hodeida there is no port at all promising, and Hodeida is an open roadstead with many coral banks in its approaches. But although Hodeida itself is unsuitable as a harbour, Khor Khetib, some ten miles to the north-west on the promontory which bounds the Hodeida roadstead, is described as of considerable merit as a small harbour. The Turks had proposed to spend some £200,000 on Khor Khetib, and had begun developments, which our naval author spent "a very happy day" in thoroughly destroying.

Salif.

Salif, he says, is "evidently the future main harbour and outlet for Yemen and Azir." The island of Kamaran, upon which he was based for the greater part of three years, lies just off it, and the Kamaran passage contains no uncharted dangers at less than five fathoms depth. The western shores of Kamaran Island are similar, so that both shores are very suitable for the construction of piers and jetties. Salif as a harbour is assured of a commodity for which the demand is universal. The rock salt deposits run right down to the sea shore, and are almost inexhaustible. They extend for many miles and, writes the author, "it is difficult to realise the vast salt deposits of Salif until one has landed and visited the salt quarries," which were begun by an English firm before the outbreak of war. India is a large and ready market, "consequently, in Salif, we have a very large sheltered harbour capable of rapidly receiving a cargo, and always ready to offer in return a rock salt cargo, irrespective of such cargoes as the interior of Yemen can supply." During the war period, salt rust has destroyed nearly all iron and steel materials of the works, and the pier at Salif, though still in existence, has gravely deteriorated. If a new pier be constructed on a large scale, extending further out seaward it should be capable of taking ships alongside for the direct shipment and discharge of cargo. The southern passage of the Kamaran Narrows is not difficult, but for safe working needs compulsory pilotage. "There is not sufficient room in the southern entrance," says our naval authority, "to allow of mistakes being made." He discourages the northern passage for various reasons. "So long as Kamaran Main Southern entrance is clear there seems little object in throwing open a less direct and more difficult passage for the navigational experiments of foolhardy mariners." Kamaran Island has no undeveloped resources which are apparent, but if for political reasons it were held desirable to make full use of Salif, Kamaran harbour, hard by Salif, could be developed in its place to meet the full requirements of the Yemen's export trade.

In the author's survey of the coastline of Azir and the Yemen, Salif alone comes up to his standard of a real seaport. Mocha, to the south, he rules out as dead, and while condemning Hodeida, has much to say in approval of Khor Khetib, near by, as a first-class small harbour. It is, however, very small. North of Salif the water is smooth, being sheltered by banks and islands from the prevailing westerly winds.

Undeveloped Trades.

Two undeveloped trades appear to be ready for immediate exploitation:—1. Export of salt from Salif to overseas markets and also to Red Sea ports. 2. Export of salt fish from the Arabian coast generally. The rock salt deposits of Salif have already been referred to. They not only could provide direct cargoes of practically unlimited tonnage, but also are at hand to salt the fish which abound in Arabian waters. The chief ground for the small fry, which require shelter and protection from the ravages of their seniors, is the well-known Farisan Bank, a centre of the pearl fishing industry. Farisan waters are stated to hold more small fry to the square mile, and to be more plentifully stocked with large fish, than Lagos or the Mediterranean. Fish are so plentiful all along the coast that nearly every port meets its own requirements, and since the best fishing grounds are in waters most undesirable for steam navigation, the Red Sea fish supply has largely escaped European notice. Coral waters are not generally well adapted for heavy net fishing. The Arab uses light nets for fry and the line for large fish. But there are many localities where the heavy net would have its obvious advantages. If an export trade in fish were developed, as the naval author—himself a keen sea fisherman—believes that it could be, the Arab would need to learn how to cure the fish for steamer stowage. At present he cures it lightly for his own needs. The best fishing grounds are north of Salif.

Farisan Pearl Fisheries.

The pearl fisheries of the Farisan Banks, off the northern coast of the Yemen, have not been exploited to any great extent. The pearls produced are yellow and small, yet, in the opinion of the author of the report, there are greater possibilities in the fisheries of the Farisan Banks than in those of the much more famous Bahrein Islands in the Persian Gulf. He starts from the theory that the oyster forms a pearl by covering up with layers of calcium carbonate some irritant substance in its body. Irritation may be caused by a foreign substance, such as a grain of sand, or be of bacterial origin. It appears that certain kinds of fishes, such as sharks, skate and ray, when in coral waters, contract an irritant disease which is communicable to oysters through the germ which causes it. An infected oyster then forms a pearl to protect itself. The Farisan coral formation is favourable ground for those kinds of fish which are likely to infect the smaller oysters of the shoals and also the larger oysters of the deeper waters with the disease which induces them to secrete pearls. The more fish were introduced of the kind desired the more oysters would be infected, and the more pearls would be formed. The whole process sounds mechanical and cold-blooded—from the point of view of the oyster—but it does contain dazzling possibilities for pearl fishers. Even in a rich fishery like Bahrein not more than five per cent. of the dredged oysters contain pearls at all, and only a very small percentage contain other than seed pearls. There is thus, in artificially assisting natural processes, a liberal margin to work upon. It is pointed out that an almost unbroken coral wall, some 80 miles long, runs from south to north in the upper Farisan waters, and rises to within a few feet of the surface. Big fish coming in from the westward work up to this wall, but do not cross it. To the eastward the waters are deeper, and therefore colder in the summer time. The value of this great wall in the economics of Farisan pearl fishing is thus described:—"It will be seen therefore that we have a gigantic pearl bank, some 80 miles in length, limited on one side by a definite wall and open on its westward side. We may stock this bank, or such portions as we require, with the fish necessary for pearl cultivation. It is only necessary to carry our live fish over to the west of the wall and leave them there without further care. In winter these fish have the necessary deep waters to westward, but they would be unlikely to roam very far. . . . The scheme is, of course, a large one for fish development, though not necessarily so for initial stages." The shark, a desirable fish for infecting oysters, does not give much trouble to the Arab pearl divers.

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN INDIA

The progress of the co-operative movement in India during the year 1917-18 is shown in a statement which has just been issued. The total number of banks rose during the year from 264 to 282, with a membership of 91,494, as against 76,475, and a working capital of Rs. 580 lakhs, as against Rs. 485 lakhs the previous year. The number of agricultural societies increased from 20,990 to 23,742, while there was an increase in the number of non-agricultural societies from 1,237 to 1450. The total membership of the agricultural societies was 851,407 with a working capital of 689 lakhs. The non-agricultural members numbered 203,837, and the working capital of their societies was 171 lakhs.

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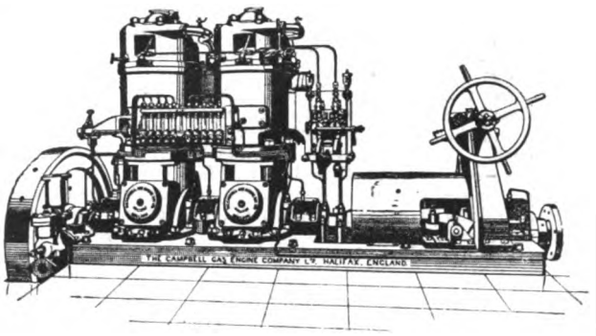

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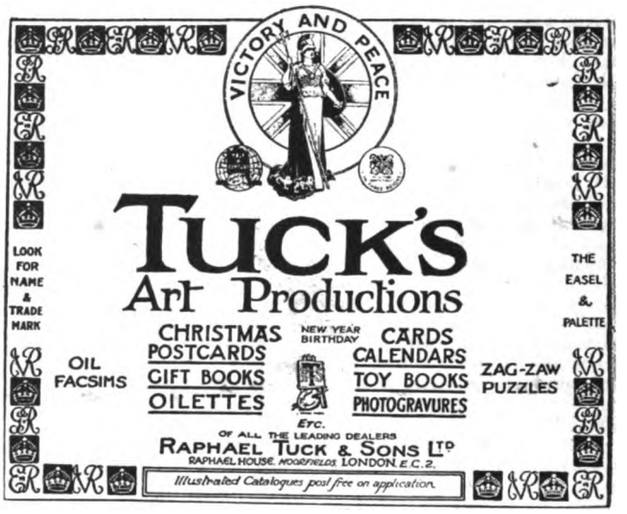

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Steam Engines and Oil Engines.

The reasonable cost of motive power is essential to the success of any enterprise, industrial, agricultural, or marine, in which machinery is employed. Particularly is this the case in the Near East where fuel, especially coal, has to be imported, and where many promising enterprises have been unsuccessful owing to the higher prices of coal and its uncertain outlook. The cost of coal was one of the principal reasons why the use of steam engines was comparatively restricted in the Near East. All along the Eastern Mediterranean coast there were only about six or seven depôts from which English coal could be obtained—the only steam coal available—and from there it had to be carried to where it was needed, either to inland centres or to other ports on the coast. In this way its cost would be double and often treble its price in England. In the circumstances steam engines were not economical motive-power producers except, perhaps, those nearest the central coal depôts. Thus enterprising proprietors, who wished to develop an industry, preferred to utilise other sources of energy, such as waterfalls in mountainous or hilly districts, windmills, animal power, and even treadmills. But although motive power of this kind was to a certain extent useful for some industrial purposes, it could not be used for the cultivation of land and other field works. Hence the adherence in many districts to the old and primitive methods of agriculture, and the slow progress in promising local industries. It is due, however, to the efforts of a British firm of agricultural engineers that the first portable steam engines with enlarged fire-box and the automatic straw-burning apparatus appeared in the Near East, first in Roumania and Southern Russia and then Macedonia, Asia Minor, etc. The demand for straw-burning portable engines was considerable; and also for threshing machines, flour mills, chaff cutters, etc. Steam power in the agricultural fields was increasing, but again with restrictions in many districts. In most parts of the Near East the straw is as valuable to the farmer as the wheat itself; it forms the staple food of his animals, especially in winter. Hence most of the threshing machines for the Near East are ordered to be fitted with a straw-cutting and bruising apparatus, which is put into operation when coal or wood are obtainable, or when, on large estates, the straw is sufficient for burning as fuel, and for part of it to be cut and bruised for fodder; but for the average farmer or small holder the straw produced is hardly sufficient for fodder, and its use as fuel is out of the question. Thus, the utility of the steam engine, although considerably extended, presented serious drawbacks.

With the appearance of the oil engine, however, a new era may be said to have begun in the industrial and agricultural development of important regions throughout the Near East, which possesses some of the largest oil sources in the world. There are the great oilfields such as those between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, and in Roumania, producing millions of tons per annum, from which fields refined or crude oil can be cheaply distributed throughout the region, and there are numerous smaller services in various parts of the Near East which natives work, obtaining from them hundreds of tons of oil per annum. It is no wonder, therefore, that the oil engine has found such a splendid market throughout the Balkan States and the Levant. Its lightness and portability enable agriculturists and others engaged in industry to use it as a motive power in hilly and inland districts, where but a few years ago such a service would have been considered an impossibility. It may be interesting to British oil engine manufacturers who have not realised the importance of the Near Eastern markets to mention here that one agent sold in his district in the year before the war oil engines amounting to about 2,700 horse-power. With the exception of one of 900 horse-power for an electric light installation, and four or five of from 40 to 60 horse-power, and others were from 2 to 12 horse-power.

Mining in Trebizond.

Much has recently been written about Trebizond, the important district (or vilayet) of Asia Minor, on the south coast of the Black Sea, with an area of about 12,400 square miles, and a population of 1,200,000 before the war. It is a mountainous and afforested district, with much fertile land and considerable mineral wealth. The capital is Trebizond, on the Black Sea, which had a large trade and active industries. British manufacturers will find it a good market for agricultural machinery, hardware, and tools. There are numerous mineral deposits in this district, both near the coast and in the interior, and it is especially rich in copper. Silver-lead, zinc, iron, and manganese are also met with. The possibilities of the district appear to be known to British mining engineers, who have often visited the country. There are in the vilayet thirty-one mines, of which, however, owing to lack of capital, exhaustion of the veins, or low prices before the war, only four were being worked. A British company was carrying on research work at a group of mines near Tireboli, but the war interrupted their work. There is a silver-lead mine at Araland, between Off and Surmeneh, which is said to be rich and has been worked.

Developments in Bohemia.

Motor ploughs were not made in Austria before the war, but now it is reported that several firms in the newly created countries will manufacture them. In Bohemia it is proposed to produce agricultural machinery on a large scale for export to the East. The prospects of these industries, however, depend largely on the supply of iron and coal. At present there is a great scarcity of iron, and it appears that application for the release of that metal for the purpose of machinery export have been in most cases refused.

Paper Driving Belts.

Driving belts are very dear, and with the scarcity of leather great inconvenience is experienced in factories in the Near East, in some of which machines are kept idle for want of driving belts. It may be a consolation, and perhaps be of use, to those who experience the need of belting, to know that paper belts have been used in Germany. The paper of which they are made is cut into narrow bands which are then spun. The belts are made by weaving or braiding. Woven paper belts are of two kinds—paper fabric and paper thread belts, the former being the more frequently used. The fabric is first cut into bands forty metres long, and the bands are subsequently made up according to the desired width and thickness. A core of strengthening material is interposed, either of cotton or sheet metal, though recently these cores have consisted of paper thread and metal wires interwoven. The core is surrounded with the paper strips and the whole sewn with strong thread. Belts so prepared are said to be very flexible and to wear satisfactorily.

EMPIRE SUGAR PRODUCTION

In the Preliminary Report of the Empire Sugar Supply (Technical) Committee, submitted by Mr. Arthur R. Ling on July 16 at the annual meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry, over which Lord Denbigh presided, there are some interesting facts given regarding sugar production in India and the Near East. Of India the report states that it was at one time the largest producer of sugar of any country in the world, but so far as statistics show at the present time it occupies a second place in the list, Cuba coming first. However, it must not be forgotten that statistics in British India are by no means complete, whilst those of the Indian states are still less so; consequently, much of the sugar which is produced and consumed by the Indians is unrecorded. The area under sugar-cane and sugar-yielding palms for the season 1916-1917 was estimated to be as follows:—Sugar-cane, 2,437,000 acres; palms, 175,000 acres. The cane was estimated to produce 2,626,000 tons of gur, and the palms 400,000 tons of gur, a yield of 0.92 tons and 2.28 tons per acre, respectively. These figures have, however, little significance, for the present small holdings will have to be converted into centralised estates if any real improvements are to be effected in India as regards increasing the yield and quality of the sugar. With regard to the future development of sugar cultivation in Ceylon, it may be said that fully two-thirds of the island receives less than 75 inches of rain per annum, and the cultivation could only be carried out in the dry area with irrigation, especially when it is remembered that the greater part of the rainfall falls within the months of the north-east monsoon season. Of Cyprus the report states that up to the middle of the sixteenth century it was one of the principal producers in the Levant of cane sugar, but no attempt has been made in recent years to revive the industry. It is believed, however, that beet could be successfully grown in the island, and within the last year or so inquiries have been made from two different sources as to whether the Government could grant monopolies for the manufacture in the island of sugar (a) from beet, and (b) the carob bean. In regard to Egypt, there is no suitable land available for the extension of the sugar industry, but, should the remaining basins of Upper Egypt be converted to perennial irrigation, a considerable area will be available. From the Sudan no information has been received, but it appears that, with irrigation, there should be a possibility of establishing a sugar industry.

A sum of £E400,000 has been allocated in this year's Egyptian Budget for the enlarging of the Suez Docks. The total amount necessary for the completion of the work is £E650,000, of which £E200,000 has already been spent.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Poor Outlook for Yugoslav Crops.

Effects of a Wet Spring.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, July 8.

After a long wet spring, the hot weather has set in, but too late, for the unceasing rains of April and May have done enormous damage to crops throughout the country. The Bosnian plum crop, the value of which averages about eighteen million dinars a year, is reported ruined, and grain has suffered proportionately, especially maize, which is very backward. But even if the plum crop has been a bumper one, it is difficult to see how the Bosniaks could have drawn much benefit from it under present conditions. In past years the Bosnian, and the equally valuable Serbian, plum crop was exported bodily to Budapest, where it was sorted, picked, and re-packed, and placed on the European market through Hamburg. Many of the Carlsbad plums consumed in England grew in Serbia, but the homely producers had no knowledge of the value and art of packing. The pekmez, a kind of crude plum jam, an evil-looking black paste, was exported to America, whence it was re-exported, after proper preparation, as plum and other jams.

Egypt's Winter Crops.

"It has become clear," says the *Bassir's* correspondent at Itar-el Baroud, "that this year's winter crops are very bad. The cornfields where the Hindi variety of wheat is cultivated will hardly produce a quantity equivalent to the quantity of seeds sown therein. As for the Baladi wheat, this has not been touched by untoward factors; but the Hindi was sown in larger areas by most of cultivators this year. In such districts as the sandy lands of Kafr Daoud, Khatatiba, the Nubarieh Canal, etc., the Indian wheat cultivation is good, because these places are not exposed to the effects of dampness."

The final memorandum on India's winter oilseeds (rape, mustard and linseed) crop of 1918-19 issued by the Department of Statistics states that the total area under rape and mustard is reported to be 4,833,000 acres, which is 32 per cent. below the finally revised area of last year. The total estimated yield is 758,000 tons, as against 1,153,000 tons, the revised final figure of last year, or a decrease of 34 per cent.

This year's Greek fig crop is estimated in an American Consular report at 25,000,000 lb. The yield of 1918 was above the average of recent years by between 2,000,000 lb. and 3,000,000 lb.

THE ALEPPO BOURSE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Perhaps the term "Bourse" is a complimentary misnomer when applied to the seat of Exchange in Aleppo. One's pre-conceived ideas of a Bourse (which, the dictionary tells us, is the French name for an exchange) picture a stately hall, upon the floor of which members are gathered in excited knots bargaining for stocks and shares in accordance with certain rules and regulations. The Aleppo Bourse is, in reality, a "street market," free to all comers, and, as far as one can see, governed by no rules or regulations. As one enters the bazaar by the vegetable market, threading one's way through the kaleidescopic crowd, and dodging at intervals donkeys laden with cabbages, beetroot, or lettuce, or strings of disdainful camels, one may happen to glance down a side alley and catch a glimpse of a heterogeneous crowd crowned by a sea of tarbooshes. Turning down this side alley one arrives at the outskirts of an orderly and quiet crowd which has taken up its stand at four cross roads, under a dome considerably higher than the rest of the bazaar. This, one will be informed by one's guide, is the Aleppo Bourse; here, should the highness wish to, he may exchange some of those Egyptian notes for Turkish gold, wherewith to buy that beautiful Shiraz carpet (made in Aleppo—or was it Naples?) which the highness so much admired. If you should be foolish enough to be prevailed upon to exchange money or dabble in doubtful securities, you will be introduced to an exchange merchant, or broker, who will conduct you to his "office" near by—a box-like aperture in the wall, raised some two feet from the ground, after the manner of all the shops in the bazaar. You will be invited to take a seat on a stool—the inevitable coffee and cigarettes will be produced, and then will commence the eternal haggle which is the very breath of life of the Eastern. It is not to be supposed that all bargains are concluded in this leisurely manner; mingle with the crowd of merchants, bankers, and money-changers, and you'll hear prices being quoted and bargainings on all sides, but in a half-hearted way. It was a dull and lifeless market in those days—the writer is speaking of last February—and well it might be, after four years of war, which were practically four years of siege. Although Syria had then been occupied four months by the Allies, the road to Allied markets was not yet open, and the same old securities were changing hands. The following is a list of the principal securities, giving their prices on the Aleppo Bourse over a period of two months:—

Figures in Turkish Pounds Gold.
(L.TI. Gold = 130 Silver Piastres.)

—	Amount	Jan 16	Jan 24	Jan 30	Feb. 3	F'b 12
Egyptian Notes	£E100	85	86	86	85	81
English Notes	£100	82	83	83	82	77
Japanese 4½ % (Tobacco Monopoly)	£100	64	63	60	58	50
Argentine Ext. (5% 1898)	£100	63	61	61	59	50
Argt. Internal (5% Pesos)	£100	60	58	56	54	47
Egypt. Unifié	£E100	68	65	63	61	60
Turc Unifié ..	£100	39	38	38	35	33
Lots Turc	240 frs.	5	5	5	4¾	4½
Francs Notes	2000 frs.	63	63	63	—	—
Ottoman Notes	£T450	100	100	—	100	100
Dollars	$100	15·30	15	15½	15	15·50
Marks	100 mks	2·	1·80	1·57	1·32	2·10
Austrian Couronnes	100 kr.	1·35	1·20	0·94	1·15	1·10
Roubles	100 rbls.	2·88	2·62	—	3·05	3

It is interesting, also, to note the comparative prices of some of those stock in Constantinople and Aleppo in early January and early February:—

Constantinople Prices in Turkish Paper.
(£100 T. Gold = £450 Turkish Paper.)

—	Constantinople.	Aleppo.
Lots Turcs 400 frs.	L. 15 T. paper	L. 5 T. gold
Turc Unifié £100..	L. 150 T. paper	L. 38 T. gold
English Notes (£100)	L. 320 T. paper	L. 82 T. gold
Japanese 4½%	L. 250 T. paper	L. 62 T. gold
Tobacco monopoly 2,000 Francs Notes	L. 250 T. paper	L. 63 T. gold
Mark Paper	6 P. T. paper	2—2⅜ P.T. silver
Austrian Couronnes Paper	4 P. T. paper	1⅜—1⅝ P.T. silver
Roubles	8 P. T. paper	2¼—3½ P.T. silver
Early February—		
Lots Turcs.....	L. 23 T. paper	L. 4½ T. gold
Turc Unifié	L. 170 T. paper	L. 30 T. gold
English Notes	L. 405 T. paper	L. 72 T. gold
Japanese 4½%	L. 282 T. paper	L. 49 T. gold
Tobacco monopoly 2,000 Francs Notes	L. 300 T. paper	L. 53 T. gold
Argentine Exterior 5% Loan, L. 100	L. 262 T. paper	L. 49 T. gold
Argentine Interior 5% Loan (Pesos), L. 100	L. 245 T. paper	L. 46 T. gold

Some of the above foreign paper money is, according to the Cairo Correspondent of this paper, finding its way to Cairo since all restrictions have been removed. Much of it, especially the Austrian banknotes, were doubtless collected, as the correspondent suggests, purposely for the financial market. During the war it was necessary for the Central Powers to establish their credit with gold, but once they had won the war they would doubtless have attempted to collect and withdraw as much gold as possible and force the Syrian to take their paper currency. Had their ambitions been realised, these large quantities of paper would have been on hand, "according to plan."

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The returns of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended July 3 were:—cattle markets £200, general markets £250, total £450, total for year £31,451. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918 ended July 4 were:—cattle markets £338, general markets £513, total £851, total for year £28,011.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA.

New Issue of Shares.

The directors of the Bank of British West Africa have issued a circular stating that they have under consideration the desirability of opening additional branches, and further capital will be required to prepare for this and for the expansion of the bank's existing business. It has, therefore, been decided to issue the remaining unissued capital of the bank, 55,000 shares, of £10 each, and to call up the sum of £4 per share thereon. The directors felt that it would further strengthen the bank's position if, concurrently with this increase of capital, they could establish close relations with one of the leading London banks. With this object the board have arranged with Lloyds Bank Limited, to take 15,000 of these shares, £4 per share paid, at £7 5s. per share. Lloyds Bank have, with the approval of the board, also acquired by private treaty 15,000 of the existing shares. The control of the bank and of its policy will remain, as heretofore, in the hands of the board, and the directors are satisfied that the acquisition by Lloyds Bank of a shareholding interest in this bank, will prove of assistance to the bank in its development. Mr. J. W. Beaumont Pease, Deputy Chairman of Lloyds Bank, has joined the board of the bank, and the Chairman, the Earl of Selborne, K.G., G.C.M.G., has accepted a seat on the board of Lloyds Bank. The 40,000 shares of £10 each remaining unissued are now offered to shareholders registered on the books of the bank at the date of the circular, in the proportion of one new share for every four at present held, at the issue price of £6 per share, of which £4 will represent the amount to be paid up on each share, and the remaining £2 will be premium. The premium on the 40,000 new shares and on the 15,000 shares allotted to Lloyds Bank Limited, will be added to the reserve. Any shares not allotted will be taken at the issue price of £6 by Lloyds Bank Limited. Letters of renunciation are issued. Payments for shares will be required as follows:—£3 being £1 per share and £2 premium with acceptance; £3 per share on October 31, 1919. Interest at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum will be allowed upon pre-payment of the amount due on October 31. Shares issued on the terms of the circular will rank for dividend on the full amount of £4 per share as from October 1, 1919.

NEW COMPANIES.

Indian Peninsula Rubber and Tea Estates, Ltd.

The Indian Peninsular Rubber and Tea Estates, Ltd., was registered as a private company on June 16 with a capital of £155,000 in £1 shares.

Union Cotton.

Among new Egyptian companies is the Union Cotton Co., of Alexandria, which has a capital of £E100,000 in £50 shares. Its objects are to undertake all commercial operations, more particularly the purchase and sale, the importation and exportation of cotton and cottonseed, direct or for a third party, and also commercial transactions abroad or in Egypt, in cotton goods.

During April last 39 joint stock companies were registered in India, with an aggregate authorised capital of about Rs.184 lakhs, as against 26 companies with a capital of Rs.114 lakhs in the corresponding month of the preceding year.

According to a Bolshevist message, over 350,000 acres in Turkestan have been sown with cotton this year.

A temporary increase of 20 per cent. has been made on all port dues levied at Tunis, Scusse, and Sfax.

An Egyptian paper states that all steamers under the control of the Ministry of Public Works which are now working by coal will be worked in the future by petrol.

The British India trade returns for May show that the imports have increased by £2,509,000, and that the exports have decreased by £176,000 as compared with last year.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

MANCHESTER, WEDNESDAY.

Owing to the settlement of the strike the spinning mills and weaving sheds have got to work again, and it is hoped it will be a long time before industrial matters trouble us again. The tone of the market has been very strong, prices in all quarters being dearer than a week ago. Most spinners and manufacturers have been quite indifferent as to booking fresh orders, as their engagements are extensive. No particular change can be recorded in Egyptian cotton prices. Crop advices vary somewhat, but on the whole the plants seem to be doing rather better, there being reports of warmer weather which is favourable for the growth. More money has had to be paid for Egyptian yarns, especially the finer counts. An active demand has been experienced. An encouraging inquiry has been met with in piece goods for Egypt, and the Near East generally. Buyers have resisted somewhat the higher prices which have had to be paid, but there is a feeling that values have not yet touched the top. India and China have given encouraging support in standard makes and fancies. It is a long time since manufacturers as a body were in such a strong position, and for anything wanted full prices have had to be paid. There has been some improvement in the off-take in shipping yarns. More trade has been done for European countries and the outlets of the Levant. India has also purchased bundles on a very fair scale. American counts for home use have stiffened in price with a steady business.

RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT IN BURMA.

The Government of Burma (says the *Board of Trade Journal*) has decided to encourage the development of railway communication by the adoption of the general British policy in the case of colonies—that in a country with a generally scanty population and no towns of considerable importance, strategic points on frontiers and general trade routes, etc., should be linked up. It is thus calculated to develop the country by first establishing the lines of communication—a policy for which, according to opinion in British India, there is ample scope also in British India itself, where, it is pointed out, the construction of feeder lines to the main lines on a wholesale scale should be prosecuted. The conditions for railway development in British India and Burma are very different from those in Australia and Canada, where large areas of useful land—arable, forest, or mineral—are opened up by railways regardless of the uninhabited condition of the country. The assumption that rich territory, once opened up by means of communication, will find its own development is an axiom which, in the case of European populations, never fails. Conditions in India are different, in that the population, even when not apathetic, requires both education and capital, and the railways, therefore, hesitate to launch out in the matter of undeveloped areas, although these areas may urgently require means of communication for purposes of development.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates: July 1 and 2, 500,000 francs against 250,000 francs; July 3, 360,000 francs against 240,000 francs; July 4, 340,000 francs against 370,000 francs.

The Bombay Government has appointed a Committee to arrange for the establishment of a Nautical Institute for the training of Indian merchant seamen.

For the four months ended April the Ceylon Customs returns show a net increase of Rs.5,21,886 in the revenue collected. There was, however, a net decrease of Rs.2,26,817 in the revenue for April itself.

The death took place suddenly at his residence, Woolton Vale, Liverpool, on July 12, at the age of 85, of Mr. Robert Gladstone, J.P., a freeman of the city, and a partner from 1862 to 1900 in the firm of Ogilvy, Gillanders and Co., said to be the oldest trading house in the East India trade.

COMPANY MEETING.

CYPRUS OIL TRUST.

The New Properties.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Cyprus Oil Trust, Limited, was held on July 11 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. Mr. T. Bremner presided.

The secretary (Mr. F. A. Baird) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: The main object of the meeting is to increase the capital of the company to £75,000 by the creation of 550,000 new shares of 2s. each, ranking pari passu with the existing shares, and I will now give you some further details of the board's policy in the near future and the oil properties proposed to be acquired. The shareholders were notified early in March last of the position with regard to this company's properties in Cyprus, to explore and develop which this company was formed. Briefly, our interests there are for the time being in the hands of the Colonial Office. Our oil rights there were given up by us on the understanding that a large and influential oil group, who, by arrangement with the Colonial Office, will send out oil experts to explore the Island of Cyprus for oil, have agreed with us that, should discoveries at depth prove oil to exist in payable quantities in Cyprus, and a separate company to work them be formed, shareholders in this company would be given an opportunity to participate in the issue of capital in the separate company on the same terms as the group themselves. This being the case, your directors have in the interests of the shareholders made it their business to look around for other spheres of enterprise more immediately available, and they are glad to be able to put some facts before the shareholders to-day with regard to the proposed new acquisitions in Bulgaria and Roumania.

Oil Lands near Dedeagatch.

Part of the fresh capital proposed will be required, as stated in the circular issued to shareholders, to satisfy the consideration payable for 1,000 acres of oil lands in Bulgaria near the seaport of Dedeagatch, reported on by Dr. Arthur Wade, B.Sc., F.G.S., etc. This property is situated near the village of Balikeui, five miles to the north-west of the town of Feregik, in Western Turkey, and the area will be selected on what is called the chess-board system; that is, we take, with the Anglo-Bulgarian Oilfields Company, alternate blocks of, say, 25 acres up to 1,000 acres in all. Dr. Wade is a well-known oil expert, and is now the official oil expert to the Commonwealth Government of Australia. In his report he states that the district is chiefly occupied by beds of older tertiary age, consisting of huminulitic limestones underlain by red and green clays and a series of soft sandstones and conglomerates, with occasional seams of blue clay, with some gypsum. This lower series smells most strongly of petroleum in two or three places where exposed, and strong emanations of petroleum gas come from shallow holes put down in these beds. Petroleum-bearing sands are present in the area, and are capped by limestones and clays, and are folded into anticlines. The main anticline is broken, but the subsidiary anticline presents strong possibilities of oil in bulk. The oil should occur at no great depth from the surface, and Dr. Wade advises a preliminary borehole by means of light boring plant to test the area. Everything necessary for the work exists on the spot, such as food, labour, coal, and water, and an important French colliery is about 25 miles east of the property, while the main railway line from Salonika to Constantinople runs through the property, and the seaport of Dedeagatch is some seven miles to the south.

The Roumanian Property.

The other property we propose acquiring is in respect of oil rights over what we believe to be very valuable oil properties in Roumania, extending to 2,500 acres. The directors consider themselves fortunate in having been able to secure the contract with Mr. Bertie Maw for these Roumanian properties. This gentleman has had many years experience of oil in Roumania, and the 2,500 acres which this company are proposing to acquire from him are proved oil-bearing properties situated in the well-known Tazlau Valley district of Bacau, Roumania. The properties will eventually be held direct from the proprietors by definite acts of concession at a very nominal rental, approximately £30 per annum, and they will, when oil production actually begins, be held on a royalty basis for 20 years, the royalty being 8 per cent. on the oil extracted, while this company will have the right to renew the lease for a second period of 20 years on a royalty basis of 10 per cent. on the oil extracted from the properties, this royalty being payable in both cases in money or in kind. The properties, as I have said, cover approximately 2,500 acres, and were taken up by Mr. Maw and carefully selected by him in three separate lots, on the recommendation of Mr. Lewis Hamilton, the well-known oil expert. The anticline is stated to run through the whole of the Tazlau Valley, and it is a theory of experts that it is a continuation of the Galician anticline.

The three properties are immediately north of the Steaua Romana Company's properties, through which a pipe-line runs to Moineste, which is the nearest station, and where oil is pumped into railway tanks and transported over the State Railway to the refinery.

The valley of the Tazlau is now recognised as a very rich oil-producing district. Much work has been done here, and it is stated that all the bore-holes sunk in this valley are giving satisfactory results. Mr. Maw has such confidence in the property as an oil producer that he has agreed to accept the bulk of the purchase price in shares at a premium of 100 per cent., which is the price at which they will be offered to the shareholders. With regard to drilling for oil, the country is sandstone, and, though somewhat hard to drill, the cost is very moderate. It is reckoned that an expenditure of some £12,000 would bring four producing wells into profitable production. The upper petroleum layers give excellent results, but the deeper layers have been found to be very rich in petroleum and the quality of the raw material is very good.

Our share capital, when increased, will even then be a very modest one of £75,000, and we shall have a large portion of this in reserve for the future purposes of the company. It is proposed to offer only 100,000 of the new shares in the first instance to the shareholders as soon as possible, and the proceeds will be ample for all the present requirements of the company.

The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the resolutions.

Mr. D. G. Spiro seconded the resolutions, which were carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

Cotton By-Products, Ltd., is exhibiting a cottonseed defibrating machine at the British Scientific Products Exhibition, Central Hall, Westminster. On July 23 Mr. E. C. de Segundo will give a lecture on "How the cotton provides us with foodstuffs and other commodities besides clothing" in Committee Room B of the Central Hall, and at the close of the lecture an adjournment will be made to the company's exhibit, and a demonstration will be given of the machine in operation.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

EGYPT.—ALBERT J. HALFON.—P.O. Box No. 1182.—ALEXANDRIA, British Agent, in touch for twenty years with the best clients of Egypt. Complete and unique organisation (also for visiting the provinces). Highest references. Would like to secure serious REPRESENTATIONS. Correspondence invited.

MESSRS. T. S. BOUTAGY and SONS of Palestine and Syria can export specialities of these countries and wish to represent shipping firms as well as maritime and fire insurance companies, and import English articles into these countries.—Address, T. S. BOUTAGY & SONS, Haifa, Palestine.

ROUMANIA.—S. N. Iancovici, Bucharest, Str. Academiei 6, desires to obtain English agencies. English correspondence. First-class references.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Mortgage Company of Egypt.

The report of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, Limited, for the year ended March 31 states that, after providing for interest on the 4½ per cent. first charge debentures and on temporary loans, and applying a sum of £10,038 9s. 1d. in the aggregate in writing down the value of the freehold premises of the company in Cairo, the property acquired by foreclosure, the instalments in arrear, and in making further provision for bad debts, the accounts show a profit for the year of £83,777 9s. 6d. Deducting the amount of the dividend paid and accrued on the 5 per cent. preferred shares to March 31—viz., £50,000—there remains a balance of £33,777 9s. 6d. Adding the amount brought forward from last year's account, £34,472 16s. 8d., there is available for distribution a total sum of £68,250 6s. 2d., which the directors propose to allocate as follows :—(1) To payment of a dividend of 8 per cent., being 2s. per share on the amount paid up on the ordinary shares, £20,000; (2) to general reserve, £10,000; (3) towards writing off the discount and expenses of the debenture issues, £2,800—£32,800; leaving a balance to be carried forward to the next account of £35,450 6s. 2d. The economic situation in Egypt during the period covered by this report continued to improve, and the payments by the company's clients were well maintained, with the result that the instalments in arrear have been reduced from £220,279 to £171,163. The board have, therefore, thought it unnecessary to make such large provision as last year for losses; but they have set aside £8,500 for writing down the cost price of property acquired by foreclosure, for writing off a portion of the instalments in arrear, and for making further provision for bad debts. They further propose to increase the general reserve to £180,000 by adding thereto a sum of £10,000. The disturbances which took place in the spring of this year interfered for a time with the normal course of business. It may be hoped, however, that confidence will at no distant date be completely restored. The board have appointed Sir Henry Paul Harvey, K.C.M.G., C.B., as a director to fill the vacancy occasioned by the retirement of Joseph Mosseri Bey. Under the articles of association, this appointment terminates at the general meeting, but Sir Henry Paul Harvey, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. Colonel the Hon. Sidney Peel, D.S.O., M.P., Mr. T. A. F. Critchley, and Sir William E. Garstin, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., directors of the company, retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co., the auditors, retire, and offer themselves for re-appointment. Meeting, Wednesday, July 23, at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C.4, 12 o'clock noon.

Bank of British West Africa, Ltd

The report of the Bank of British West Africa for the year ended March 31 states that after providing for current charges, rebate on bills, also bad and doubtful debts, there remains a net profit of £83,767 9s. 3d. to which must be added £21,612 14s. 10d., brought forward from last year, making a total of £105.380 4s. 1d. Of this sum £20,300, being 3½ per cent. for the six months to the end of September, has already been distributed in interim dividend, and the directors now recommend the payment of a final dividend of 4½ per cent. for the second half year, together with a bonus of one per cent. absorbing a further sum of £31,900, making the distribution for the year 8 per cent. dividend and one per cent. bonus, less income tax. £10,000 has been applied to writing down premises and furniture account, £3,000 has been added to the staff fund, £5,000 to the bank's insurance fund, and £12,500 to reserve, bringing the reserve fund up to £250,000. The balance of £22,680 4s. 1d. is carried forward. The investments held stand in the books of the bank at less than their market value as on March 31. The Grand Bassam (Ivory Coast) branch was closed, and new branches at Marrakech (Morocco), and Alexandria (Egypt), were opened, during the year. Mr. J. W. Beaumont Pease, deputy chairman of Lloyds Bank, Limited, has joined the board of this bank. The directors retiring by rotation are the Earl of Selborne, K.G., G.C.M.G., Mr. W. F. Moore, and Mr. O. Harrison Williams, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. A resolution will be submitted to alter Article No. 71, so that the number of directors shall not be less than five nor more than fourteen, as against the present maximum of ten, and a resolution fixing the remuneration of directors will also be submitted. The auditors of the bank, Messrs. Harmood Banner and Son, offer themselves for re-election. The warrants for the final dividend and bonus will, subject to the adoption of this report, be posted to the shareholders on July 23. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., July 23, noon.

Upper Egypt Hotels.

The report of the Upper Egypt Hotels Co., Ltd., for the year ended March 31, shows the net trading profit on hotels of £E4,414,655. The expenditure, with the debenture interest, etc., amounted to £E7,535.716, and total receipts were £E6,569.894, leaving a loss for the year of £E965.822.

Anglo-Ceylon.

The accounts of the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Company for the year ended March 31 show a profit, including the sum brought forward, and after deducting debenture interest, of £159,203. An interim dividend of 10 per cent. was paid in January, 1919, absorbing £25,000, but of this 5 per cent. should be considered as result of previous year's working. The directors recommend a final dividend of 20 per cent., making 30 per cent. for year, and that £14,600 be set aside for redemption of the 4½ per cent. debentures due to be paid off in October, 1920, £10,000 to reserve fund, leaving £59,603 to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty for 1918-19.

Galaha Ceylon Tea.

The report of the Galaha Ceylon Tea Estates and Agency Company for 1918 states that gross profit, including balance brought forward and after providing £750 for depreciation of machinery, is £21,004. From this has to be deducted interest on debentures at 6 per cent. per annum £2,820, dividends on preference shares at 6 per cent. per annum £3,600, and London charges £875, leaving £13,709. An interim dividend of 5 per cent. was paid on ordinary shares, absorbing £2,500. The directors propose to pay a final dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares (making 15 per cent., free of tax), absorbing £5,000, to place £2,000 to reserve, and carry forward £4,209.

Pabbojan Tea.

The report of the Pabbojan Tea Company for 1918 states that the profit is £44,901; add dividends on investments £359, interest earned in London £755, and interest earned in Calcutta £953, adding balance brought forward £64,171, and deducting excess profits duty paid on account of 1917 £12,401, balance of income-tax account 1918 £4,670, and commission paid to staff on balance of 1916 profit £579, leaves £93,489. Two interim dividends of 6½ per cent., less income-tax, have been paid, absorbing £7,410, income-tax thereon at 5s. 9d. in the £, £2,980. The directors recommend a final dividend at the rate of 12 per cent., less tax, making 25 per cent., £6,840; income-tax thereon at 5s. 9d. in the £, £2,760, and a bonus of 10 per cent., or 2s. per share, less tax, £5,700; income-tax thereon at 5s. 9d. in the £, £2,300. The directors propose to carry to reserve fund the amount of two calls on the company's 10,000 shares in the Glen Lorna Tea Company, making those shares fully paid, £2,500, and to add to the fund for permanent buildings, coolies, etc., £5,000, leaving to be carried forward £57,989, subject to excess profits duty.

Balijan.

The report of the Balijan Tea Company for 1918 states that the crop account shows a profit of £7,566; add additional profit made on account of 1917, £206, and amount brought forward, £17,719, making £25,492; less excess profits duty for 1917, £1,391; interim dividend of 6 per cent., £1,496; income-tax thereon at 5s. 9d. in the £, £604; leaving £22,001. The directors recommend payment of a final dividend of 14 per cent., less income-tax, making 20 per cent., £3,491; income-tax thereon at 5s. 9d. in the £, £1,409; leaving to be carried forward £17,101, subject to excess profits duty on account of 1918, if any, and also an amount payable on additional profit for 1917.

East Indian Tea.

The report of the East Indian Tea and Produce Company for 1918 states that the expenditure amounted to £7,240. The profit was £11,867 Deducting £989 debit balance brought forward, debenture and other interest and debenture trustees' fees, £10,855, there remains to be carried forward £22.

Imperial Tea.

The report of the Imperial Tea Company for 1918 states that there is a profit of £57,568. Adding the balance brought forward, £3.778; sundry adjustments, season 1917, £736; and excess profits duty recovered for 1917, £16,469, gives a total of £78,551; from which has to be deducted income-tax, £16,754; garden managers' commission, £3,094; debenture interest, £5,454; preference dividend (six months to June 30, 1918), £3,000; amount written off for depreciation of machinery, £2.000; leaving a balance for disposal of £48,249, out of which the directors propose first interim ordinary dividend of 4 per cent., less tax, £10,486; to add to reserve account (bringing it up to £100,000), £10,000; extra remuneration to directors, £845; preference dividend for six months to December 31 (already paid), £3.000; and recommend that a final dividend of 6 per cent., less tax (making 10 per cent. for the year) be paid on the ordinary shares, £15,730; leaving to be carried forward (subject to addition of excess profits duty, recoverable for 1918), £8,186.

Highland Tea.

The report of the Highland Tea Company of Ceylon for 1918 states that, after payment of all charges, the net profit amounts to £3.244, to which has to be added the amount brought forward, £1,669, less paid for excess profits duty for 1917, £954, giving a total of £3.959. It is proposed to allocate to interim dividend of 4 per cent., paid in November, £1,280; final dividend of 5 per cent. (making 9 per cent. for the year), £1,600; depreciation of buildings and machinery, £500; carry forward, £579. Income-tax will be deducted at 5s. 9d. in the £.

Bambrakelly.

The report of the Bambrakelly (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Company for the year ended March 31 states that the net profit amounts to £3,843, to which has to be added the amount brought forward, £3,544; also amount refunded in respect of excess profits duty paid, £1 160, making a total of £8,548. Deducting contribution to war charities, £105, the capital expenditure for the year, £808, and the interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid February, £4,000, leaves available £3,635. The directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of 3 per cent. (making 8 per cent. for the year, less tax), £2,400, leaving to be carried forward £1,235. The company will have a claim for the return of a proportion of the excess profits duty paid by them of approximately £4,000.

Ceylon (Para).

The report of the Ceylon (Para) Rubber Company for 1918 shows a surplus of £18,303. After sundry adjustments, including payment of excess profits duty for 1917, amounting to £21,253, and writing off income-tax account £3,766, the balance amounts to £23,573. From this falls to be deducted bonus to European staff (£1,000), interim dividend of 7½ per cent., less income-tax (£5,250), leaving £17,323. It is now proposed to pay a final dividend of 20 per cent., less income-tax, making 27½ per cent. for the year (£14,000), and to carry forward £3,323, to which may be added amount repayable in respect of excess profits duty, which the directors estimate to amount to about £1,900.

New Sylhet Tea.

The report of the New Sylhet Tea Estates for 1918 states that the profit is £8,886, balance brought forward £4,812, interest £365. After paying income-tax, debenture interest, preference dividend, commission and bonus, £3,490, placing to general reserve account £1,000, there remains £9,573. An interim dividend of 5 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary shares, £700. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares, £2,100, and to carry forward £6,773.

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COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The directors of the Victoria Jute Company announce an interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent., payable August 1.

The directors of the Sannuggur Jute Factory announce an interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent., payable August 1.

A general meeting of the Société d'électricité d'Odessa wil be held at the company's offices, 158 rue Royale, Brussels on July 31.

The directors of the Titaghur Jute Company announce an interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent., less tax, payable August 1.

In order to provide more working capital, the directors of the East India and Ceylon Tea Company have applied to the Treasury for permission to issue the balance of the ordinary shares.

The Bank of Madras has declared a dividend for the half-year ended June 30, 1919, of 10 per cent., with a bonus of 2 per cent. 395,488 rupees are carried forward and one lakh of rupees is transferred to the reserve.

Hutti (Nizam's) Gold Mines.—An extraordinary meeting will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on July 23, at noon, for the purpose of submitting resolutions as to the future policy of the company.

Coupons and drawn bonds of the Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway Three per Cent. Bonds, due on July 15, 1919, will be paid on and after that date at Messrs. R. Raphael and Son's offices, Austin Friars House, E.C.

The Bank of Bengal has declared for the past half-year a dividend at the rate of 14 per cent., together with a bonus of 3 per cent. per annum. Rs.5,00,000 have been transferred to the reserve and Rs. 5,51,000 carried forward.

The directors of the Bank of Bombay announce a dividend for the half-year of 15 per cent. per annum and a bonus of 4 per cent. per annum. Rs.5,00,000 is transferred to the reserve fund, Rs.50,000 to the pension fund, and Rs.433,898 is carried forward.

Empire of India Tea.—The directors of the Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Company have declared a final dividend on ordinary shares of 3s. 9d., less tax at 5s. 9d. in the £ payable August 1, making with the interim dividend of 9d. per share a total of 22½ per cent. for the year 1918.

Anglo-Persian Oil.—Transfer books in respect of 2,000,000 Cumulative 6 per Cent. Participating Preference shares (issues 1909, 1911 and 1918), will be closed from July 17 to 30, inclusive, for preparing dividend warrants payable July 31 for half-year ended March 31.

The directors of the Lunuva (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Estates have decided to issue 25,000 shares of £1 each at par, part of the unissued capital, in the first instance to shareholders, in the proportion of one new share for every seven shares held. The authorised capital is £250,000, of which 175,000 shares of £1 each are issued.

The accounts of the Rangalla Tea Company of Ceylon for 1918 show a profit of £3,652, to which must be added excess profits recovered for previous year £220. After deducting £500 for depreciation and adding £1,237 brought forward, the directors propose a final dividend of 5 per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year, to place £1,000 to general reserve and to carry forward £1,849.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Thursday.

We have had an active and rising market in Egyptian securities this week. Telegraphic communication with Egypt has much improved, and there has been a sustained demand from over there for Government stocks and for bank and land shares. Egyptian Unified have been in rather scanty supply, and very little business has been possible; the price finished half a point up at 85½. Some business was done in the 3½ per cent. Pref. at 72, but sellers are now asking half a point more.

In Bank shares Nationals have been in steady demand all the week, and close a quarter up at 21¼, but sellers are very scarce; and in Agricultural Banks, after a fair amount of business at 6¼, the price closes 1-16 firmer at 6 3-16. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have again improved ¼ to 18, and Land Banks are nearly ¼ higher at 7⅛.

In Land shares the feature has been the big rise in Béhéras, which are closing 1¾ up at 14¾. Business has been, however, on a very small scale, as there have been very few sellers. Aboukirs have risen 1s. to 24s. 6d., and Consolidated Lands are 3d. firmer at 3s. New Egyptians and Delta Lands have also been features, the former rising 3s. to 26s., and the latter 2s. 6d. to 16s. 3d. Foreign Trusts have appreciated 1s. to 15s. 6d., Gharbieh Lands are ⅛ firmer at 2⅜, and a fair amount of business has been transacted in Sidi Salems, which are closing 1-16 firmer at 2 7-16. In Sudan Plantations there was at one time a very sharp rise to 8¼, and then a relapse to 7½, the price closing 3-16 higher at 7⅞. Union Foncières have been exceptionally enquired for, but very little business has been possible, as here also there has been a great scarcity of sellers. The price closes 3-16 higher at 3⅝.

In Miscellaneous descriptions, Salt and Sodas are again ⅛ up at 3⅜.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptians, after rising to 6¼, are closing ¼ down at 5 13-16. Roumanian oil shares have been steady.

In Greek securities 81's and 84's are both about a point down at 74, and Rentes are nominally half a point lower at 54½. Some business has been done in Piræus-Athens-Peloponnessus 4½ per cent. bonds at about 68½.

INDIAN GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

The India Office has issued the following statement showing the form in which the balance of the gold standard reserve was held on June 30.—In India: Nil. In England: Cash placed by the Secretary of State for India in Council at short notice, £6,014,842; British and Colonial Government securities (value as on March 31, 1919). £26,812,421; British Government securities since purchased (cost price), £3,408,457; total £36,235,720.

An Italo-Caucasian bank, with £1,600,000 capital, has been established at Rome. It will have branches at Tiflis, Baku, and Grosny.

An assembly of merchants of the Baroda State was to be held this month at Baroda, when discussions relating to trade and commerce were to take place.

The Hon. Mr. W. E. Crum, of Messrs. Graham and Co., has been elected by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce as an additional member of the Imperial Legislative Council in place of the late Mr. W. A. Ironside.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated July 10:—

Good rain throughout except in extreme North-West.

Bombay cotton market irregular. Fully good Broach July-August quoted 594. Piece goods market.—Demand poor, but prices steady, and, with rain secured, demand likely to revive. Calcutta new jute crop fair; advancing prices. Preliminary forecast acreage, 2,749,120; weather most favourable. Hessian market dull, but steady. Sacking more interest and advancing prices.

DISTRESS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram from the Viceroy, dated July 11:—

Scarcity is reported from Sirajganj Sub-Division in Pabna district, and from two circles in Chittagong hill tracts of Bengal. Distress is generally slight in United Provinces, where prospects are improved owing to recent rains. No special developments elsewhere. Numbers relieved:—Bengal: relief works, 6,492; test works, 2,536; gratuitous relief, 20,039. Bihar and Orissa: relief works, 5,207; test works, 5,173; gratuitous relief, 25,648. Feudatory States of Orissa: report not received. United Provinces: test works, 17,362; gratuitous relief, 19,652. Rajputana: relief works, 884; test works, 4,853; gratuitous relief, 2,400. Ajmer Merwara: test works, 435; gratuitous relief, 408. Central India: relief works, 12,974; gratuitous relief, 11,275. Central Provinces: relief works, 12,173; test works, 9,811; gratuitous relief, 45,443. Bombay: relief works, 27,673; test works, 906; gratuitous relief, 94,756; dependants, 14,226; village works, 5,498. Madras: relief works, 52,592; test works, 1,848; gratuitous relief (incomplete figures), 85,279. Exportable surplus of Burma rice has exceeded expectations and reduction of shipments to India in next two months is unlikely.

In recent months an increasing demand for Japanese confectionery and cakes in India is reported.

The Indian gold output for June was 38,359 oz., a decrease of 249 oz. as compared with the total for May.

A notice has been published in the Casablanca papers contradicts rumours which have been current there to the effect that the export of barley and wheat would soon be allowed.

Mr. Nigel F. Paton, of Messrs. W. and A. Graham and Co., has been elected by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce as its representative on the Imperial Legislative Council in place of Mr. Malcolm N. Hogg, resigned.

The report of the Scottish Tea and Rubber Trust for the year ended May 31 states that profit, including £1,156 brought forward, and after providing for all expenses of management, directors' fees and bank interest, amounts to £11,368. From this there falls to be deducted the interim dividend of 3 per cent. paid, less tax, £2,625, leaving available £8,743, which the directors propose should be disposed of as follows, namely:—In payment of a further dividend of 9 per cent., less tax, making 12 per cent. for the year, £7,875, carrying forward £868.

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The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	July 9	July 16
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	82	82
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	85½
Do. Pref. 4 %, 1890	88	72	72½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	75	74
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	75	74
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	57½	57½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	55	54½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	73	73
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	65	65
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	66	66
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	64	64
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	86	86
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	83½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	82½	82½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6½	6⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17½	18
Bank of Athens	£2	72/6	72/6
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	8½	7½xr
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	7⅞	8½
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	76	76
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	12	—
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅝	9⅝	9½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	6⅝	7⅛
London County and Westminster	—	17	16½x
National Bank of Egypt	13½	21	21½
National Bank of India	43	52	52
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7½	7½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	87	—	—
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	101½	—	—
Pireus, Athens, etc.. Rail. 4½%..	90	68	68½
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Abeukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	23/6	24/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	3⅜	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	8½	13	14½
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	3/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	—	2/9	3/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/9	16/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	14/6	15/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2¼	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	25zd	26/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	2⅜	2⅞
Sudan Plantations	—	7⅞	7⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3⅛	3⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord	1⅛	23/6	23/6
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	⅜	3½	3⅜
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	6	6
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	4½	4½
Japanese 4½ % 1905 II. Series	90⅜	99	96⅜x
Chinese 4½ % 1898	92	81	80
,, 5 % 1896	101	91	90
Argentine 5% 1890	—	—	—
,, 5% 1907	—	87	—
OIL.			
Anglo-Egyptian B.	3	6⅛	5⅛
Anglo-Persian	1⅜	27/-	27/3
Anglo-Roumanian	—	—	—
Roumanian	1⅛	22/9	22/9
Traian (Roumanian)	—	13/-	12/7½

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON JULY 4.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	21½
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	102
,, ,, Div.	Frs.	146
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E	13⅜
,, priv.	L.E.	4⅜zd
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	151
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	18⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3½
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	5⅝
Bonded Stores	L.E.	14⅛
Unifiée	L.E.	87
Privilégiée		74
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7⅜zd
Nungovich Hotels	£	6⅛
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6⅞
,, ,, Fond.	£	450zd
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4⅞
,, Ord		119/9
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	19⅛
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	109
,, Jouissance	Frs.	177
Egyptian Markets		22/6
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	425
,, Div.	Frs.	345
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	317
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5⅞
Egyptian Salt and Soda		57/4½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	736
,, Fondateur	Frs.	990
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	427
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	304
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	283
United Lands	P.T.	4½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		3½

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Paid-up - £5,000,000

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The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 429.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The expectation that the arrival of the Bulgarian delegates in France implied an early announcement of the terms of the general settlement of the Near Eastern question is not likely to be realised. Turkey, or, more particularly, the future of Constantinople, is understood to be the obstacle. Signs are not wanting that the United States are no longer so emphatic in their refusal to mix themselves up with European politics, and would be prepared to consider the question of a mandate, provided the scope offered to them was wide enough. In other words, we may imagine a mandate over Constantinople alone would have no attraction for America, but she might take up the *rôle* if she were given control over, say, the whole of Turkey. In view of the admitted advantages of having the United States taking their share of the burden falling upon the Allied Powers as a result of the war, the Paris Conference will be tempted to postpone the question until the American Government is able to make up its mind definitely upon the subject. It will not be a matter for surprise, therefore, if the Turkish settlement is still further postponed.

If the American attitude is correctly represented, it would seem as if the acceptance or non-acceptance of a mandate might resolve itself entirely into a question of bargaining. The spectacle would not be very edifying, and we can hardly suppose that it would be the wish of the United States Government to modify the terms of peace imposed upon Turkey in order to increase the area to be placed under American jurisdiction. There is much to be said for committing Turkey to the care of a single mandatory Power; but, in view of the pledges already given by the Allies, there can be little doubt as to the main boundaries of the new Turkish State. The Arabs must be excluded from it, and for this reason the recognised limits of the Arab penetration to the north would mark also the southern frontier of America's sphere of control. The suggestion attributed to one influential American that the United States would be sure to consider a mandate much more "worth while" if it included Mesopotamia cannot have been intended seriously.

Some pregnant questions on the subject of Montenegro, which are reproduced elsewhere in this issue, were asked in the House of Commons last week by Mr. Ronald M'Neill. It was hardly to be expected that they could be answered fully; and Mr. Cecil Harmsworth made a candid appeal to Mr. M'Neill not to press the subject. We could wish that the very correct solicitude invariably shown by the British Government for foreign susceptibilities could occasionally be reciprocated. In regard to Montenegro, Great Britain has had to expose herself to the charge of being a party to the coercion of a small State, because she has been unwilling to take up a firm line on what is, after all, a very minor question, and one which, by no manner of means, could be made the subject of any real friction between ourselves and any of our Allies. But so long as our Allies know that Great Britain can be relied upon never to press a point to a definite issue, we shall continually find ourselves in a false position. The suggestion that the British Government feels very strongly on the subject of Montenegro, and must insist upon seeing fair play, must have secured instant respect, as it would have been supported by the logic of the position. If, as is confidently affirmed, the Montenegrins desire absorption in Serbia, there is no need for interference from outside. It is only necessary to leave them entirely to themselves, to have every Serbian soldier or *komitaji* withdrawn from the country, and to allow the wish of the majority to prevail. Such a course disarms the opposition of the minority, and insures that the political step taken at the wish of the majority does not leave the least justification for subsequent intrigue and unrest. Any other method of procedure spells trouble in the future.

Last Friday the situation in Asia Minor was under discussion by the Supreme Council in Paris, and—apparently as a result—it is announced that General Allenby is to take over supreme command of all troops, British, French, Greek, and Italian, in this area. There is a certain vagueness about this statement which is the reverse of reassuring. Reports regarding the situation are so confused that it would be unprofitable to comment upon them at any length; but, unless the Allies contemplate undertaking operations on a considerable scale against the Turks, it is difficult to see why General Allenby should be taken away from Egypt just now. If it is merely desired to stop the Turks from fighting the Greeks in the Smyrna region, it would probably suffice if France and Great Britain gave them clearly to understand that it would be to their own interests to do so, and at the same time guaranteed that they should receive fair play when the time came for their case to be dealt with in Paris.

The Sudan has sent a deputation of leading notables to this country for the purpose of congratulating the King on the victorious conclusion of the war, and of

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expressing the loyalty of the Sudanese, and their gratitude for benefits conferred by British administration. There can be no doubt that these expressions are as genuine as they are spontaneous, for throughout the war the Sudanese have shown themselves well content with their present lot, and when Egypt suddenly lost its head they refused to listen to the agitator, and gave solid proofs of their loyalty. Much of the credit for this state of affairs belongs to El Sayed Sir Ali Morghani, K.C.M.G., who heads the deputation now with us, who is a descendant of the Prophet, and the Principal Religious Notable of the Sudan. Other members of the deputation who have also done good service in the cause of peace are Sheikh Taweb Ahmed Hashim, M.B.E., Mufti of the Sudan; Sheikh Abul Ghasim Ahmed Hashim, President of the Board of Ulema; and Sayed Abderrahman Mohammed Ahmed, the son of the Mahdi.

An Imperial Irade has been issued confirming the sentences passed by the Court-martial upon Enver, Talaat and other ex-Ministers and leaders of the C.U.P., and Turkey has thus taken another step towards putting herself right in the eyes of the world. The path before her is, however, a long and difficult one; and having regard to all the circumstances of the case it is not surprising that the Cabinet should show a very strong desire to resign. In point of fact, it tendered its resignation last week, but it is still uncertain whether the Sultan will accept it. Meanwhile Mustapha Kiamil Pasha has brought upon himself a sentence of outlawry by refusing to obey an order to return to Constantinople, and has gone to Erzeroum. His intentions are not yet clear, but his action has caused some nervousness among the Armenians; and must further embarrass the Government. Another disquieting feature is the report that a plot against the Sultan has been discovered. If this be true, there will be little doubt regarding the source of the plot: the Sultan is known to be distinctly hostile to the C.U.P.; and that body has always regarded assassination as a legitimate method of removing those who fail to appreciate its own merits.

Our Belgrade Correspondent sends an account of celebrations in that city in honour of King Peter's Name Day. By his courage, his constancy, and his sharing of their troubles, the aged King has won not only the admiration but also the real affection of his people, just as the Prince Regent has won them by the same qualities added to his successful generalship; and the rejoicings in Belgrade will have been of a very hearty character. It is pleasant to know that on this occasion many of our countrymen were present, and that, having faced hardships and dangers together during the war, Serbs and Britons were able to enjoy together a well-earned hour of relaxation. It was, of course, much more than that: it was, in one way, the first opportunity for the Greater Serbia to mark its gladness at the realisation of its long dream. We hope that it was also an earnest of future friendship and understanding between the subjects of King Peter and ourselves.

The Afghan envoys for the negotiation of peace have arrived at Rawal Pindi, and the constitution of the party is regarded as indicating that the Ameer is desirous at least of making a real effort to come to terms. In a letter dated July 18, and addressed to the Viceroy, he expresses the hope that, "God willing, peace between the two friendly Powers will be established in the near future, and the honourable object of both parties will be attained." This appears to indicate a certain adaptability, and optimists will find the phraseology grateful and comforting. In view of past occurrences, however, it would seem safe not to indulge in any prophecy regarding events in which Aman Ullah Khan may play a part.

Indian public life is poorer by the death of Dr. T. Nair, the well-known medical practitioner, who had devoted his energies of late years to contesting the social and political supremacy of the Brahmins, and to asserting the claims of other classes of the population, particularly in the Presidency of Madras. This course of action inevitably aroused the hostility of ordinary politicians, who like to think of India as already a homogeneous nation, and Dr. Nair had enjoyed at least his fair share of abuse, but he was a stout fighter, and gave as hard blows as he received. He undoubtedly succeeded in making the Brahmin question a live issue, and one on which there can only be one decision so far as Englishmen are concerned, and now that he has fallen a victim to the disease by the study of which his professional reputation was established, we may hope that his fellow-countrymen will come to recognise the part he played in bringing India one stage on the long road she has to travel.

We have never been able to understand the reasons which prompted Dr. Nair's last public activity—the decision not to press the claims of non-Brahmins before the Southborough Committee. On the merits of the case it was unjustifiable, for even if we admit that the two Hindu members of the Committee were definitely hostile to those claims, there remained four Englishmen and a Moslem, men who were in no way pledged, and whose natural bias was, if anything, in their favour, while Dr. Nair had too much experience of practical politics to expect that any committee would be altogether impartial. Presumably the decision was governed by tactical considerations, and in any case the claims in question are assured of a hearing before the Joint Committee, strongly backed as they are by the Madras Administration, and to a great extent supported by the authority of the Government of India.

The question at issue is quite simple, though its solution is beset with difficulties. The Hindu population of Madras consists of 3½ per cent. of Brahmins, 18 per cent. of outcastes, and 78½ per cent. of the intermediate classes known collectively as non-Brahmins. If their communal interests were to be recognised in the Legislative Council, the preponderance of the non-Brahmins ought to be overwhelming, and it is clear that on any democratic theory of government they should be able to impose their views, if unanimous, upon the province as a whole. The Brahmins, however, have added astute organisation to the social and spiritual ascendancy conferred on them by the ancient institutions of the country. Few as they are, they dominate the existing Council, and there are widespread apprehensions that they will succeed in dominating the next; and, in fact, perpetuate themselves as one of those oligarchies which are natural in India but are repugnant to the genius of the British Empire. These apprehensions may possibly prove to be ill-founded, but their existence is a fact of great political importance, and the Government of Madras have urged that the constitution of the Council must be such as to prevent the possibility of such a result—or, in other words, that an adequate proportion of seats should be set aside for representatives of the non-Brahmin communities.

Whatever may be done for the time being, it is obvious that ascendancy must sooner or later yield to the democratic ideals which have now been adopted for India, and the best thing that could happen would be that the Brahmins should abdicate gracefully so far as the field of politics is concerned, and recognise frankly that in the Council and at the polling-booth one citizen is as good as another. There are signs that opinion is gradually tending in this direction, but the obstacles are very great, and we do not expect to hear of abdication just yet; communal representation introduced as a temporary expedient might accelerate the process, but it is equally possible that the result might be to make the Brahmins "harden their hearts," and to increase the bitterness of the final struggle when it comes. The situation is, in fact, one of extreme difficulty, and we can only hope that the collective wisdom of the Joint Committee will be successful in finding a satisfactory solution.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Cairo, June 30.

Egypt and the Peace.

With the signature of the Peace another milestone has been set in the path of the history of the world in general, and of Egypt in particular. As regards Egypt the conclusion of the Peace with all its stipulations ought definitely to close the Nationalist agitation and leave the British Protectorate face to face with the Egyptian protected, without any further prospect (not to say "hope" or "fear") of outside interference.

Egypt is now finally established, by the consent of all the Great Powers, as a country that has henceforth to look to England, and to England alone, in all her difficulties, grievances, or aspirations. Already, in pursuance of Anglo-French agreements the French Minister has left Cairo. His place has been taken by M. Gaillard, a Consul-General. The public has not yet realised the change, but in truth there seems to be very little probability of any French Minister being henceforth accredited to the Protectorate. And when France thus frankly gives open proof of her recognition of the change in the status of Egypt, the other Great Powers will presumably not be long in following the example of the one that has always considered herself hitherto as possessing interests almost equal to those of Great Britain.

Celebrations—and Abstentions.

Whilst officially this sort of recognition can scarcely be long delayed, the irresponsible foreign agitators in Egypt and the Nationalists will perhaps require an extended period before acquiescing in all the Peace terms. The petulant and foolish attitude consistently preserved by these obstinate kickers against the pricks was again made manifest during the Bairam feast. The news of the signature of the Peace reached Cairo about six o'clock on Saturday afternoon, and was posted up in the clubs and suchlike public places almost immediately. On Sunday the whole population, practically, of the capital was *en fête*. The foreign elements led by the British and French, and enthusiastically seconded by the Greek, decorated their houses and places of business with their national flags, and the Egyptians showed their Crescent and Three Stars in honour of Bairam, if not of peace. Every other imaginable flag was also flown, the Armenians displaying a red, white, and blue that many mistook at first for French or Russian. But the Italian Emblem which on all *fête* days generally outnumbers those of all the rest, was nowhere to be seen. Not only this, but flysheets were said to have been distributed, couched in violent language, saying that the Allies had deceived Italy, who had borne the brunt of the war, and that Italians were more than ever completely with the Nationalists in their struggle for freedom.

Side by side with these the Egyptians had placarded the Mosque walls and the cemeteries with statements that it was a lie that peace had been signed; but that, on the contrary, it would not be long before the Germans and Turks would march triumphantly into Cairo. It cannot be said, however, that these somewhat childish attempts to stem the very universal delight at the definite ending of the nightmare of war had much success.

Hopes of Constitutional Reforms.

Although the signature of the Armistice was taken by most people to mean what it has since proved to have been—viz., the irrevocable admission of defeat, there was always a faint, indefinite feeling of uneasiness as to whether a satisfactory peace would materialise out of the defeat. That this feeling was not without a good deal of justification the events of the last month or two have amply demonstrated. Although fighting of a sufficiently desperate character seems still to be going on in various areas, the signature of the Peace nevertheless has given a very solid foundation upon which the really Great Powers will be able to work out the knotty problems still remaining. Many of these look no nearer solution than they were in their inception, but in the case of Egypt the sailing should be plain. Putting aside the wailing and gnashing of teeth of the disappointed politicians of all breeds who hoped to fish profitably in troubled waters, the Egyptian Question is crystallising into a few tolerably clear issues. These issues are to be threshed out between reasonable and responsible Egyptians and representatives of the Protecting Power, and when a decision has been come to, the new Egyptian Charter or Constitution will be given to the country as a free gift, and as the maximum that can at present be freely given. All the ridiculous ideas of the Nationalists that they could force the hand of Great Britain either by their own action or by bringing foreign pressure to bear diplomatically, have proved so many mirages.

It will now depend very largely upon the prudence and good sense of the Egyptians other than the Extremists, how great a measure of administrative autonomy can be granted them. Although the Extremists have arrogated to themselves the title of *Watani* or Nationalists, the present Ministry, and in fact every Egyptian is Nationalist, in so far as he would like to get as much as he can of the administration and all that goes with it into his own hands. The war-cry of the Extremists, or Zaghloul Party, was evacuation, and not a shadow of any foreign control whatsoever. The object of the decent and sensible Nationalist is some sort of an elective Parliament, Parliamentary and Ministerial responsibility, and a larger number of the higher posts to be given to Egyptians. There is nothing inherently impossible or, indeed, unreasonable in these aspirations, and it will probably become a mere matter of discovering a convenient method of embodying them in a new constitutional form.

The Royal Commission.

Sir William Brunyate had already drawn up a rough sketch of proposals something in this sense, but they did not meet with the approval of the late Ministry. As, however, it is now more than suspected that that Ministry was at heart completely at one with Saad Pasha Zaghloul, this is perhaps not to be wondered at. In any case, his scheme was formed without consultation with Egyptian authorities; and the Royal Commission that is expected to come out in the autumn is essentially a Commission of Inquiry and consultation, on whose recommendations the future of Egyptian Administrations is supposed, rightly or wrongly, to depend.

A list of four alleged members of this Commission has been published in the local Press here, but is generally believed to be mythical. The names given were General Sir J. Maxwell, Sir W. Garstin, Sir R. Graham, and Mr. Chitty. These are all personalities well known to everybody in Egypt. The last two were Advisers to Ministries, and the impression produced here at the prospect of these two ex-officials or their colleagues being on the Commission was not generally favourable. Not that there was any personal bias against any of the distinguished nominees, but as a matter of principle there is certainly a very strong feeling here that with Lord Milner presiding the other members of the Commission should not be chosen from former Anglo-Egyptian officials. Whether this opinion is justifiable or a right

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one, the writer will not pretend to say, but it is undoubtedly and very decidedly held in Cairo.

Government Employees' Salaries.

Mohammed Said Pasha and his Cabinet having weathered the first month of office—and the month of Ramadan at that—have all removed to Alexandria for the summer. No sooner had they arrived there than the *Official Journal* published a Ministerial Decree to the effect that in view of the universal complaints from all Ministerial employees of the inadequacy of their salaries to meet the increased cost of living it had been decided to continue the extra war allowance for another year, dating from June 1, 1919, and also to increase it 50 per cent. This would require about £800,000, and the sum would be found by the Cotton Control authorities. This surplus would in an ordinary way be devoted to irrigation, but there being already ample funds for all irrigation needs, it became at once available. It is certain that nothing could go further to allay discontent amongst Government employees than a measure like this, which applies all round, except to the Ministry of Justice, where a generous rise of pay had already been made. Evidently Mohammed Pasha Said knows which nail requires hitting on the head, and in spite of many threats still being levelled at him, the public feeling appears to be gradually calming down under his touch.

BELGRADE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

July 15.

The King's Name Day.

Although the Gregorian Calendar is now adopted officially by the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, the Orthodox Church retains its old style. Consequently St. Peter's Day fell on July 12, and was celebrated throughout the country with enthusiasm, for it was the King's Name Day, and his birthday, too. For four years there had been no celebration of Petrov Dan, so on this occasion the rejoicings were as unrestrained as they were general. The aged and war-worn King is expected soon to return to his native country. His absence was the only thing lacking to make the day perfect. "If only our dear old King were here to-day," one lady was heard to say, "not an eye would be dry in the place."

A Thanksgiving Service was held in the morning at the Cathedral, which was attended by the *Corps Diplomatique* and most of the foreign visitors and residents. Afterwards the Prince Regent, riding, as his father used to, on a splendid white charger, held a parade on the Terazija; under the blazing sun it was a brilliant scene, and the first ruler of the United Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes was greeted with frenzied salvoes of "Zhiveo, zhiveo."

In the evening the officers of Belgrade gave a ball at the Oficirski Dom; a thunderstorm marred the proceedings at the beginning, making it impossible to sit or stroll in the garden, but in every other respect it was an unqualified success. It was a brilliant scene, with officers in every kind of uniform, glittering with decorations and orders, set off by the sombre black of the diplomatists and civilians and the varied toilettes of the ladies. The democratic element was represented by a countryman in the native costume of jack boots, and blue cloth jacket heavily braided with black. All Serbian society was represented, as well as the whole foreign colony. The British Legation was represented by the Minister, Sir Charles des Graz, Mr. Atherstone Johnstone and Mr. Brice; Admiral Sir Ernest Troubridge, with Lt.-Col. Stead and Major Phillips; the British Military Mission by General Plunkett, the Military Attaché. There were also present Colonel Jamieson, Lt.-Col. Jordan Bell, R.E., and Lt.-Col. J. E. Cochrane, R.F.A., Major and Mrs. Hanau, Major Herrick, Captains Brew and Graham, Rev. E. Laffan, the Chaplain, Dr. and Mrs. Malcolm Burr, and Mr. F. A. Llewellyn. The British nursing colony was represented by Dr. Conway, Dr. MacPhail and Dr. McNeill, Miss Pook, Miss Jealous, and other sisters who have done heroic work in Serbia since the earliest days of the war; and Sec.-Lieut. Flora Sandes, who received many congratulations on her well-earned promotion. At nine o'clock the Guards' band, under Major Binichki, struck up the impressive strains of the Serbian anthem, and the Crown Prince entered, followed by his suite. His Royal Highness, who looked exceedingly well, opened the proceedings with a *kolo*, and soon the crowded room was in movement in time to the haunting air of the national dance.

Anglo-Serbian Friendship.

Voivoda (Field Marshal) Sir Zhivojin Mishich, K.C.M.G., has been decorated by President Poincaré with the highest grade of the Legion of Honour. His numerous British friends will congratulate the gallant veteran, who has twice swept his country clean of a hated enemy in so meteoric a manner. The Voivoda was particularly touched at the presentation by General Plunkett, in the name of the Army Council, of a handsome motor car, as a token of admiration and esteem from his British brothers in respect for his high military talents, as shown in the recent brilliant offensive on the Macedonian front.

Great gratification is expressed by all Serbs at the sympathetic attitude of Great Britain. Telegrams of congratulation upon peace, after seven years of war, from the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh and of Glasgow, have been reprinted in the Serbian papers, while the telegram from King George to King Peter is reproduced in large type. The reference to His Majesty's hope of close connection and co-operation in the future is especially welcome, as Serbs almost without exception turn their eyes towards Great Britain, not only for material assistance, but, for example, friendship and sympathy. Britons should be proud of the high estimation in which they are held by this simple, but loyal and sincere, nation of yeomen.

By the express desire of Voivoda Mishich, the national rejoicings were made the occasion of a special effort to raise funds for men broken in the wars. A house-to-house call was made throughout the town, and many special entertainments were organised, and produced good results; the town of Novi Sad voted half a million krune; it is anticipated that a handsome sum will be raised.

Settling Down to Peace.

Communication with the outside world is gradually improving; the fast train to Fiume, which used to run on Tuesdays and Fridays, now runs daily.

Serbia is slowly returning to peace conditions. Many restrictions on travel on the south side of the Danube and Save have been removed, and the last party of "invalids" has arrived at Dubrvnnik (Ragusa) on their way home for their resting place at Bizerta. The boys and girls who have been at school in England and France are now returning to their own country. It is anticipated that by the end of July all will be back. Great hopes are entertained that these fortunate young folk will be a valuable acquisition to the *intelligentsia* of the country, which has been so sadly depleted during the last seven years of war. The Government fully realises the necessity of giving increased educational facilities, and has resolved to found two new provincial universities, one at Skoplie and one at Serajevo, to begin with only three faculties each, viz., Law, Technical Science, and Philosophy.

The fusion of Yugoslavs, in the commoner but narrow sense of the word, with the Serbs or *Serbiantsi* of the old kingdom is proceeding rapidly; so far, 2,600 Yugoslav and 1,560 Montenegrin officers have been admitted to the Army, and there remain but 800 Yugoslavs and 300 Montenegrins to receive commissions.

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A Parliamentary Commission is sitting to enquire into the causes of the appalling mortality on the disastrous retreat through Albania in the dark days of 1915, especially among the younger generation and the "Schoolboy Battalion," which suffered terribly. Its report is awaited with mixed feelings.

A Good Story.

It is well known that Serbian domestic politics have always been extremely acrimonious, and in the old days the various parties attacked each other savagely, in the House and in the Press. Austria characteristically endeavoured to exploit these apparent dissensions in her own interest. But she was always rebuffed by the united front which the Serbs never failed to present to an enemy. The following story is illustrative of this characteristic, and is interesting enough to record. Some years ago, the Danube Steam Navigation Company forced a tariff war upon the Serbian Steamship Company. Far richer, better organised, with superior boats and a better service, the Austrians were confident of winning. But they reckoned without their hosts, for word went forth throughout Serbia, and a general boycott of the Austrian boats was ordered and conscientiously carried out. For two years not a Serb travelled on an Austrian boat, and no Serbian goods were carried by them, while the smaller, slower, and more uncomfortable Serbian boats were always crowded. One morning, at Shabats, when a large crowd was waiting to book by the Serbian boat, and the Austrian booking office was deserted, a single individual walked boldly on board the hated Austrian boat. Groans and hisses from the crowd greeted him, till he cried out: "I am a railway official, and have a free pass; let them burn their coal for me for nothing," when the groans were turned into a roar of laughter. Alone he walked on board, and alone he disembarked at Belgrade. After two years the haughty Austrians gave way, and made a working arrangement with the Serbian company.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

English in the Island.

The number of Cypriots who have passed the recent examinations in English is remarkably large. Both Greeks and Turks learn to speak our language with wonderful ease and rapidity, and the numbers of those who can both speak and write English with fluency and correctness is astonishing, seeing how little encouragement has been given in most of the native schools. Progress in general education, although it might have been far greater had the Greek element co-operated loyally and heartily with the Government, has been in the circumstances satisfactory. The number of primary schools in the island is now about 495—viz., for boys, 386, with 460 teachers; and for girls, 109, with 177 teachers. Going back to 1881, three years after the British occupation, when figures were first available, there were about 40 State-aided public schools and 30 private for Turks, and about 40 and 9 respectively for Greeks. The numbers of pupils (boys and girls) in all schools receiving education at present are approximately as follows:—Moslem, 7,500; Greek, 35,000.

There is no doubt that but for the war education would have advanced yet more rapidly in late years. But perhaps, in view of remarks on the number of educated, or semi-educated, loafers and town idlers in recent Blue Book reports, education under existing conditions has not been an unmixed blessing in Cyprus.

The Future of the Island.

The present state of suspense and expectancy is a strange one, and differs from that of any previous "crisis" since the Occupation. The air is full of conflicting rumours, and telegrams and papers are scanned with the keenest avidity in all communities. So far there is a complete absence of any racial animosity. It is felt that, whatever may be the fate of Cyprus, a new era must be at hand for the island. Should it remain in the hands of Great Britain there must be a real forward movement which will make for the development of its resources. It ought no longer to be said, as Sir William Ramsay has stated, that the island has "never been developed industrially, commercially, or as a naval or military station." Should it, on the other hand, pass to other than British keeping, will it be for the benefit of the inhabitants? If Cyprus is to emerge from its present stagnation the task should hardly be entrusted (under the strong protest of the loyal Moslem population) to a nation which is not yet in a position to cope with difficulties which, in spite of the League of Nations, may not improbably arise for an island geographically situated as is Cyprus.

Those who know the island best express serious misgivings should Cyprus be deprived of the strong guiding hand and support of Great Britain. When your able Cairo Correspondent, in 1915 (before the conditional offer of Cyprus), visited the island, he expressed himself in The Near East (Nov. 26, 1915) as follows:—

"How could" (in existing circumstances) "Great Britain with her Far Eastern interests and her position in Egypt, be expected to entertain for one moment the idea of the cession to-morrow to a second-class and consequently weak Power, of an island which is shown to have strategic potentialities *vis-a-vis* the Valley of the Nile, and which in the hands of a foreign Power, be it strong or weak, may come to be a terrible menace to our hold on the Suez Canal, and thus to our Empire? From every point of view, therefore, the Pan-Hellenist agitation is as ill-founded as it is ill-timed, and the more the question is studied the clearer does it become that there is every reason in the world why we should retain our hold on Cyprus and not repeat the error we made in the case of Corfu."

These words would, I think, sum up the feelings of the British element and of not a few others who share their view.

Meanwhile the offices of the High Commissioner, the Chief Justice, the Chief Secretary, and several other heads of departments, are carried on by acting members of the administration. Naturally, too, there has been a great exodus of officials whom the war has kept from leave for five years.

THE PEACE NEWS IN JERUSALEM.

(From a Correspondent.)

The following is an extract from a letter dated "June 23, 1919, Headquarters, O.E.T.A. (South), Jerusalem.":—

"I must tell you how I received the news of the declaration of Peace. We were expecting a wire at Headquarters about 6 o'clock on the evening of the 28th, and I, with several other officers, was awaiting the news. It came in just about 7.45 p.m. Hurriedly we drank to the news, and then just pelted up the stairs of the German tower (of the former Stiftung on the Mount of Olives). It was a fearfully tiring blow racing up those many flights of steps, but at last a crowd of us reached the bell-chamber. We rang the three great bells for all we were worth for a good half-hour, till we could hear the bells of the city taking up the news. The Russian Tower on the Mount of Olives followed us; then the Latin Patriarchate, Schneller's Institution, and the Holy Sepulchre; and soon every bell in the city was pealing in triumph. It was splendid to hear it and to know that the first news in Jerusalem was spread from the German bells on the Mount of Olives rung by British officers. By a happy coincidence the news arrived as the Bairam celebrations started, and nothing could have been more opportune. I must tell you also that the bells in the German church tower inside the city were rung by ——, formerly of Ramallah, and now a captain in the American Red Cross; also that immediately the news came through, ——, an officer in the Education Department, played 'God Save the King' on the organ of the German church here—a personal gift of the ex-Kaiser"!

INDIAN REFORM.

The European Association of India has received a strong protest against the constitution of that part of the Joint Committee on Indian Reform which represents the House of Commons. The protest, which is contained in a telegram from the Association's Council, declares that the Committee, whose names have just been announced in India, is composed chiefly of avowed supporters of Mr. Montagu's proposals. It urges that the utmost be done to secure due consideration being given to representatives of all parties materially concerned in the reforms whose interests, in the opinion of the Council, have been ignored and prejudiced by the Committee's nominations.

The question of the constitution of the Committee has already been raised in the House of Commons by Colonel C. E. Yate, M.P.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Raisuli.

The Tangier correspondent of *The Times* sent an illuminating message on July 16 concerning the rather confused affairs in the Wad Ras district. Of the leader of these warlike tribesmen he writes:—

I have just interviewed a native who left Raisuli's headquarters twenty-four hours ago. He had a long conversation with the famous mountain chieftain, who appeared to be in the highest spirits.

"What," he asked, "is going on in Tangier?"

My friend replied, "The French and English are keeping a great feast for the victory of the Allies." Raisuli smiled, and said, "So am I," and continued: "I rejoice with the French and English. They have got rid by themselves of one of their enemies, Germany. I am getting rid of another enemy for them, Spain. If afterwards the French and the English like to come here we will lay down our arms and receive them with dancing and music." Raisuli seems somewhat quickly to have forgotten his pro-German proclivities, as I have always stated would be the case as soon as victory was ours, and he is probably as genuinely pro-Ally to-day as he ever was pro-German, which is not saying much.

The correspondent states that Raisuli has plenty of men, arms, and ammunition.

The tribes will fight desperately. They have suffered heavy losses, and are thirsty for revenge. The desertion of the Anjera tribe has deeply affected them, and now it appears that the loyalty of the Anjeras themselves is not too sure. If the Spaniards can obtain the victory all will go well. If they fail their situation in this part of their zone becomes critical. Spain is capable of conquering her zone, but she must carry out that conquest seriously. She must realise how great is the task before her. She must be victorious, and not risk these quite unnecessary and constant checks which only raise the spirit of opposition of the tribesmen and depress public opinion at home, and render her liable to adverse criticism abroad. She has the good will of every one, but she must be successful or abandon her task. The next few days will be eventful, and every one wishes her good luck.

Bela Kun: A Roumanian View.

Our Bucharest Correspondent sends us the following translation of a passage in the *Indépendance Roumaine* on the Allies' treatment of Bela Kun:—

The Paris Congress, which condemns for ever Lenine and Trotzki, appears to invite their emulator, Bela Kuhn, to send delegates for the purpose of treating the question of peace. The Magyar Bolshevists are immune. . . . This clemency towards the actual rulers of Budapest is of recent date, for it is not so very long since the anti-Bolshevist Government of Karoly at Szegedin received from the same Entente all possible encouragement for the struggle against the dictator Kuhn, of Budapest. . . . . The impression one derives from the oscillating policy of the Allies is that they are backing two horses symbolised by the names of Koltchak and Bela Kuhn: the one which first reaches the post will be considered the winner. If the Great Powers, which are more happily situated, think they can play this game of hazard, it must not be assumed that their example may be followed by the small states, whose vital interests demand serious guarantees and a policy which excludes all equivocation. This is why we look upon the recognition of the Admiral's Government as a simple manifestation of a political character, not destined to be productive of more serious consequences than the other efforts made up till now by the Allies with a view to reorganising the Russia of to-morrow.

British Rule in Egypt.

A writer to the *Times* of July 17 contributed an extremely able article on the changes required in British rule in Egypt. He states that the poorer classes among the labourers of Egypt and the lower-paid officials in the service have suffered very severely. He says:—

The native of Africa will bear a great deal, but, once he arrives at a certain point on the subject of a grievance, he wants matters settled, and settled at once. Under the conditions it was easy for the agitators to get at him, more particularly as his grievances were very real. In almost every case in Africa where we have had difficulty or trouble with the natives they have behaved in a manner similar to their recent conduct in Egypt, with a blind hatred of any form of law and order. They are but children, and it was the nurses' business to see that conditions in the nursery were not allowed to go beyond control. There is nothing strange in all that has happened recently in Egypt.

He then declares his conviction that the Egyptian must have a greater share in the management of Egypt, and gives his plan for affording the local people the means of participating in their own affairs.

I cannot help thinking that it will be necessary to return in a large measure to the system of British Governors in the provinces, or at least to a system of inspectors holding full executive powers. Although this may appear to be a retrograde step, it will at least tend to decentralize the administrations and give the local people room for a more intelligent interest in the government of their particular town or province. It is, however, essential that the *personnel* selected for this work should be men of experience and with a genuine sympathy for the people they are to assist and help. Throughout the East, and I think more especially in Africa, the personal equation is of the utmost importance.

He now makes a point that has been insisted upon again and again—the creation of a common interest between Egypt and the Sudan.

It is important that at the earliest date possible the political differences in the control of Egypt and the Sudan be adjusted so that the two countries are brought into line with a common interest. The future development of Egypt depends very largely upon the assistance that can be given by the development of the Sudan. As a first principle the present *coterie* of Egyptian irrigation officials must be made to understand their obligations to one of the richest protectorates in Africa. Egypt requires grain and meat, and the Sudan can supply these in unlimited quantities. In addition, Egypt wants room for any surplus population in the years to come. It is stated that the Egyptian will not emigrate; to this the answer is that he has got to, and also that he will go to the Sudan when he is given a chance. Up to the present it has suited people in Egypt and in the Sudan to say that the Egyptian will not and cannot thrive in the Sudan. To this those who have served in the Sudan reply that they would like to settle and farm there, but have not been encouraged to do so.

Finally, he says that we must recognise the changes that have taken place in the temperament of the Egyptian, who is much more sophisticated than he was two decades ago. His view is that the system of centralisation must be abolished, business elements must be introduced into the administration, and generally there must be more elasticity in coping with the changed conditions. Given sympathy with firmness, the people of Egypt, he declares, have ahead of them a great future.

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"THE INDIVISIBILITY OF THE BANAT."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In the issue of June 11 of your paper you published a communication from Bucharest which, under the seemingly impartial title, "The Indivisibility of the Banat," really defends a purely Roumanian theory about that province, exactly as it has been formulated at the Paris Conference by the Roumanian Premier, M. Bratiano, who, as certain signs would indicate, has not the entire support of the country he represents. In order to satisfy the great principle, "Ut audiatur et altera pars," by which Great Britain was always guided in seeking truth, I ask you kindly to find room in your paper for the following exposition of Serbia's point of view concerning the Banat.

We Serbians consider (we flatter ourselves that our theory is based on science and on indisputable facts) the Banat is not an ethnical, geographical, and economical unity. On the contrary, it is geographically, economically, and ethnically divided into two parts, which have been, throughout history, always considered as separate units. The part which we consider as Serbian, owing to the preponderance of the Serbian population in it, is especially distinguished by its geographical and economical uniformity. Nature itself has defined it in such a way that it is quite distinct from the other provinces. On the north is the great River Marosh, and on the south the Danube, on the west the River Teiss, and on the east the offshoots of the Carpathians, which finish on the line Arad-Temesvar-Dognachka, somewhat to the east of Bela Crkva. All the rivers of this part of the Banat flow into the Danube and its tributaries, as, for example, the Teiss, Begeï, Tamish, Karosh, Nera, etc., which means that the whole region inclines towards the region south of the Danube, with which it forms a geographical whole.

Economically, this part of the Banat varies in many ways from the rest. It is essentially grain-producing, while the other parts are mineral or pastoral, which fact confirms its geographical unity.

The unnaturally-formed Austro-Hungarian monarchy endeavoured to destroy this unity, among other means by a network of railways, but this cannot be a reason for determining the political future of this part of the Banat, for it is surely unheard of that political boundaries should be decided according to the direction of railway lines.

Meanwhile, we Serbs claim this part of the Banat, for the following reasons:—

1. Because the majority of the population is ethnographically ours—a fact acknowledged by the writer of the "Indivisibility of the Banat."

2. Because this part of the Banat has always been inhabited by Slovenes and Serbs. The Slovenes began to settle here already at the end of the sixth century. In the ninth century, when the Hungarians (according to the Hungarian historian Szentklary) came to the Panonia plains they found almost the whole Banat occupied by Slovenes, who were in constant communication with the Slovenes south of the Danube. After the battle of Kossovo (1389), and when a portion of our people fled from Turkish terrorism, the Banat began to receive a purely Serbian character. In 1483 the Hungarian King Matthew wrote to the Pope that no less than 200,000 Serbians had immigrated here in 1482. This migration of the Serbian people continued till the end of the seventeenth century, and only ceased with the liberation of Serbia from the Turkish yoke.

3. Because the Austrian authorities, the greatest opponents of Serbia, whose policy was the denationalisation of the Banat as a Serbian province, by colonising it with Germans and Roumanians, recognised the purely Serbian character of that region. With regard to administration, Banat was till 1860 an integral part of the Serbian Duchy or of those other earlier administrative forms whereby it was designated as purely Serb.

4. Because the Banat, or that part of the Banat which we claim, protects our capital, Belgrade, which is within gun-range of those who are to hold the Banat, as it was within the gun-range of the Austrians. Strategically that part of the Banat is absolutely necessary to us for the defence of the Morava valley, which was ever the road to the Near East, and in this war, too, for the German advance towards Constantinople—Sofia.

5. Because the new Serbian culture and literature found in the Banat its most distinguished representatives. Banat is the birthplace of the Serbian philosopher Dositej Obradovitch, who early in the nineteenth century came to London and requested that his native land should be united with their brothers south of the Danube in one State; it is the birthplace of the greatest Serbian poet Giura Yakshitch; and also of our greatest scientific inventor, Pupin, of whom America is likewise proud; and of many others.

6. Because Banat has ever been the bearer of Serbia's aspirations and also her refuge when the mediæval Serbian empire fell under the Turkish onslaught. In the monasteries of Banat, founded by Serbian monarchs, Serbian ideals were preserved in the darkest days of our struggle for national re-union. In these monasteries Serbian printing-presses spread Serbian culture throughout our Fatherland until the very latest days of our national history.

7. Because, since the disruption of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy even the Germans, Hungarians, and Roumanians of that region have expressed the desire to become the subjects of the Serbian King. The two former because they are in such a minority that they have no chance of autonomy; the latter because they are aware that, like their fellow-countrymen, who have hitherto been subjects of Serbia, they can only in this manner free themselves from the economical subjugation of feudalism under which they have suffered during the existence of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, and which is just as hard in Roumania. Hence they are anxious to become subjects of a State which does not tolerate the feudal system of ownership.—I am, etc.,

D. KOSTOVITCH (Lieutenant).

THE POSTAL SERVICE TO THE NEAR EAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Mr. Arthur Baker calls your attention to a matter which my own experience amply confirms. I left Smyrna on May 29, and after spending two nights in Rome and two nights in Paris, reached London on June 8. A letter dated Smyrna, June 3, reached me on July 4, and recent information from Smyrna, dated June 27, leads me to believe that up to that date several letters posted by me in London between the 8th and 15th of June had not yet reached destination.

Even to this day—July 21—I have no advice from Smyrna of the receipt of any letter posted by me in London since the date of my arrival.—I am, etc.,

Giltspur Street, London, E.C. EDMUND GIRAUD.

A COPTIC FESTIVAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—My omission to state that my visit to the Convent of St. Dimiáneh was made many years ago, when Basileos was Mutran of the Kopts, at Jerusalem, very naturally led your correspondent, Mr. Theodore Mosconas, to suppose that it was a recent one. The interesting information given by him is, however, a welcome result of the oversight.—I am, etc.,

THE WRITER OF THE NOTE.

July 21, 1919.

WAR HONOURS.

The following war honours have been awarded to the undermentioned officers:—

BY THE KING OF THE HELLENES.

Greek Medal of Military Merit.

2nd Lieut. J. W. Hoskings, M.B.E., Capt. H. G. Harrison, 2nd Lieut. G. J. Stroud, M.B.E.

Cross of Officer, Royal Hellenic Order of the Redeemer.

Maj. F. W. Gamwell and Maj. J. Weston.

Chevalier of the Royal Order, George I.

Lieut. S. W. Briggs, Lieut. T. F. Clarke, Lieut. R. W. Kerr, Lieut. C. H. A. Willett.

BY THE KING OF ROUMANIA.

Star of Roumania (Officer).

Maj. J. P. C. Cooper, O.B.E., M.C., 10th Brigade.

Star of Roumania (Chevalier).

A.-Capt. C. C. Anderson Pelham (France), A.-Capt. H. W. Stockdale, D.F.C., 101st Sqn.

Crown of Roumania (Chevalier).

Lieut. F. H. Knobel, 10th (A.) Wing, 40th Sqn.

Order of Michael the Brave, 3rd Class.

Lieut. J. A. Parkinson, 201st Sqn.; Lieut. L. H. Ray, 91st (A.) Wing, 19th Sqn.

BY THE SULTAN OF EGYPT.

The Order of the Nile, 3rd Class.

A.-Brig.-Gen. P. L. W. Herbert, C.M.G., C.B.E. (Notts and Derby. R.); Lieut.-Col. C. E. Risk, D.S.O. (R.M.L.I.).

The Order of the Nile, 4th Class.

A.-Maj. F. G. Brown, O.B.E., Capt. W. H. Dolphin, Maj. W. D. Long, O.B.E., and A.-Lt.-Col. S. S. Nevill, O.B.E.

BULGARIA AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

Reuter's Paris correspondent writes on July 23:—The question whether Bulgaria is to have a direct outlet on the Ægean Sea, through Western Thrace, is now occupying the attention of the Peace Conference. As American delegates are unwilling to deprive Bulgaria of such access, the Greeks are very anxious to know whether America will participate in framing the Bulgarian Treaty. The Bulgarian Peace Delegation left Sofia on Sunday last for Paris via Bukarest.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

Now that the stokers of the fire which caused the Egyptian pot to bubble over have grown weary of ill-doing, it is imperative to consider one or two things in the future of that country. More than once in these columns I have urged the importance of English education in Egypt, lamenting its small influence. Why is it that English is so little and French so much spoken there? A partial answer seems to be provided by Mr. H. A. Garabet, who has written on the subject in the *Monthly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt. Because Egypt is part of the British Empire, it is our tongue that should be spoken there. But truly we have ourselves largely to blame. The teaching of English in Egypt where practised is unsatisfactory. The number of English schools is few, and that of those who, having learned the language at such places can still speak and write it, is almost negligible. Why not establish an infant University in the land? The authorities should plant the seed now, when the soil is ready, for the times are not always ripe.

***

Some time ago I received the following lines, and found much to amuse in them. Personally, I did not think Busreh was half such a bad place as here painted. The "obese Turkish squire" and "Corsair" are, of course, very old friends, and this meeting did me good.

O Busreh, loathliest village of the plain,
Who comes to thy inhospitable shores
Shall find no rest, but ever more and more
Suffer the unnumbered tortures of the damned.

Take heart of grace, Ixion at the wheel.
Cease, O Prometheus, to abjure the rock.
Worse fates befall the luckless M.E.F.

Abhorred of gods and mortal men alike,
Busreh the Beastly be thou herewith dubbed.
So shall thy name go stinking down the years,
And age to age shall echo "Beastly Busreh."
Time was we reckoned you as passing fair,
A place where men might come and go at will,
Mocking th' upraised hand of Authority;
Where once the obese philandering Turkish squire
Sprawled at his ease and urged his bellum on,
Intriguing the voluptuous painted "bint,"
The Corybantic courtesan of Khurra,
And set his fez at a more rakish angle
And puffed contented at his "qalian,"
Oblivious of his piece-goods for a spell,
A prey to amorous reflections—
The bhoosa-laden barge, the hooting tug,
The clanking S-boat, the monotonous tramp
Of pickets, the insensate loud guffaw
Of John, the unimpressionable Chink,
The chain-gang off to spade away their crimes,
Th' ubiquitous Ford Vanette, and above all
The towering menace of the A.P.M.—
These are your sad and sorry substitutes.

Omar, incomparable Bedlamite,
What subtle esoteric joys abound
For men who travail in Earth's desert places?
Perchance for you, whose eyes did never scan
The dim blue goodness of the distant weald,
Nor watched the rosy-fingered sun at dawn
Kindle the wooded cone of Chanctonbury,
The wilderness were Paradise enow.

One boon he craves from the high gods above—
He who has borne one single summer through
The sights and sounds and smells of Ashar Creek,
The Mespot hero, Hector of his kind,
Inordinately sun-protected he,
Tunic and tabs and topee, cap-a-pie,
Spine-pad and wrist-watch and the Lord knows what—
One boon he craves, nor maybe craves in vain,
A quiet, secluded corner at Magil.

And herein lies the essence of the joke,
A stranger he who pens these limping lines,
Twenty miles distant at Mohammerah.

—A. W. B.

***

If I refer again to Hungarian Bolshevism, I know my readers will pardon me, because the failure to crush it when opportunity offered is a thing which has made the hair of the civilised world (*i.* of course *e.*, the world minus the "Bolshies" and the Conchies") stand on end. You will remember how the Roumanian forces were marching, more or less triumphantly, on the forces of Bela Kun, how this was done with the approval of the Peace Conference, and how the whole affair suddenly was stopped. Perhaps you do not know that the Yugoslavs were asked to co-operate in the advance against Kun, and that they refused owing to the non-recognition by the Great Powers of the Triune Kingdom. Now that kingdom has been recognised, and the whole business as suddenly recommences . . . . What do you make of it? A mere coincidence, you think? I have lost myself too many times in the labyrinth of European politics to say that you are wrong; but if you are right—well, I've lost myself once again, that's all!

***

Apropos of Mirza Firooz Khan's interesting description of the Consular (?) activities of Herr Wustrow at Tabriz, I am reminded that that city appears to be a favourite resort for Prussian bullies of this particular type. Just three years ago, Herr Schönemann, who was then German Consular Agent at Tabriz, distinguished himself by a comparatively bold attack upon the British and Russian Consuls as they, with their military escorts, were travelling from Khenghevar towards Hamadan. I do not think the Allied party suffered any loss apart from their escorts; but there was quite a brisk fight, and Herr Schönemann must have felt very aggrieved if he did not subsequently receive a nice little parcel of Iron Crosses. The Gendarmerie, then in a very low state as regards *moral*, were unable—or unwilling—to give the Anglo-Russian party any help; and the incident gave the Persian Government a very bad quarter of an hour unless I am much mistaken.

***

Of course, it was by no means an isolated example of a German Consul turning highwayman and assassin. Indeed, the thing happened all over Persia—north, south, east and west—and while the Germans set the Persian authorities at defiance—very frequently quite openly—they pursued the now recognised Teutonic method of referring to them as "fools," "dolts," "swine," and so forth and so on. If only we could get a complete record of their doings in that part of the world during the war it would make extraordinary, and most interesting, reading. At the time we had, unfortunately, to depend almost entirely on reports that found their way to us through Russia, and their weird rendering of Persian names often made it quite a puzzle to get at the facts of the case. I remember, for instance, that in the message reporting the incident referred to above, Hamadan was given as Khamadas, and I spent a long time looking for the place on the map before the truth dawned on me.

***

They also serve who only stand and wait, and they get their fun, too! This is proved by a most amusing incident reported from Lucknow. It appears that one evening some under-trial prisoners in the Hardoi district jail were smoking together, waiting for and betting on their probably quite-well-deserved sentences. The warders forbade them to smoke, and a refusal to obey this order led to the beginning of the fun. They resorted to the Suffragette-honoured method of refusing to take their food, and the prison doctor ordered the two ringleaders to be separated from the rest. This would not do for their companions, who proceeded with bricks and stones to assault the worthy doctor and his warders. These authorities in alarm called upon the only other people present, the ordinary prisoners, who fell upon the under-trial men. Furiously and for some time a fight with lathis and sticks was carried on; and all concerned seem to have had one of the times of their lives until more of the powers that actually were arrived. I do not know how many Irishmen read these columns, but I know they will love to hear this story, more especially when I add that several persons were injured and some prison structures were damaged. Now, with all Irishmen I am not on all fours (or both twos), but this example of the mice playing while the cat was away goes to the heart of "Corsair," who could never abide cats.

CORSAIR.

It is announced that the French Post Office at Alexandria will come to an end in a few months' time by order of the French Government. The staff will be transferred to other posts in the Levant or will be absorbed by the Egyptian Postal Administration.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE GLORIES THAT WERE GREECE.*

The author of this well-printed lecture has set down many interesting things concerning the achievements and possibilities of his countrymen. He commences by qualifying the statement of Mr. Solomon Reinach that the modern Greeks have not given a man of genius to the world; and he does this, not by producing facts to the contrary, but by saying that when Greek society is free the inextinguishable Hellenic genius will arise. Proceeding to Greek folklore, he shows how the historic ballads were composed chiefly of the heroic deeds of the klephts and armatoloi, emphasising the mountainous character of these poems. Of these ballads, and of the domestic and individual classes of folklore, excellent examples are given.

Throughout the lecture the author deliberately identifies the two terms, song and poem, and in doing so claims that the Greeks alone of Europeans have preserved the sense of close relation between literature, music, and dance. This fact may or may not be due to the possession by the Greeks of six or seven scales, as against the two—major and minor—of most European countries. The author realises that it is the difficulty of harmonising these scales which prevents their more common use, but points to modern examples which tend towards a solution. The rhythmical side of Greek music is well developed, as there is in the native dances great variety of rhythmic cadences, giving the composer and the choregrapher almost unlimited freedom in the composition of the most complicated figures. It is in such freedom, indeed, the old Greek freedom moulding and moulded by the new circumstances, that the author places his hopes of seeing once more on earth "the glories that were Greece."

A UNIVERSAL HUMORIST.†

One does not now hail with delight the prospect of reviewing a new war story, for such stories are too frequently composed of individual trivialities and forced humour. It is with the greater pleasure, therefore, that we welcome this little book by Mr. Sommers. He has contrived, with the ease and humour typical of the British soldier, to make interesting what may be called the "Tommy" attitude towards the many hardships and the scanty joys of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. He knows well that our men, wherever they fought, were Crusaders, but he is far too British to sentimentalise over the fact; and by his very concealment of it he betrays the high ideal. The unintelligible, often unfounded, optimism of the British Army, and its universal and satisfying attitude of "Carry on; it'll all be over some day," are equally well shown in this book. Very naturally the stream of humorous incidents flows along, and if one or two of the jokes are a little pushed or bearded, it doesn't seem to matter in the least. As a sample potation from this stream we may select the following stanza, which represents the heights of indignation which the British soldier can reach when he is really bored:—

> There was an old man of Jerusalem,
> Who habitually used to bambooz'l 'em
> By selling our men the fruit of the hen
> At three times the price that he should sell 'em.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Income Tax, Weights and Measures, Stamp Duties, Coinage; British, Colonial and Foreign." (London: National Bank of South Africa, Ltd.)

"Tales of Serbian Life." By Ellen Chivers Davies. (London: George G. Harrap and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Reminiscences of a Territorial in the D.C.L.I. on Service in Europe, Asia and Africa in the Great War." By Nemo. (Plymouth: Bowering and Co.)

"Anthology of Modern Slavonic Literature: In Prose and Verse." Translated by P. Selver. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd., 5s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

"By Jaffa Way," by Lieut. H. G. Mansfield, M.C., is the title of a small volume of lowly verse. It runs pleasantly along the humble lines of conventionality, does not hesitate to pick up a few *clichés* on the way, and attains its end without distinction.

Sir Valentine Chirol's memoir of "Cecil Spring-Rice" is being published this month by John Murray.

From the same firm "The Turks in Europe," an historical study by W. E. D. Allen, with an introduction by Brigadier-General H. C. Surtees, is announced.

* "Greek Folklore and Greek Music." By P. J. Petrides. (Lecture. William Cate.)

† "Temporary Crusaders." By Cecil Sommers. (The Bodley Head: 4s. net.)

TEMPORARY NURSES FOR INDIA.

The Secretary of State for India makes the following announcement:—Nurses are required immediately for temporary service with British troops in India. Applicants should be fully trained nurses between the ages of 27 and 35. The terms will be as follows:—

Staff Nurses	Rs. 200 a month.
Sisters	Rs. 250 a month.

(At the present value of the rupee, viz., 1s. 8d., the number of pounds a year is the same as the number of rupees a month.) Engagement will be on a half-yearly basis. An outfit allowance of £20 will be given, and a gratuity of Rs. 100 is granted in respect of the satisfactory completion of each period of six months' service. Preference will be given to those who have recently served with either the Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. or T.F.N.S. Applications cannot be entertained from nurses now serving. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Military Department, India Office, Whitehall, S.W., and must be clearly marked "Temporary nurses" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Original certificates and testimonials should not be sent.

RETIRED INDIAN OFFICERS' PENSIONS.

The Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the extension to retired officers of the Indian services and to their relatives and to retired nurses of Q.A.M.N.S.I. of the bonus of 20 per cent. on pensions granted in respect of service in the present war, on the same conditions as were announced by the Minister of Pensions in the House of Commons on March 6 last in respect of pensions of officers of the British service and their relatives. The bonus will be calculated as from January 1 last, and will be continued till September 30 next. Limits are put to pension and bonus combined. If the pension reaches or exceeds the following limits no bonus is admissible:—Officers, £300 a year; nurses of Q.A.M.N.S.I., £175 a year; officers' widows (exclusive of children), £200 a year; officers' parents or sisters, £100 a year. In the case of retired officers whose pension includes a service pension as well as a disablement pension, the bonus will be calculated only on the latter. The bonus will be added to the pension as soon as possible, and it will not be necessary for application to be made for it.

THE AFGHAN FRONTIER.

The latest official communiqués state that a relief column which was rescuing a convoy moving towards Lakaband and Fort Sandeman (Northern Baluchistan) was greatly outnumbered by a Waziv lashkar and a large body of Sherranis, and suffered several casualties. The survivors estimate the enemy strength at 4,000. Four British officers are reported to have been killed and two wounded, while there were 100 casualties in the Indian ranks. The enemy proceeded to Haripal, a large camp ten miles north of Kapip. On July 18 the enemy temporarily captured a hill south of Fort Maude, causing us 40 casualties.

SYRIA AND PALESTINE RELIEF FUND.

Mr. T. H. Baxter, organising secretary of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, has just returned home after a three months' visit to Syria and Palestine. Whilst in the country he inspected all the principal centres of relief work, including Beyrout and the Lebanon district, Damascus, Jerusalem, Gaza, Nazareth, etc., and has reported fully the results of his visit to the London Committee of the Relief Fund. Palestine having largely recovered from the effects of the war, all the work of the Fund in the South has been closed down with the exception of the orphanages; 300 orphans still remain, and are shortly to be taken over by the Administration.

In Syria conditions are returning to the normal, though the greatly increased cost of food still remains as a reminder of the famine and privations of war time. The Lebanon district above Beyrout is still in much greater need than other parts, and in scores of villages the people have lost practically everything. The agents of the Relief Fund have found thousands who have dismantled their houses to buy food, or mortgaged their lands and property. With livestock gone, clothing in rags, and bedding sold for provisions, they are contemplating the greater severities of the winter with deep anxiety.

The work of the Fund will be continued, therefore, though on a limited scale, in order to meet the distress in the Lebanon district feared during the coming autumn and winter. Valuable help is already being given by means of a string of medical centres, and also by the provision of employment in various forms for the people. As in other parts, these efforts are being carried out in an efficient and economical manner, and testimony is borne both by military officials and Administrative authorities alike to the thorough character of the work.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. July	1919. July		1337. Shawal	5679. Tamuz
25	12	Friday	27	27
26	13	Saturday.....	28	28
27	14	Sunday	29	29 Ab.
28	15	Monday	30 Zulkada.	1
29	16	Tuesday	1	2
30	17	Wednesday	2	3
31	18	Thursday	3	4

Lord and Lady Francis Scott have left London for Scotland.

Lord and Lady Inchcape have left London for Belfast.

King Peter of Serbia has arrived at Arandjelovats, in Serbia. His Majesty was welcomed by Prince Alexander, the Regent.

Major-General Greenly, the head of the British Military Mission in Roumania, has returned to London from Bucharest.

M. Theodoroff, the Prime Minister of Bulgaria, is at the head of the Bulgarian Delegation which is expected to arrive in Paris to-day.

Princess Marie and Prince Nicholas of Roumania arrived on July 18 at Buckingham Palace.

Lord and Lady Willingdon will pay a private visit to Calcutta next Christmas.

Lt. B. MacLachlan (attached to the British Legation in Athens) has been awarded by the King of Serbia the White Eagle, 5th Class (with sword).

Liang Chi Chow, formerly Chinese Minister of Finance, has left Paris for the Balkan States in order to study political organisations.

His Majesty the King and the Shah of Persia have exchanged telegrams of congratulation on the conclusion of peace with Germany.

Lady Oranmore and Browne left London on July 22 for Castle McGarrett, Ireland, where Lord Oranmore hopes to join her next week.

M. Protitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, and the Ministers, MM. Trifkovitch, Marinkovitch, and Cramere, arrived in Belgrade from Paris on July 10.

The marriage of Captain Thomas Hall Plumer, M.C., and Miss Monica Tempest-Hicks will take place to-morrow at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, at 1.30 o'clock.

The following decorations have been awarded by the King of the Hellenes :—To the Bishop of London, Order of the Redeemer, *Grand Cross;* and to T.-Brig.-Gen. G. W. Dowell, C.M.G., Order of the Redeemer, *Commander.*

Mr. Fitz Patrick, of the Cairo Tanzim Department, who was attached to the British Red Cross during the war, is shortly expected in Egypt to take up his new post of Controller General of the Administration, Ministry of Public Works.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in August, between J. Guthrie Monteath, Sudan Civil Service, and Mairie Katherine, daughter of Mr. James Cadenhead, A.R.S.A., R.S.W., and Mrs. Cadenhead, 15, Inverleith Terrace, Edinburgh.

The Raja of Jubbal has offered the Government his personal services, all the resources of his State unreservedly and Rs. 500 a month for ambulance work in connection with hostilities on the North-West Frontier.

The King received at Buckingham Palace on July 17 the Chief of Ichalkaranji, who, attired in picturesque native dress, was introduced by Colonel Sir James Dunlop Smith, Political A.D.C. to the Secretary of State for India.

Mr. A. F. Scholfield, Keeper of the Records of the Government of India, who is proceeding on nine months' leave, will, it is understood, join the library of Trinity College, Cambridge, on the expiry of his leave.

Justice Louis D. Brandeis, of the Supreme Court of Justice of the United States, and also Hon. President of the Zionist Organisation of America, is now on a visit in Palestine, for the purpose of acquainting himself with the general conditions of the country, and particularly of the Jewish settlements.

The Prince of Wales received his Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala on July 23, who was presented to his Royal Highness by Lieut.-Colonel Sir James Dunlop Smith, Political Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of State for India.

The *Pioneer* understands that his Exalted Highness the Nizam has decided that instead of having a Chief Minister an Executive Council will be established in Hyderabad with Sir Ali Imam as President. The members, who will be selected from among the officials of the State, will be nominated later.

At St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, on July 22, Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Castle Smith, Suffolk Regiment, A.D.C. to the Sultan of Egypt, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Castle Smith, was married to Miss Maude E. Evans, only daughter of Sir Frederick Evans, Colonial Secretary, Gibraltar, and Lady Evans.

The marriage was celebrated on July 15 at St. Mary's, Cadogan Gardens, between Major Patrick Jack Tottenham Pickthall, M.C., R.A., of La Jaspellerie, Sark, eldest son of the late John Maynard Pickthall, and Kathleen, daughter of the late Colonel Claude Melville Crawford, 6th Goorkhas.

Many readers, both in England and in the Near East, will learn with regret that, owing to the change in the status of the Khedivial Shipping Company, Mr. Alfred Silley has severed his connection with the company. Mr. Silley will shortly return to Constantinople, but for the present Mrs. Silley and family will remain in England.

Reuter's Bucharest correspondent, writing on July 22, says :—Dr. Seton Watson, the well-known writer on Balkan affairs, who has just made a journey of investigation through the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, has stated that peace will never be re-established in Europe until Hungary is disarmed and Bela Kun is driven from Budapest.

The engagement is announced between Norman Huson Morris, of Rowdeford, Devizes, Wilts, only surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. Huson Morris, of Hayes, Kent, and Una Mary, only daughter of Sir Michael O'Dwyer, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., and Lady O'Dwyer, D.B.E., of 30, Half Moon Street, Piccadilly (after September 1, 115, Coleherne Court, Earl's Court).

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in September, between Brevet Major E. Leslie Ricketts, the 96th Infantry, I.A., and General Staff, only son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Ricketts, Fyzabad, India, and Mildred, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Towers, Milverton, Hanger Hill, Ealing, late of Montevideo, South America.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place at the Chapel Royal, Savoy, on July 30, at half-past two o'clock, between Captain L. Hungerford Jackson, 13th Rajputs, son of M. Hungerford Jackson, Kensington Hall Gardens, and Freda Mary, daughter of the late Colonel E. H. Dalgety, C.B., and Mrs. Dalgety, of Bedford.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, probably in Calcutta, between Captain Keith Cantlie, I.C.S., of Kohima, Naga Hills, Assam, eldest son of Sir James and Lady Cantlie, Harley Street, London, and May Gordon, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Walker, Richmond Hill, Aberdeen, Scotland.

The marriage arranged between Lieut.-Colonel G. A. Peake, R.E., eldest son of the late Mr. George Peake and of Mrs. Peake, of Clifton, and Beatrice Rose, only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Edward Frampton, of Cheltenham, and granddaughter of the late Mr. Henry Baker, Treasurer-General of the Ionian Islands, will take place early in September.

The marriage was celebrated on July 17 at St. Sophia's Church, Bayswater, W., by the Great Archimandrite, Dr. Pagonis, assisted by the Archimandrites Moschovakis and Vesdekas, between Theodore, second son of the late Nicolas Thalassinos and Mrs. Thalassinos, of Constantinople, and Aglaia Christine, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel M. Rodocanachi, of 66, Westbourne Terrace, W.2, and Chios, Worthing.

On July 17 his Majesty inspected a detachment of Indian officers, non-commissioned officers, and men belonging to Divisional Ammunition Columns, Royal Field Artillery, under the command of Captain R. Manners, Indian Labour Corps, who are on short leave from France. On the King's invitation, they witnessed an open-air Investiture in the Palace Quadrangle. The visitors were posted at one side of the Royal dais, while his Majesty's Indian orderlies, also in native dress, were on duty at the opposite side.

The *Church Times*, in reference to the appointment of the Rev. J. H. Linton to the Bishopric of Persia, which we noticed last week, has the following personal notes on the new bishop :—Born in Scotland, brought up in Ireland, and trained in England, Mr. Linton has shown by his steadfastness, thoroughness and

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versatility some of the best qualities of all three branches of the kingdom. From Hawick, his birthplace, he went to Cork, where he studied at the School of Science and Arts as a textile designer, but hearing the call to service in the mission field he entered the Preparatory Institution of the C.M.S. in 1900, and the Society's College at Islington in the following year. He graduated B.A. (Durham), and took first class in the Oxford and Cambridge theological examination. He was accepted by the C.M.S. as a missionary in 1904, and after being ordained deacon by the Bishop of London went to West Africa, serving for two years as Vice-Principal of the Training College, Oyo.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

M. Jonnart, Governor-General of Algeria, has resigned his appointment.

Major Gaskell will, it is understood, succeed Colonel Johnson as Secretary of the Indian War Memorial when the latter proceeds home this month.

Mr. W. A. Hertz, of the Burma Commission, has been nominated an Additional Member of the Imperial Legislative Council.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa has nominated Mr. Bernard Abdy Collins to be an Additional Member of the provincial Legislative Council.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. Dew, C.S.I., on return to India from leave, has been appointed Chief Political Officer on the staff of the General Officer Commanding, Baluchistan Field Force.

Mr. J. Lang, I.C.S., and Mr. S. W. Goode, I.C.S., are nominated Additional Members of the Bengal Legislative Council, in place of the Hon. Mr. Stevenson Moore, I.C.S., and Mr. S. S. O'Malley, I.C.S., resigned.

The Admiralty announces that Vice-Admiral Sir John M. de Robeck has been appointed to succeed Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir Somerset A. Gough-Calthorpe as Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean, to date from the 26th inst.

Sir Graeme Thomson, K.C.B., Director of Transport and Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, has been selected for appointment as Colonial Secretary of Ceylon in succession to Sir Edward Stubbs, K.C.M.G., who has been appointed Governor of Hong-Kong.

Captain W. E. Lowry, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, whose services have been replaced at the disposal of the Burma Government, is appointed to officiate as Commissioner of Settlements and Land Records, in place of Mr. H. Clayton, appointed Commissioner.

Mr. H. Fyson, I.C.S., who has done such exceptionally good work as Deputy Commissioner of Lahore during the past three months, has been compelled to take leave on medical certificate, and is coming home. His place as Deputy Commissioner will be taken temporarily by Mr. A. A. McC. Mitchell, and his permanent successor will be Mr. S. D. Butler, from Attock. Mr. Butler was Deputy Commissioner of Lahore in 1909-10.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on July 15 at 30, Maberley Road, Upper Norwood, of James Coulter Graham Keddie, C.E. (late Public Works Department, India), aged seventy-seven.

The death occurred on July 19 at Tormore School, Upper Deal, Kent, of Donald Percival, eldest son of the late Malcolm Neil Macdonald, of Tormore, Isle of Skye and Jogopore, Sarun, Bihar and Orissa, India.

Mr. Richard C. Plowden, late of the Punjab Police, died on July 22 at Kingston-on-Thames at the age of sixty-two. He joined the service in 1878, and had a varied experience. He served in the Afghan War of 1880-81.

Captain Edward Gould Hasted, a Military Knight of Windsor and a Crimean veteran, died on July 18 at the age of eighty-two years. In the Crimean campaign he took part in the expedition to Kinbourn, and had that medal and the Turkish medal.

Colonel K. J. W. Coghill, C.B., late Colonel 2nd Bengal Fusiliers, and late commanding the 19th Hussars, died on July 15 at Castletownshend at the age of eighty-five. He served during the Indian Mutiny, and received the medal with clasp. He also took part in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, when he was awarded the medal with clasp, the bronze star, and the Medjidie (third class).

The death occurred in Syria on July 16 of Major-General Sir Henry John Milnes Macandrew, K.C.B., D.S.O. He was born in 1866, and in 1888 entered the Indian Army, joining the 5th Cavalry. He graduated at the Staff College, and in all spent about one-third of his service in the Indian Army on the staff. In the Tirah campaign (1897-98) he served as brigade transport officer, and received the frontier medal with two clasps. From 1903 to 1905 he was brigade-major to the Inspector-General of Cavalry in India. In France he served on the staff of the Indian cavalry divisions from 1914 to 1917, when he was promoted major-general and received command of the 5th Cavalry Division. With the Indian Cavalry Corps he went to Palestine, and under General Allenby took part in the advance from the Egyptian frontier to Aleppo. At Aleppo, and indeed throughout Syria, his loss will be severely felt, for over both the inhabitants and affairs of the country he had great influence.

The death is announced of Lieutenant-Colonel his Highness Sir Bhavsinhji Takatsinhji, K.C.S.I., Maharaja of the Kathiawar State of Bhavnagar. He was born in 1875, and succeeded his father in 1896. During the two great famines which at the passing of the 19th century took so heavy a toll of Kathiawar, he did much good work, and was unremitting in his care for his subjects. In making his State the model it was he selected sound counsellors, who helped him in his endeavours for the social and educational advancement of his people. He was created Knight Commander of the Order of the Star of India in 1904, and was granted the personal title of Maharaja in 1909. Among his many important projects were the improvement of the Port of Bhavnagar, the extension of railway works, the inauguration of a savings bank in his State, and the help of agricultural science by founding scholarships. As in the South African War, in the present war he was untiring in his loyal co-operation with the British Government.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

It is proposed so to extend the work of the Royal Academy of Music as to embrace India.

Paris newspapers report that the Bulgarian Peace Delegation, which is due to-day, will be lodged at Neuilly-sur-Seine.

The Netherlands Government has recognised the new Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

Postage stamps have been issued in connection with the Serbian military occupation of Hungarian territory.

The Chiefs' Conference will be held at Delhi at the end of October, and will probably last a fortnight.

The next meeting of the United Provinces Legislative Council will be held at Lucknow at 11 a.m. on August 4.

Egypt's peace celebrations coincided with those of France, and were remarkable for a display of enthusiasm, a pleasant feature being the participation of Egyptian officers and soldiers.

According to the *Pravda*, a search carried out at the Roumanian Legation in Petrograd resulted in the discovery of a machine-gun.

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THE AUSTRIAN PEACE TERMS

Austria has had to give two bites to her peace pill—a testimony to the fact that the details of her dismemberment have proved as complicated as the machinery which held the hybrid empire together. Her delegates were invited to present themselves at Saint Germain on May 14. They were kept waiting until June 2, when an incomplete treaty was presented to them. A further delay of six weeks followed, and on July 20 they received the second instalment of the Allies' terms. The first part of the treaty placed on record, in broad outline, the accomplished facts of the war; it confirmed the dismemberment that the actual course of the fighting or subsequent events had brought about, and it reproduced a number of clauses from the Treaty presented to Germany designed to regularise the international situation as a result of the defeat of the Central Powers. The boundaries of the new Austria, especially in the south-east, were not clearly defined, and a number of clauses, including those relating to finance, to reparation, and to military matters, were expressly reserved. These clauses are now embodied in the supplementary treaty, of which only a summary had been issued on the day when it was handed to the Austrian delegates. According to this document the frontiers between Austria of the one part, and Hungary and Czecho-Slovakia of the other, have been modified so as to include in the limits of Austria territories inhabited by German-speaking populations. The conditions under which ex-Austrian territories pass to Italy are set forth, and with these territories the Italian Government takes over all the obligations and rights of the Austrian State on all the lines of railways managed by the Austrian State in the territories transferred to Italy. Within three months the Austrian military forces are to be reduced to 30,000, including officers and depot troops; and, as in the case of Germany, universal military service is abolished and voluntary enlistment substituted as part of a plan "to render possible the initiation of a general limitation of armaments of all nations." Within the same period of time the armament of the Austrian Army must be reduced according to detailed schedules, and all surplus surrendered; the manufacture of all war material is to be confined to a single factory under the control of the State, and other similar establishments are to be closed down or converted; the importation and exportation of arms, munitions and war materials of all kinds are forbidden.

There is nothing in regard to the reparation that Austria is called upon to make and to the financial terms imposed upon her that suggests that pre-war friendliness has secured for her any measure of relaxation denied to Germany. Her responsibility for causing loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war is affirmed and admitted, and, while it is recognised that her resources will not be adequate to make complete reparation, she is required to make compensation for damage done to civilians and their property in accordance with categories of damage similar to those provided in the Treaty with Germany. The amount of damage is to be determined by a special "Austrian" section of the Reparation Commission named in the German Peace Terms, and will be notified to Austria before May, 1921. Some reparation, however, will have to be made immediately and "a reasonable sum" for this purpose will be fixed by the Reparation Commission. Austria has also to make an immediate contribution to the physical restoration of the invaded areas by handing over animals, machinery and equipment; she cedes all merchant ships and fishing boats belonging to nationals of the former Empire, and delivers up a fifth of her river fleet. Of particular interest, in view of the controversy that has arisen round them, are the financial clauses of the treaty. It is stipulated that the costs arising under the present treaty, including the costs of the Armies of Occupation and reparations, shall be a first charge upon all assets and revenues of Austria, who is not to be allowed to export any gold before May 1, 1921, without consent of the Reparation Commission. Each of the States to which Austrian territory is transferred, and each of the new States created out of the old Empire will assume part of the Austrian pre-war debt specifically secured on railways, salt mines, and other property; similarly, the unsecured bonded pre-war debt of the former Empire is to be distributed by the Reparation Commission in the proportion that the revenues for the three years before the war of the separated territory bore to those of the Empire, including Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the other hand, the Republic of Austria alone is to bear the charge of the war debt; it renounces all rights as to all international, financial, or commercial organisations in Allied countries, Germany, Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey, or in the former Russian Empire, and has to expropriate, on demand of the Reparation Commission, any right of her nationals in any public utility or concession in these territories, in separated districts and in mandatory territories, holding herself responsible for indemnifying her nationals so dispossessed.

That the terms are stiff may be at once admitted, but few people outside Austria or Germany will contend that they are unjust or excessive. The "liberated territories" would have preferred to see themselves freed from any financial responsibility whatsoever in respect of the heritage of the old Dual Monarchy that becomes theirs; but they have to assume the part of the Austrian pre-war debt specifically secured on certain property that they acquire, as well as the unsecured bonded pre-war debt. The new Austria, reduced as she will be to modest proportions, will find it difficult enough to bear the obligations actually imposed upon her, which include the whole of the war debt. She will start her existence as a bankrupt, and it will be of interest to see whether this factor acts as a deterrent to other German states that may be anxious to absorb her or to come to some political understanding with her. In any case, Austria's punishment calls for no tears outside her own territory; her responsibility for the war was even more direct than that of Germany, and was second only in degree. Ultimately, her fate can hardly fail to be linked up with that of Germany. The ties that bound her to Hungary are broken, and she is cut off from the sea coast. Much of her trade passes to the new States that have been created out of her, and these, under happier political conditions, will, it is to be hoped, not only improve upon their past industrial and commercial record, but will also see that their trade, which was mainly with Germany, takes on a new orientation. They will do well, however, to appreciate the difficulties of their position in this respect. Czecho-Slovakia is entirely wedged in between Germany, Austria, and Hungary. In the past it was Germany who supplied Great Britain, France, Italy, and Russia with Czech products, and if this intervention is to be eliminated in future, direct trade routes with the Allied countries, which cannot be blocked by Germany, will have to be opened up. The value of the Slav wedge against German pressure towards the East depends upon its cohesion, which in turn will be proportionate to the political solidarity of the federal units and to their economic interdependence. These are matters which can only be satisfactorily evolved if peace is maintained in South-Eastern Europe. In view, therefore, of the peculiar interest that the Czecho-Slovak Republic has in seeing that the States associated with it are not distracted by internal dissensions or external complications, we may welcome its influence in the maintenance of peace in the Near East.

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GREAT BRITAIN AND THE NEAR EAST.

WANTED, A NEW GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT.

By Major the HON. W. ORMSBY GORE, M.P

British responsibilities in the Near East will undoubtedly be heavy after the ratification of the various peace treaties. We may take it as probable that Great Britain will continue to be responsible for the administration of Egypt and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and will further become responsible to the League of Nations for the peace, order, good government, and progressive development of Palestine and Mesopotamia. Added to these we already actually possess Aden, British Somaliland and Bahrein, and we have special rights and interests possessed by no other Power in relation to each and all the independent States which compose the Arabian Peninsula.

Hitherto the ultimate control of British responsibilities both political and administrative, in these vast territories has been divided between the Foreign Office and the India Office. Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine and political relations with the Hejaz have been dealt with by the Foreign Office. Aden, Mesopotamia, and the relations with Arab Emirs, other than the King of Hejaz, have been dealt with by the India Office. The former have acted through the High Commissioner in Cairo and the Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, the latter through the Resident at Aden, the Commander-in-Chief in Mesopotamia, and the Chief Civil Commissioner at Baghdad.

The view I desire to put forward is that when peace conditions are reached such a division of control cannot continue without inevitable political and administrative difficulties of a serious character, and, further, that neither the Foreign Office nor the India Office is qualified or equipped for the task of dealing properly with the problems of either half or of the two halves united.

Present and prospective British responsibilities in the Arabic-speaking world must be controlled by one department, and that department has to be created *ab initio*. There should be one civil service—interchangeable with the Anglo-Egyptian Civil Service, and, while I am of opinion that a Viceroy of the Near East is both undesirable and impracticable, the responsible heads of British administration in the several countries mentioned should be co-ordinated under one Minister in London.

I suggest that four principal agents will be required—viz., High Commissioners at Cairo and Baghdad respectively and Chief Commissioners at Jerusalem and Aden respectively.

The functions of the new department, though inevitably including important political and diplomatic relations with the League of Nations on the one hand, and with the protected or neighbouring independent States on the other, will, in the main, be administrative. Finance, law, irrigation, land settlement, military and police establishments, trade and commerce will bulk largely in the work of the new Ministry, and mainly for this reason the Foreign Office is unsuited by its constitution and by the character of its *personnel* for discharging such a task. The diplomatic service and the Foreign Office *personnel* are now interchangeable. The training and traditions of this service are in diplomatic work, and it has long been felt that Foreign Office control, when it has been exercised, of the administrative and internal problems of Egypt has been weak, to say the least of it, for the very reason that the organisation and diplomatic training and outlook of the Foreign Office lack both the experience and organisation for dealing with problems of internal development and administration. In the days of Cromer and Kitchener Foreign Office control was to a large extent atrophied, and the British Consul-General—as he then was styled—was left to work an anomalous constitution and to deal with administrative problems with little or no interference from home. A continuous supply of Cromers and Kitcheners might make it possible for such a personal system to continue, but it is doubtful whether modern world conditions and the growth of Parliamentary control, both in London and in Egypt itself, would permit the continuance of the system. Foreign Office control during the *régimes* of Sir E. Gorst and Sir Reginald Wingate has not produced the happiest results. In Parliament, at any rate, and in English as well as Egyptian opinion in Egypt it is widely felt that the past Foreign Office *régime* cannot be, and ought not to be, continued in its present form.

Then let us for a moment consider the position of the India Office. Here, at any rate, is an office which cannot be accused of lacking the knowledge and experience of internal and financial administration. Objection to the control and administration of the Arabic-speaking world, where responsibility for such control and administration is to fall upon British shoulders, by the India Office is based not upon any administrative incapacity in that office, but on the fact that the Indian and the Arabic-speaking peoples are so utterly different that an attempt to make even Mesopotamia a colony or dependency of India would be disastrous. British rule in India has resulted in the evolution of a highly specialised and extremely efficient bureaucracy with a very clearly defined code and tradition of its own, the result of contact for a century with the peculiar conditions of Indian life. An attempt to apply the methods and special traditions of administration in India to Egypt, Palestine, or Mesopotamia would be to court failure at the outset. Further, the Indian constitutional reforms now under way involve little less than a revolution—personally I think a necessary and in most respects desirable revolution—in the India Office, the Government of India, its provinces, and in the Indian public services. With such developments in the offing the India Office has quite enough to do to deal with the three hundred millions of mankind in the great sub-continent without further taking charge of the very different problems presented in the new-old lands of the Nile, the Tigris, the Euphrates, and the Jordan.

It may be said that the tasks before the new Ministry that I have in mind are so varied that to group them together can only be a temporary expedient. Admittedly, the tasks are very different. In Egypt forty years of *de facto* British Government have restored plenty and a steady development of economic prosperity to a country which we found loaded with debt, vitiated by corruption, and groaning with oppression, illiterate and backward. Now we have to deal with the political problem of associating with us in responsibility for future government and further development more of those Egyptians whom we have educated, without allowing the old evils of corruption, financial profligacy, and class oppression to re-assert themselves.

In Mesopotamia we are beginning at the beginning, as it were. The land of the two rivers, once the granary of the world and the centre of successive civilisations, formerly inhabited by many millions of people, lies derelict for the most part, with millions of acres of irrigable land either a desert or a swamp. Since Hulagu Khan, the Turk, in 1258, destroyed the canal system of the Babylonians and ended the Khalifate of Baghdad, Mesopotamia has been under a blighting rule which has meant stagnation and misery to its inhabitants.

In Palestine we have, in the first place, the Jewish national movement, with all its far-reaching influences throughout the civilised world, and to the support of which we are pledged. We have a similar economic and reconstructional problem to that which we find in Mesopotamia, and we have to perform to the satisfaction of the adherents of the three great monotheistic faiths throughout the world the delicate task of trustee for the League of Nations.

Associated with our task in all three areas is the maintenance of our friendly and intimate relation to the Arab movement which centres in the person of the King of the Hejaz, the Keeper and Protector of the Holy Cities of Islam. Our support of Arab aspirations for freedom from the Turkish oppressor during the war necessitates the continuance of our friendly offices whenever and wherever asked to secure for King Hussein the support and means whereby he may be able to discharge his great responsibilities to his lieges and to the Moslem world. Just as we desire peace, good government, development and progress in the territories for which we are to be responsible, either as protecting Power or as mandatory of the League of Nations, so we desire the same in the neighbouring territories not under our control.

These tasks are not light ones. They will require a staff both in London and in the countries concerned neither small nor inexperienced. They will require a large Arabic-speaking Civil Service, as well as engineers, agronomists, architects, teachers, and the like. All such *personnel* must feel that they have in England a Ministry not less generous and considerate than has been the India Office in regard to Indian civil servants; for in such a new service

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confidence must be established at the outset if goodwill, good work, and sympathy with the problems to be faced are to be secured. They must feel, too, that the Minister and his staff in London know about and care for their efforts, and that in the London office there are men who themselves have had personal contact with and experience of the countries, and can speak the language of their peoples.

The question next arises—if for the above reasons the Foreign Office and the India Office are to hand over to a new department, is it necessary to create a new Secretaryship of State for the purpose? I personally think that while such a solution is the best and most desirable, we cannot continue very long without reorganising and reallotting the functions of many of our departments of State. For instance, the present anomalous position of the Overseas Trade Department, half Foreign Office and half Board of Trade, cannot continue, and sooner or later the Board of Trade, having handed over some functions to the Home Office and some to the Ministry of Labour, can, by taking over the commercial functions of the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Supply, and possibly Shipping and Ways and Communications as well, become a Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Similarly, the Dominions Department of the Colonial Office should soon be transferred to the direct control of the Prime Minister, or preferably to the Lord President of the Council. It may then become possible to establish a Secretary of State for Imperial Administration, with a seat in the Cabinet, who would have under him two Ministers—viz., a Minister for the "Near East" and a Minister for Protectorates and Crown Colonies other than in the Near East. But this can only come when the complete reorganisation of the Government takes place, following further Imperial development on the one hand and local internal devolution within the United Kingdom on the other. Meanwhile it is so vital to get the Near East started, with the arrival of peace conditions, under a separate department, separate at all costs from the Foreign Office, that public opinion in support of such a proposal should be mobilised as soon as possible.

Finally, it should be added that there are those who hold that, in addition to the countries mentioned above, Cyprus, Zanzibar, British East Africa and Uganda, and ex-German East Africa should also be transferred to the care of the new Near Eastern Department. Each has to be considered on its merits. If Cyprus remains British, it is obvious that it should come under the new department, as also Zanzibar, which is the southern limit of Arabic speech and Arab influence. Mombasa is part of the territory of the Sultan of Zanzibar, and forms the principal entry into British East Africa, while the other entry is the Nile Valley, and it is thought that the valley of the Nile should be regarded as one whole from its sources in the Great Lakes to the Mediterranean. German East Africa will probably be held under a mandate somewhat similar to Mesopotamia and therefore might be included within the purview of the new Ministry. However, it is no use overloading the ship at the start, and the main thing is to secure a department for dealing with the Arabic-speaking world and with the gigantic tasks of political and economic development in territories with the fate of which is bound up the peace and prosperity of at least twenty million people inhabiting countries whose peace affects the peace of the whole world.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Egypt (Lord Milner's Commission). July 17.

Mr. HARMSWORTH, in replying to Lieut.-Col. Sir Samuel Hoare, said there was no truth in the report of the composition of Lord Milner's Egyptian Commission (which was given from *El Mokkatam* in the issue for July 11 of THE NEAR EAST). He also said that the Commission had not yet been appointed.

Yugoslav Nationality.

Mr. SHORTT, replying to a question by Commander Viscount Curzon, as to whether one Count Pejácsivich had recently come to this country; whether he belonged to the Austro-Hungarian Embassy in London in 1914, and a year ago was employed in the Austro-Hungarian Embassy in Berlin, expressing strongly anti-Ally sentiments, said he was aware of the diplomatic appointments which this gentleman had held, but he had now been recognised as of Yugo-Slav nationality and came to this country with a Serbian passport. He did not think his presence here was likely to be detrimental to our interests, but he could be required to leave the country if any occasion should arise.

Commander VISCOUNT CURZON: Is the right hon. gentleman aware that peace with Austria has not yet been signed, and that this man is allowed to go about London exactly as he did in pre-war times? Mr. SHORTT: We must have some regard to a Serbian passport, and we can protect ourselves if necessary. EARL WINTERTON: Is not this person one of many formerly connected with the Hungarian Embassy who came to this country camouflaged as Yugoslavs, and is the right hon. gentleman aware that the late Ambassador has announced his intention of coming as soon as possible? Mr. SHORTT: Yes, Sir, I have heard of that.

Montenegro.

Mr. R. MCNEILL asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether: (1) Montenegro declared war against Germany on August 9, 1914; if so, why Montenegro was not invited to sign, and did not sign, the Treaty of Versailles between Germany and the Allies; (2) if he has any official information as to the number of Montenegrin refugees still detained in France; whether these refugees are forbidden to correspond with their relatives and friends in Montenegro, or to return to their own country except with Serbian passports and subject to conditions imposed by Serbian authorities in occupation of Montenegro; if he is aware that these refugees include a number of Montenegrin soldiers who were anxious to return to their country during the war to fight under their native flag, but refused to swear allegiance to the Serbian monarchy and to enlist in the Serbian army; whether steps will be taken to facilitate the return to Montenegro of all who have been exiled as a result of Serbian action, in order that they may take part in any plebiscite that may be taken to determine the future destiny of their country; (3) whether the declaration of war by Montenegro against Austria on August 6, 1914, and against Germany on the 9th of the same month was in pursuance of treaty obligations to Serbia and loyalty to a kindred race; whether he is aware that this action was adduced by the German delegation at Paris as evidence that Montenegro had been an aggressor against the Central Powers and consequently disentitled to a war indemnity; whether he is aware that one-third of the Montenegrin army perished on the battlefield endeavouring to stem the Austrian invasion and to cover the retreat of the Serbians across Montenegrin territory; whether, in view of this record, the Montenegrin Government or people have done anything to forfeit the confidence and esteem of their Allies; (4) if he is aware that during the war reports were current reflecting gravely on the loyalty to the Allies of the King of Montenegro; that these reports were widely credited in certain quarters, were and are believed by many persons to have been originated by parties in Serbia for the purpose of discrediting the Montenegrin monarchy, and thus preparing the way for the annexation of Montenegro by Serbia; and whether, in view of the fact that the conclusion of Peace renders reticence on such matters no longer obligatory, he will now make a full disclosure of the facts of the case, stating the evidence, if any, on which the reports referred to were based?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: The hon. gentleman is correct in stating that Montenegro declared war on Austria-Hungary on August 6, 1914, but my information is that war was declared by her on Germany on August 8 and not on August 9, 1914.

As regards the question of the Montenegrin refugees in France, I have no official information, and I would point out that as these individuals are detained in France, provision of facilities for their return to Montenegro is a question for the French Government. I am afraid I have no figures as to the actual losses of the Montenegrin army, but I know that they were heavy. I should like to assure the hon. gentleman that he is incorrect in supposing that the Montenegrin people have done anything to forfeit the confidence and esteem of His Majesty's Government. On the contrary, His Majesty's Government are endeavouring to discover their true wishes and aspirations, and in this connection I would refer to the replies returned to the hon. gentleman on July 1. I can add nothing to those replies at present, and I would remind the hon. gentleman that peace with Austria has not yet been signed.

Mr. MCNEILL: Does the hon. gentleman realise that there is a number of points which have been left unanswered, and that if I do not press them at this moment it is for no other reason than that I want to avoid embarrassing the Foreign Office?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: Yes. I fully realise that, and I thank my hon. friend.

Smyrna. July 21.

Mr. F. C. THOMSON asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he could give any information as to the state of affairs in Smyrna?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: My information is to the effect that no disturbances have occurred in Smyrna itself since those which followed immediately on the Greek landing on May 15. While the town is in Greek military occupation, the Turkish civil administration is exercising its functions. As regards the interior, the Peace Conference in Paris are endeavouring by every means in their power to prevent the recurrence of fighting between the Greek and Turkish forces by an arrangement strictly defining the limits of Greek military occupation, undertaken under the sanction of the Powers.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the Official Report.

INDIA: Floggings (Burmah).—Army of Occupation Allowance.—Royal Army Medical Corps (Pay).—Commissions (Indians).—Imperial Cadet Corps (Dehra Dun).—Officers Medically Unfit.—Reforms (Views of Local Governments).—Deputations (Priority Certificates). DEMOBILISATION: Troops in Egypt and India. EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. PERSIA. TROOPS' PAY, BAKU. RE-ENLISTMENT (SERVICE IN INDIA). AFGHANISTAN. BURMA (CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS).

NEAR EAST (BRITISH POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES). (July 15.) TURKISH EMPIRE (PARTITION). SALONIKA FORCE (SICKNESS). INDIA: Army Officers (Promotion).— Income Tax (Evasion).—Punjaub Riots.—Military Hospital, Kohat. (July 17.)

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The long-expected Sudan Loan is now on the point of eventualising. The necessary financial resolution authorising the guarantee of the interest on a loan to be raised by the Sudan Government of an amount not exceeding £6,000,000 was passed by the House of Commons in Committee last week, and the Bill has now been published, and will be found elsewhere in these columns.

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The position with regard to the Loan can be briefly summarised. Before the war—in 1913 to be precise—a similar guarantee to that now asked for was agreed to in respect of a Loan for £3,000,000 for irrigation and kindred purposes. The work was suspended during the war, and now that it is over the whole position is altered as regards the necessary expenditure, and it is estimated that while £3,000,000 was sufficient in 1913, double that amount is required to-day. Hence the necessity for the present Bill.

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I need scarcely explain the paramount necessity of doing everything possible to further the extension of cotton-growing within the Empire, and I am glad to see from the debate on the financial resolution that there was a full recognition on the part of the members of the importance of the Sudan as a potential cotton-growing country. The debate was in many respects very illuminating, and I much regret that lack of space prevents the publication of some of the more important contributions to it—notably, the speeches of Earl Winterton and Mr. Ormsby-Gore, which showed the most intimate acquaintance with the questions at issue.

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The Guardian Assurance Company, one of the principal British insurance offices, has undertaken the important step of forming a subsidiary company called the Guardian Eastern Assurance Company, which will specialise in the insurance of persons and property in, exports to and imports from, Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, India, and other Eastern countries. The company, which will undertake all kinds of insurance, should find the Near East a particularly fruitful field for its activities in view of the efforts now being made to develop trade relations between that region and the United Kingdom.

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The surprising step taken by the Greek authorities of prohibiting the importation of cotton goods was interpreted as meaning that a very desirable market would be closed to Manchester for some considerable time, in view of the stock of cotton goods in Greece. Fortunately, this has not proved to be the case, thanks to the prompt action taken by Major Kennard, the Near East Commissioner of the Federation of British Industries. As a result of his representations the Greek Government has withdrawn as from July 4, its prohibition of the import of unbleached cotton goods up to 24 (English), bleached cotton yarns up to 24 (English), dyes, distempered yarns up to 24 (English), and coloured cotton cloths, such as drills and checks, as well as raw Turkish and Indian cotton. The Federation is to be congratulated on its success in this case, which is at once a justification of its policy of appointing overseas representatives, and an illustration of the value of united action on the part of British manufacturers where questions of foreign trade are concerned.

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I understand that it has been practically decided that the opening of the Athens Exhibition is to take place on October 19, and it is hoped that the King of the Hellenes will be able to perform the opening ceremony. The demand for show space at the exhibition has been very great, and only a small amount remains unallotted, and applications are limited to the end of July. It is interesting to note that the Canadian Government will be among the chief exhibitors. Canada, as I pointed out recently, having examined the prospects of many markets, has turned to the Near East as affording her the greatest scope for the development of her trade, and the energy with which our Dominion has already translated her intentions into action should surely be an incentive to firms in this country.

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Now that the war is out of the way the French schemes of development in Morocco may be expected to proceed apace. The Budget for the French zone for the current year certainly lends colour to the view that no time will be lost in carrying out works which will further the progress of this most promising region. A total expenditure of over £7,250,000 is provided for the development of the country, of which £2,790,646 is for public works, £258,159 for roads, and £3,603,896 for agriculture, forests, irrigation, etc.

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I have previously had occasion to comment on the economic advance made by Mysore State in recent years. One of the most important factors in this development has been the Mysore Economic Conference, which investigates and discusses suitable industrial openings in the State. As a result of its work a large number of industries have been taken up with the aid of the Government, among them soap manufacture, rice milling, weaving, the manufacture of mathematical instruments, pharmaceutical products, and wood distillation. Industries now being investigated include the manufacture of paper pulp and paper, glass and bangle making, pottery work, and the manufacture of matches and pencils. Obviously the successful establishment of only a few of these industries would mean much to the State.

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The restrictions on the issue of bonds or shares involving what is known as the export of capital were criticised by Mr. C. Birch Crisp, at the general meeting of the British Bank for Foreign Trade. He pointed out that restriction upon the export of gold was one thing, but that the export of capital apart from gold could only take the form of shipments of goods or by rendering similar services, and he expressed the view that until the London market is reopened to foreign states a material rise in our exports is improbable. In this respect Mr. Crisp reflects the views of a considerable section of the business community.

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In the year ended March 31 last a very notable increase took place in the earnings of the East Indian Railway. The gross receipts amounted to Rs.13,92,50,200, as against Rs.12,21,83,500, and against this increase of Rs.1,70,75,700 the inevitable increase in the operating expenses was only Rs.64,32,600, and the net revenue rose from Rs.7,98,57,600 to Rs.9,05,00,700. The increase in coaching traffic was 9.59 per cent., while in the goods traffic the increase was 15.67 per cent., the chief increases being in coal, hides, jute, limestone, railway material, rice, sugar, and timber. Decreases occurred in grain other than rice, iron and ironmongery, and mineral oils. Rs.4,55,32,800 of the surplus profits fall to the Government, and Rs.39,66,600, to the company, which permits of the distribution, in addition to the guaranteed interest of 10 per cent., of a dividend of £2 4s. per cent., as against £1 7s. for the previous twelve months, giving a total return of £7 9s. per cent. for the year on the deferred annuity and annuity class "D" capital. This is the highest return since the commencement of Government ownership of the system.

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Mr. Alfred Silley, whose connection with the Khedivial Shipping Company has just been severed after some twenty years' service, is shortly proceeding to Constantinople, where he will start in business on his own account. His unique acquaintance with shipping and insurance business in the Near East will find full scope, and his very many friends at home and "out there" will cordially wish him every success in his new venture.

COMMENTATOR.

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866.)

Head Office: 27, THROGMORTON ST., LONDON, E.C.2

Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCAREST.

Directors:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
GENERAL THE HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
P. NAVILLE, Esq.

Bankers: BANK OF ENGLAND. MESSRS. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & CO.

A general Banking business with Roumania is conducted, and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

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CONSTANTINOPLE BUSINESS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, June 28.

It is a matter for great regret that, even after the bitter experiences of the war, British firms are still employing German representatives out here. This is really inexcusable. It is not a question of men who are, so to say, accidentally of German nationality. There are many people out here with not a drop of German blood in their veins, although they may be German subjects. I am referring rather to genuine Germans now "camouflaged" as Ottoman subjects, Czecho-Slovaks, Yugoslavs, and so forth. And, in spite of everything, there are British firms who insist upon keeping such men as their representatives. These men may be very good agents from a strictly business point of view, although even that is open to discussion, but there are Englishmen, or those who have never been anything else but the friends of the British, who are in no way inferior from the business point of view, and who are certainly to be preferred from any and every other point of view. The German agent is not only a business but a political factor. Have we really need of any further evidence in this matter? Here in the Near East, where one talks politics as they talk sport in England, it is of the utmost importance that we should never again allow Germans to be our business representatives. It is nonsense to say that business and politics may be kept in water-tight compartments. The German has proved to us beyond all argument that for him, at least, business and politics are simply different phases of one and the same scheme. And let no one cherish the illusion that the German mind is henceforth going to work along different lines. After all that has taken place during the last five years it is a disgrace for any British firm to be represented by a German.

There is another point with regard to agents that it is as well to bear in mind. The British agent's chief consideration is the interest of the firm that he represents. But for the German agent, the connection, the clientele is the all important factor. To maintain that connection and to increase it is the German agent's first consideration, and if it is a question of choosing between the interests of the firm and the interests of the customer, in most cases it is the firm that is sacrificed. The German relies for his business a great deal upon his personal relations and his own capacity for "blarney." The Englishman's methods of business differ very considerably. He relies more upon the quality of the goods for their sale, and he avoids that intimate personal contact which is usually a drawback in matters of business. The result is that the British agent can adopt quite a different attitude. His first consideration is the interest of the firm that he represents. For these reasons, among others, one very rarely finds a British agent representing a non-British firm.

Enemy Banks.

The Inter-Allied Financial Control announced this week that sums deposited in certain enemy banks will cease to bear interest from July 1, 1919. The banks concerned are:—Deutsche Bank, Deutsche Orient Bank, Wiener Bank Verein, Société Anonyme Hongroise de Bank et de Commerce.

During the war the Turks and Germans thought they had the chance to cut out the Imperial Ottoman Bank. The result was the foundation, under the auspices of Javid Bey in particular, of "Le Credit National Ottoman." At the general meeting, held on the 25th inst., the board of directors was modified in a way that cannot but be of very great advantage to the bank. Javid himself was eliminated, together with his notorious associates Hussein Jahid and Midhat Chukri. A dividend of 3 per cent was declared, and those shareholders who were forced to subscribe by the Committee of Union and Progress may consider themselves lucky.

Shipping.

At a meeting of the Allied High Commission this week, it was decided that henceforth merchant vessels should pay light dues as before the war.

Among the ships of all nationalities that throng the port, may be seen one bearing a strange flag. The ship is called the *Polonia*, and the flag is the flag of Poland. The design is a St. Andrew's cross in crimson and the Polish eagle in the corner in the same colour, the whole upon a white ground. The *Polonia* is running at present to the Black Sea ports and Constantinople.

Markets.

Business is still quiet and there is nothing fresh to report. The Turkish lira is at a slightly higher price, Sterling having dropped to 380, but the difference is not enough to have much effect.

FOOD PRICES AT ALEPPO.

(From a Correspondent.)

At the present time, when the cost of living has risen by leaps and bounds in the majority of the countries directly affected by the war, it cannot be said that the price of foodstuffs in Aleppo and Northern Syria is unduly high. Considering that for four years it was exploited and drained by the Germans, it speaks well for its natural richness in agricultural produce that prices are no higher than they are. Naturally fertile soil and cheap labour, coupled with the fact that the country has not been laid waste, must be the reasons for this. During the last year of the war and for the first few months after our occupation, prices of necessaries, such as wheat, barley, flour, meat, etc., ruled high. Imported groceries, such as tea, coffee, sugar, etc., were naturally scarce on account of the blockade, but the high prices of the necessaries (of which the country was self-supporting) were probably during the war, and most certainly after the war, the result of profiteering.

After our occupation every opportunity was naturally taken by the Syrian to reap a rich harvest out of the British troops, who, having outpaced their supply organisation, were compelled temporarily to live on the country. The arrival of the first supply trains and the reaping of a good harvest let loose upon the market large hoards of hidden grain, and prices quickly fell. For instance, wheat, which was 40s. to 45s. per shembul (105 kilos) on January 19 fell to 27s., to 32s. on the 30th. Barley similarly fell from 20s. to 25s. per shembul (88 kilos) to 15s. to 17s. The following is a list of prices on January 30, by which time Army supplies were coming through by rail, and camel caravans were arriving fairly regularly from Baghdad and Damascus, bringing such commodities as coffee, sugar, and rice. The prices, where not otherwise stated, are per rotl of 2½ okes, equal 2¾ lb., and are worked out on the ratio of 160 Turkish piastres to £1 sterling:—Bread, 9d. to 1s.; flour, 13s. 6d. to 17s. 6d.; sugar, 6s. to 7s.; coffee, 9s. to 11s.; soap, 5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d.; rice, 4s.; butter, 9s.; cheese, 7s. to 9s.; olive oil, 6s.; milk, 2s.; meat (sheep) 10s., (goat) 8s., (beef) 6s.; eggs, per 100, 12s.; chickens (each), 3s.; charcoal, 1s.; wood, 3d. to 6d.; carrots, 6d.; beetroot, 5d.; petroleum, 30s. to 40s. The above prices have naturally fluctuated since, but have on the whole fallen. The prices of chickens and eggs seem a dream of pre-war days compared with English prices, but the inhabitants consider them a case of gross profiteering due to the arrival of the British soldier, who purchased eggs in large quantities. Such was the demand for eggs that large numbers of what must surely have been pre-war eggs were unearthed by the wily Aleppine and foisted upon the unsuspecting soldiery under the guise of "new laid." There is a limit to human endurance, however, and retaliation for a repeated supply of bad eggs has been known to take the form of a little bombing practice, the bombs being the aforesaid egg and the target the vendor. Such is the East, however, that the victim looked upon it merely as bad luck in being detected in a piece of "cute" business. It must be remembered that the above prices would be slightly higher if dealing with Turkish gold, the rate of exchange being 145 P.T. per L.T. The newcomer to Aleppo must also remember that all prices are quoted in what is locally termed "Churuk para" or Aleppo money—"Churuk para" is not real coin but merely an expression, and to reduce "Churuk para" to "Sagh para" or real coin it is necessary to subtract 1-5 from the price quoted. Normally 40 paras go to the piastre and 20 piastres to the mejidie; at the present moment you should get eight mejidies for your sovereign. It will be seen that the novice, unless he is aware of this local custom, would be at a distinct disadvantage when trading either wholesale or retail in the Aleppo Bazaar.

ROUMANIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of a copy of a notice issued by the Roumanian Revictualling Commission, Paris, setting out the regulations governing the importation of goods into Roumania. It appears from this notice that invoices for goods shipped to Roumania do not require to be *viséd* by the Roumanian Government representatives in the country of export. The existing provisions as to the importation of goods into Roumania, as given in the notice, are as follows:—

All the restrictions imposed on trade during the war are abolished, with the exception of the provisions regarding trade with the enemy. Nevertheless:—(1) Articles of prime necessity (meat, cereals, potatoes, haricot beans, sugar, fish, alcohol, and petroleum) are only to be purchased and sold by the Roumanian State. (2) The importation of articles of luxury (a list of which is given in a schedule annexed to the notice) is not allowed without the previous authorisation of the Roumanian Minister of Industry and Commerce. (3) All goods other than mentioned in Paragraphs 1 and 2 above may be imported without previous authorisation or formalities. (4) To obtain authorisation to import the articles of luxury referred to in Paragraph 2, an application containing a description of the goods and their quantity and value must be addressed to the Minister of Industry and Commerce at Bucharest (Director-General of Commerce). The Minister, after consulting the Chamber of Commerce, will accord or refuse authorisation. If authorisation to import is granted the goods will be treated in the same manner as those covered by Paragraph 3. (5) On arrival of the goods, the importer must present, in addition to the documents for Customs formalities, invoices in duplicate, and if such has been granted the authorisation to import referred to in Paragraphs 2 and 4. No formality or *visa* for these invoices is required. A commission of 2 per cent. is charged on these invoices by the Customs. This Commission will be charged in leis, at the current rate of exchange as fixed by an Exchange Commission. (6) After the Customs formalities have been complied with, the goods may not be requisitioned by any authority, nor may the circulation thereof be prevented. Nevertheless, the profit at which the wholesale merchants may sell the goods to the retailers, or the retailers to consumers, must not exceed 20 per cent. (7) In the interior of the country the transportation of the goods referred to in Paragraphs 2 and 3 will take place without special formality or authorisation. The railways will reserve each day at least 15 per cent. of the available wagons for the carriage of these goods in the following order:—(a) The carriage of goods for the authorities. (b) The carriage of goods for rural and urban co-operative societies. (c) The carriage of goods for private individuals. A list of the goods which are classed as "articles of luxury" (and in respect of which an import permit is therefore still necessary) may be inspected by British traders interested on application at the Inquiry Room, Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence), 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2.

George Govedaroff
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Ulitza Gourko 19, Philippopolis.
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THE RISING RUPEE.

The Exchange Problem and a Policy.

(From A Correspondent.)

The recent rise in the value of the rupee from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. has aroused much criticism, especially from the exporter who already has lost heavily and is faced with prospect of further heavy losses should exchange rise higher. In the main, however, the majority of the criticisms are vitiated in that they fail to distinguish between a rising exchange and a high exchange. The former does cause loss to the exporter, but the latter is immaterial once exchange has been steady for a reasonable period with no prospect of further advance. A proof of this contention is found in the events which followed the closure of the Mint to free coinage of silver in 1893. While exchange was rising to the fixed level of 1s. 4d., the exporter was handicapped, but once the level of 1s. 4d. had been reached no such handicap persisted and the export trade went rapidly ahead, far more rapidly than hitherto, as trade in general was freed of the anxiety of a fluctuating exchange. It must be freely granted that if it were possible to prevent the rise in exchange the rise should be prevented, but it is impossible as it is manifest that the exchange value of the rupee cannot be below its intrinsic bullion value, and that therefore as the price of silver rises so must the value of the rupee. It would seem that the only possible means of prevention would be to recall the present coinage of rupee and coin a new rupee with a smaller silver content, but such a course is practically impossible on account of the magnitude of the task. Although it is impossible for the Government to prevent a further rise in exchange should the price of silver further advance, it is possible to prevent a fall in exchange should the price of silver fall. For the following reasons it seems advisable that a fall of exchange should be prevented and further that the Government should immediately announce its policy that to whatever height exchange may rise from that height it will never fall.

1. The announcement of such a policy would immediately remove all uncertainty of a possible and rapid fall in the exchange value of the rupee, and would therefore enable the importer to operate with the greatest freedom without fear of an unexpected and heavy loss. The exporter would be still hampered by the possibility of a further rise in exchange, but he would be equally so hampered whether the lower limit of exchange was fixed or not.

2. When the price of silver has reached its maximum and until such time as the price recedes to a value making an exchange of 1s. 4d. possible there will be an unstable exchange dependent on the fluctuation in the silver price. Such a fall in the price of silver must inevitably take a very considerable time if it is ever realised; therefore, sooner or later it would seem inevitable that the Government must fix exchange at some figure above 1s. 4d. Surely, therefore, it would be the bold and wise course to announce now that to whatever figure exchange may rise, from that figure it shall never fall.

3. Once the general opinion is formed that the exchange has reached its maximum, those who have resources which they will eventually require at home will immediately take steps to remit home all their surplus cash that they may take advantage of the high exchange to realise the maximum amount in sterling of their surplus rupees in India. Similarly those with funds at home would hesitate to bring their money out to India for the purpose of investing in rupee undertakings. Such action would be disastrous to the expansion of Indian industry as it would deprive India of much capital that would normally be invested here. Such a result was evident last year when the rupee stood at 1s. 6d. with the possibility of falling back to 1s. 4d.; how much stronger would the tendency be with the rupee at 1s. 8d., or even higher.

4. The more the exchange value of the rupee is divorced from its intrinsic value the greater the profit Government make on coinage. Consequently it is to the interest of the Government to fix the exchange value of the rupee as high as possible. Therefore, once the rupee has reached any given value from causes outside control of the Government it is evident that to allow the rupee to recede again in value is for the Government to forego large profits on future coinage. The original parity of 1s. 4d. was not fixed on for any inherent merit in that parity, but rather because that value was the highest that the Government could contemplate would be realised in a reasonable time. Once the Government had announced 1s. 4d. as the final value to be aimed at, it could not subsequently raise the value further by artificial means, as such a course would have resulted in an element of uncertainty. But now that the rupee has advanced through causes outside Government control there seems no valid reason why the old parity should still be adhered to.

5. The pernicious habit of looking upon Rs15/ as being equivalent to £1 sterling is still prevalent, especially in the European retail trade, with the result that retail prices are considerably higher than they should be. In the European shops if Rs12 are taken as equivalent to £1 in order to reckon the corresponding price at home the reply is always given that the correct value is Rs 15 to the £. There is no doubt that the retailer takes full advantage of the confusion. If it were officially announced that the old parity was dead, such imposition would, if not impossible, be far more difficult.

On the other side, it is difficult to find any advantage in allowing the possibility of a fall in exchange to remain. When exchange starts to fall the exporter will be encouraged, but the encouragement of a possible unlooked-for gain is not calculated to increase the volume of exports to the same extent as the possibility of an unexpected loss is calculated to decrease the volume of imports. An unexpected gain is a welcome windfall, but the fear of an unlooked-for loss is a mighty deterrent as such loss may end in disaster which no trader cares to face as it may lead him to irretrievable ruin.

INDIA AS A HARDWARE MARKET.

India is a particularly important market for British supplies of hardware of all kinds. Before the war India's imports of cutlery, implements, and tools (excluding agricultural and machine tools) from the United Kingdom amounted to nearly £300,000 in value, and of hollowware and sundry small hardware to £322,000. In spite of the larger consuming power of the Indian Empire and the consequent increased demand for imported goods, Great Britain only succeeded, owing to difficulties arising from the war, in supplying such goods to India in 1917 to the value of £230,000 and £107,000 respectively. The Indian market for builder's hardware, such as locks, hinges, door-bolts, etc., was worth annually about £150,000 before the war, and this figure represents approximately the value of these imports in 1916-17, although actually the quantity imported works out at less owing to the increase in prices. In domestic hardware, including enamelled ironware, the position formerly held in the import trade by Germany and Austria has not been completely filled, although Japan has made enormous progress. Greater use has, of course, been made of home-manufactured substitutes for the foreign article. Nevertheless, a big business awaits the British manufacturer who can put a cheap article on the market. The British position has not been seriously assailed with respect to instruments and tools generally. Here it is a matter for Great Britain to continue to supply her well-known lines, keeping the price as low as possible in view of the competition of Japanese and locally produced substitutes, and of the well-finished American specialities. In cutlery it may be said the market is waiting for the full resumption of British supplies. In addition to the light hardware goods indicated above, India imports a total value of over a million pounds' worth of heavier hardware, including sugar mills, oil presses, water lifts, and dairy appliances, over three-quarters of this trade belonging to the United Kingdom. Here again American and Japanese competition is steadily increasing.

INDIAN OPIUM.

Its Use in European Medicine.

In pre-war times the opium used in this country for medicinal preparations and for the manufacture of morphine was obtained from Turkey and Persia. It was at one time believed that Indian opium was not rich enough in morphine to be employed for these purposes. Although this is true of a large part of the opium prepared in India for export to the East, it is now clearly established that opium suitable in every way for medicinal use in Europe and for the manufacture of morphine can be readily obtained from certain areas in India. So long ago as 1890 the Imperial Institute suggested to the Government of India that the production of medicinal opium for export to Europe should be undertaken. No action was, however, taken in this direction until 1907, when the question was again considered at the suggestion of the Imperial Institute in connection with the restrictions which were then placed on the future export of Indian opium to China. Finally, after the outbreak of war, the Government of India permitted the export of a certain quantity of opium to the United Kingdom for use by manufacturers of morphine, and it is hoped that the trade thus begun will be developed and firmly established.

The proof that Indian opium is of much better quality than was previously supposed is mainly due to investigations carried out at the Imperial Institute. In a detailed report published in the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute in 1915 it was shown that of 102 samples of opium from different parts of India about half could be substituted for the best Turkey and Persian opium employed in European medicine, while an additional 25 per cent. could be used for special medicinal purposes for which a smaller proportion of morphine in the opium is sufficient. The results of further investigations, which are published in the current number of the *Bulletin*, confirm the earlier opinion as to the high quality of Indian opium. The average amount of morphine in 24 samples from various parts of the United Provinces was found to be above the highest standard demanded by the British Pharmacopœia. In fact, 19 of them were so rich in morphine that they would need dilution with lower-grade opium before they could be used for medicinal purposes in the United Kingdom. Similar results were obtained in the case of twelve samples of Benares opium, representing the different kinds available for export, all of which were found to be quite suitable for medicinal use or for manufacturing purposes in the United Kingdom.

INDIAN COTTON MILLS PRODUCTION

Figures compiled in the Department of Statistics in India, from accounts rendered by millowners, give the result of the spinning and weaving in cotton mills in March, 1919, as follows (in thousands of pounds):—Yarn spun, 56,182; woven goods manufactured, 27,805. The total quantity of yarn spun during the month amounted to 56 million lb., and that of woven goods to 28 million lb., as compared with 49 million and 23 million lb. respectively in the corresponding month of the preceding year. In the seven months, September, 1918, to March, 1919, the quantity of yarn spun amounted to 344 million lb., and that of woven goods to 187 million lb., as against 372 and 213 lb. respectively in the corresponding months of the preceding year. In the twelve months, April, 1918, to March, 1919, the quantities produced were 615 million lb. of yarn and 350 million lb. of woven goods. There was a decrease in the production of both yarn and woven goods in Indian mills in 1918-19, as compared with 1916-17 and 1917-18. The exports of cotton twist and yarn in the twelve months, April, 1918, to March, 1919, were only 64 million lb. as compared with 122 and 169 million lb. in the preceding two years.

The Government of Bengal has submitted a Town Planning Bill for the consideration of the Government of India.

The preliminary forecast of the Indian jute crop gives 2,749,120 as the total acreage under cultivation, being an increase of 182,037 acres in Bengal, 53,501 in Bihar and Orissa, and 13,200 in Assam. The percentage of increase is 9.9 above that of last year.

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TEA PRODUCTION IN INDIA.

Review of Position in 1917.

The Blue Book, just issued, on the production of tea in India in 1917 states that the total area under tea was 664,300 acres, or 2 per cent. less than in 1916. Estimates had to be made in respect of 39 non-reporting gardens. Of the total area, 614,800 acres were reported to have been planted, as against 601,400 acres in the preceding period. The total number of plantations decreased from 4,486 to 4,252, the decrease being due to the fact that during settlement operations in the Punjab several small plantations were in many cases treated as one. The total production of both black and green teas is reported to have been 370,358,000 lb., an increase of about 2,000,000 lb., the figures for black tea being 368,123,000 lb. While the area under cultivation has increased by 24 per cent. in the decade the increase in production has been 51 per cent. The highest production per acre in 1917 was in Lakhimpur, Assam, namely 75 lb. per acre, while the lowest production was in Garhwal, United Provinces, namely, 22 lb. For the whole of India, excluding Burma, the average production per acre was 604 lb., a decrease of 10 lb.

Record Exports.

The total export by sea in 1917-18 amounted to 359,182,305 lb, as against 291,439,082 lb. in 1916-17, an increase of 23 per cent. and a record. Exports to the United Kingdom amounted to 266,963,516 lb., an increase of 19 per cent.; but those to Russia, the second best customer for Indian tea in Europe, decreased by about twenty million pounds. France, whose imports in 1916-17 were only 80,078 lb., in the period under review took 719,696 lb. The total exports to Europe, excluding the United Kingdom, decreased by 18,576,000 lb. Shipments to almost all the African countries increased, the total trade amounting to 11,431,427 lb., as against 2,393,863 lb. The principal increase was in the case of Egypt, whose imports rose from 1,081,273 lb. to 6,226,321 lb.; while Cape Colony took 3,229,163 lb., as against 605,973 lb.; and the exports to Natal were 1,081,548 lb., as against 118,000 lb. There was a great increase also in the exports to American countries, the total exports amounting to 43,911,312 lb., as against 13,216,358 lb. Of this total Canada took 21,152,917 lb. as against 8,443,092 lb.; while the exports to the United States increased from 3,031,648 lb. to 20,665,481 lb. The total exports by sea to Asiatic countries decreased by one million pounds. China, Ceylon, Persia, Arabia, and Asiatic Turkey (mainly Mesopotamia) are India's best customers in Asia, and the exports to all of these, except China, increased. In the case of the trade with China the exports declined from nine million pounds to about three million pounds. Australia, New Zealand, and the Fiji Islands imported between them about 5,616,000 lb. more than in 1916-17. The stoppage of exports from the United Kingdom resulted in increased direct shipments to Canada, the United States, South Africa, and South America. Exports by land increased by 285,000 lb., or 25 per cent. The tonnage shortage, it is pointed out, was the controlling factor in the trade of the year. The scheme of the Food Controller of H.M. Government for purchasing and shipping Indian tea between November 1, 1917, and May 31, 1918, relieved the Indian market during the latter part of the season. The Food Controller originally contracted for 40 per cent. of the crop, but ultimately contracted for 25,000,000 lb. in excess of this amount, and finally took all the tea that was offered in order to fill the available tonnage.

Prices.

The average price per lb. realised for all teas sold at public auction during 1917-18 was 7as. 3p., as against 8as. 8p. in 1916-17 and 8as. 11p. in 1915-16. The Calcutta market opened on June 12, 1917, with common Pekoe Souchong at 6as. 6p. per lb. Early in September the quotation had declined to 4as. 6p. per lb. The Government contract brought about a gradual recovery, and the Home Government's scheme left very little common tea for distribution in the market. 7as. was reached in December, but was followed by a smart drop to 5as. 6p. At the end of the season, however, a large Army order forced the price up to 7as. 6p.

The report states that the present position and prospects of the tea industry appear to be satisfactory, although it is difficult in existing conditions to forecast the future. The immediate future of the industry is largely a question of shipping. There is no doubt that a large demand will continue. Supplies are stated to be short in most of the consuming countries, and it seems doubtful whether production will be able to cope with the demand for several years to come.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Woodworking Machines for Roumania.

It is well known that Roumania is one of the best markets for agricultural machinery in the Balkan States; but it has not apparently been realised yet by British makers of woodworking machinery that she is just as good a market for their production. The timber trade is the third most important industry of Roumania, and with the extension of her territories her position in that respect will be greatly improved. The forests are extensive, contain valuable timber, and are carefully exploited. Timber is exported in the rough, dressed, and in a manufactured state to the average value of £1,200,000 annually. Some of the sawmills are large, and were equipped with German and Austrian machinery. Their number in recent years has been increasing, and according to recent reports timber-working appliances, framesaws, circular saws, planes, lathes, moulding and tenoning machines, cabinet makers, joiners, and carpenters machines and tools are much wanted. It is interesting to note that while more woodwork was being exported there was also a flourishing import trade of certain timber products, especially the choicer kind of cabinet work and furniture, the value reaching about £400,000 a year. Part of this was imported from England, but France and Austria were more favoured in these lines. It is intended to check this importation by developing Roumania's own timber industry on thoroughly modern lines. Considerable expense will consequently be incurred in equipping the old and new woodworking factories with modern machinery. In view of this fact British manufacturers of such machinery should be prepared for the occasion. The case is urgent, and some foreign competitors are already on the spot. In the circumstances, therefore, publicity, by judicious advertising in papers which reach the commercial and industrial classes of the country, or by means of showrooms, is certainly advisable in order to counteract some of the disadvantages of distance. One point in the British manufacturer's favour is that the quality of British machinery is well known in Roumania, and that very sound business relations already exist between the two countries. But, of course, that will not be of much help to manufacturers if the latter simply wait for the buyers to come to them. With the opening for free traffic of the Dardanelles, the importance of the Black Sea port of Braila is evident. This town has a large, highly industrial population, and the establishment of permanent British stores and show-rooms would undoubtedly bring a closer intercourse in trade and commerce between Roumania and the United Kingdom.

Fresh Meat from the Near East.

The war is responsible for the interruption of an important scheme being carried out, for the commercial value and success of which no doubt could be entertained. It was based on the exportation of fresh meat, fruit, fish, etc., from the Near East to the United Kingdom and the Continent. Cold storages were being planned in Roumania, Serbia, and Greece, and a certain number of steamers plying between England and the Ægean and Black Seas were to be fitted with refrigerating installations for frozen meat. So far as known, a German firm was likely to supply the necessary refrigerating plant of machinery—a firm which had already been doing considerable business with the East. The apparent preference given to the German system must be attributed to the fact, strange though it seems, that the latest British refrigerating systems were not sufficiently known, though they are superior to the German, and in some instances cheaper. The slaughter-houses, storage depots, etc., were planned in accordance with the British system in similar enterprises. It is said that as soon as the shipping difficulties are over the interested parties intend to carry out their original scheme—minus, it is hoped, the origin of the refrigerating plants—and thus the prospects of having in the British market fresh meat from the Balkan mountains and the plains of Roumania and Greece, and fresh fruit from Greece, Asia Minor, and the Ægean islands are evidently very hopeful. In the meantime it would be advisable for British manufacturers of refrigerating plants to make their productions and systems better known in the Near East, where, apart from such enterprises as the one mentioned above, the local steamship services and the general public will soon prove desirable buyers.

A British Refrigerating System.

It may be of interest to those who are concerned in the above enterprise and to others to give a few notes on the simplicity, efficiency and economy of a British refrigerating plant. The system generally employed for the importation of meat, fish, fruit, dairy produce, etc., is the Dry Air Carbonic Refrigeration in which carbonic anhydride is used. This material is a most powerful refrigerant, and is applicable to commercial purposes; incidentally it may be mentioned that it is the gas which is used for making all aërated waters, and constitutes the sparkle of wines and bottled beer. The refrigerating machine consists of (1) the compressor in which the gas drawn from the evaporator is compressed; (2) the condenser, consisting of coils, in which the compressed warm gas is cooled and liquified by the action of cooling water; and (3) the evaporator, consisting of coils, in which the liquid carbonic anhydride evaporates, producing any degree of temperature that may be required down to 80 degrees below freezing point. The required quantity of carbonic anhydride originally put into the machine is used over and over again, going progressively through the process of compression, condensation, and evaporation. Thus a small quantity only is required to be added from time to time in order to replace any small losses, and for this purpose carbonic anhydride is sent in steel cylinders to any part of the world. The cost of the material is only a few pence per pound, and the quantity required for a complete charge is very small.

Roumania's National Bridge.

According to recent information, a business man, long resident in France and prominent there in the steel-nail industry, is now in the United States with a proposition to rebuild the Roumanian national Bridge across the Danube. The estimated cost is stated to be about £48,000, and it is claimed that the work is so urgent as to make it impossible to wait for deliveries of steel from European mills and bridge shops.

Threshing Machines for Greece.

In the rush of American and Continental travellers all over the Balkan States to secure orders for agricultural machinery, which now is the great desideratum in that region, it is very satisfactory to hear that a large British firm of threshing machine makers are engaged upon a £50,000 contract from Greece for the supply of their special threshing outfits to that country. The order was placed some months ago, but at that time such problems as labour and the supply of materials were chronic, if not acute. Delivery could not be promised for the period desired, but, it is said, that already the first consignment is on the point of arriving at Piræus or Salonika. The order may be completed before the end of the year.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

P. and O.

Resolution for Modification of Charter Confirmed.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company was held on July 18 at the offices, 122, Leadenhall Street, E.C., for the purpose of confirming if thought fit, the resolution passed at an extraordinary general meeting and at separate meetings of the preferred and deferred stockholders, held on July 3, as follows:—"That the regulations set forth in the Second Schedule to the Ninth Supplementary Charter of the Company of the 8th day of September, 1903, be altered and added to in manner following, that is to say, by inserting the following new regulation after Regulation No. 102, under the heading 'Capitalisation of profits and payment of dividends in specie'—namely:—102a. Notwithstanding any rights conferred on stockholders by Clause 14 of the company's charter of the 8th September, 1903, the company shall have the following powers:—(a) The company may from time to time or at any time by resolution passed in general meeting capitalise any sum or sums forming part of any undivided profits of the company whether standing to the credit of any reserve fund or not, and direct the appropriation of the sum or sums so capitalised to and amongst the members of the company who would have been entitled thereto if the same were distributed by way of dividend, and provide for the distribution of such capitalised profits by way of capital distribution by directing that the same shall be used to pay up unissued stock of the company of any denomination or denominations on behalf of such members, and that the stock so paid up shall be distributed as capital amongst such members in proportion to the amounts which would have been received by them if such profits had been distributed by way of dividend as aforesaid and in satisfaction of their shares and interests in the sum or sums so capitalised as aforesaid; (b) any general meeting declaring a dividend or bonus may direct that such dividend or bonus be paid wholly or in part by the distribution of specific assets and in particular of paid-up stock or securities of the company or of paid-up shares, stock, or securities of any other company, or in any one or more of such ways, and such resolution shall be effective and effect shall be given thereto by the directors accordingly; (c) where any difficulty arises in regard to any distribution to be made as aforesaid the directors may settle the same as they may think expedient, and in particular may issue fractional certificates, fix the value for distribution of any stock or specific assets or any part thereof, and may, in order to adjust the rights of all parties, determine that cash payments shall be made to any members upon the footing of the value so fixed, and may vest any such stock or specific assets in trustees upon such trusts for the persons or corporation entitled to share in the distribution, or any of them, as may seem expedient to the directors; (d) where requisite the directors may appoint any person to sign a contract for allotment and acceptance on behalf of the persons entitled to share in any such distribution as aforesaid or any of them, and such appointment shall constitute the person so appointed the agent of the person or corporations entitled for the purpose of executing the contract." Lord Inchcape, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E. (chairman and managing director), presided.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Abbott) having read the notice convening the meeting and the resolution,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, on July 3 the company held three meetings, at which the resolution just read by the secretary was passed. It is necessary that this resolution should be confirmed at the extraordinary general meeting which we are holding to-day, and if it is your pleasure that we should take the resolution as read it will save me the trouble of reading it again. Is that your pleasure? ("Agreed.") I beg to propose, therefore, "That the resolution passed at the extraordinary meetings held on July 3 be now confirmed" and I will ask Sir Montagu Turner to second it.

Sir Montagu Cornish Turner: I have much pleasure in seconding that resolution.

The Right Hon. Sir Fortescue Flannery, Bt., M.P.: I think it would be rather a pity, if I may say so, that even at this confirmatory meeting so important a change should take place without some observation from the shareholder side of the table. I noticed in the report of the original meeting that no shareholder took any part in the proceedings except to ask a question, and therefore I have come here to-day, my lord, for the purpose of saying how cordially I for one—although only a comparatively small holder of deferred stock—and I believe the stockholders generally, and also the public, will endorse this policy of the board. The board are doing much the same as the Chancellor of the Exchequer has just completed doing with regard to national affairs; that is to say, funding cash obligations and substituting stock for cash, precisely the same transaction. And just as there was a perfectly sound reason—an overwhelming reason—for performing that operation in national finance, so I think there is an equally important reason in reference to this, the premier, or one of the premier, steamship companies of the world. We feel, as you said, my lord, in your speech a fortnight ago, that the supremacy of British shipping is not in jeopardy, but threatened with very serious competition. The only figures I will refer to are the number of berths in the United States and in this country for building ships. Roughly, they are as 600 in the United States to 200 in the United Kingdom. That is to say, the present power of production of tonnage in the United States is something like three times as great as the power of production in the United Kingdom; and so long as the price of tonnage continues at its present enormous figure, so long will our friends at the other side of the Atlantic continue to build in competition with us. Well, my lord, that shows we—shareholders and the public alike—must support enterprise in this country wherever we find enterprise. We certainly find it here, and we certainly think that the board, in desiring to make every item of the company's funds available for increasing the tonnage of the P. and O. fleet, are acting wisely. I believe the shareholders and the public alike will most thoroughly and cordially support that policy in the national interest—which, as a matter of fact, it is, as well as a matter of business necessity, prudence, and good judgment.

In answer to a question by Mr. T. W. Stevens, a preferred stockholder, the Chairman said: I explained, I think, on July 3 what the position was with regard to the preferred stockholders, and I mentioned that their position would be substantially improved if the company husbanded its assets. In regard to giving the preferred stockholders an increased dividend, that we could not think of entertaining for a moment.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The proceedings then terminated.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

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MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.

Prosperous Economic Position.

The eleventh annual general meeting of the Mortgage Company of Egypt (Limited) was held on July 23 at Cannon Street Hotel, London. Sir Henry Babington Smith, K.C.B., C.S.I., (the chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. R. H. Eggar) read the notice convening the meeting and the certificate of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said: Egypt during the war has been in a singularly fortunate position. Her territory served as a base and training ground for large forces, but, though her frontiers were threatened in the early part of the war, no operations took place in Egypt proper. There has been no increase in the national debt, and very little addition to taxation. The obstacles attending the supply of coal and other imports created serious difficulties, but, on the other hand, the products of the country have been sold at very high prices, with the result that there has been a large addition to the accumulated wealth of the country. There can be no doubt that, broadly speaking, the economic position of the country is one of great prosperity. The political situation can hardly be regarded with equal satisfaction. In the course of the autumn an inquiry into the cause of the disturbances and the condition of Egypt generally will be conducted by a Commission, of which Lord Milner will be the head

Cotton Crop.

The cotton crop of 1917-18, which amounted to 6,293,000 cantars, had a value, at the average price of 38½ tallaris per cantar, of 48½ million pounds Egyptian, to which must be added 4½ millions for the cotton seed, making a total of 52¾ millions. The corresponding figures for the crop of 1918-19 are not yet available, but it will be remembered that the British and Egyptian Governments agreed to purchase the whole crop at the price of 42 tallaris per cantar for the standard grade. The yield was less than in 1917-18, since the area was restricted; but as the price was higher, the total value was not very far short of that of the preceding year's crop. For the crop of 1919 the area is unrestricted, and, provided nothing exceptional happens, it should be a fairly good one. Owing to unusually cold weather in April and May it is somewhat backward in development. The scheme of Government purchase no longer applies, and the market will be free. There seems, however, no reason why the demand and the price should not be good, perhaps better than last year's.

The observations made by Mr. Foster last

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THREE SEAS BRAND

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year concerning the effect of these prosperous economic conditions on mortgage business apply with equal force this year. Borrowers have been able to pay off arrears and to reduce their debts, and there has been very little demand for new loans Land has been in some request, and there has been a substantial rise in the value of good agricultural property, but the demand has not been so active as might have been expected, having regard to the large amount of capital that must be in the hands of farmers and landowners awaiting investment.

Balance Sheet.

You will see the result of these conditions in our balance-sheet. Our investments in first mortgages, which in 1915 amounted to £3,481,000—that was the highest figure reached—have now been reduced to £2,756,000; while the loan on current account from the Agricultural Bank of Egypt, which at one time amounted to £1,080,000, has been reduced to £20,000. The instalments in arrear, which on March 31, 1916, amounted to £410,938, have now been reduced to £168,663, while the property acquired by foreclosure, which in March, 1917, had risen to £173,496, is now reduced to £117,592—a sum which we believe to be amply covered by the value of the property in question.

At the same time our reserves have been greatly strengthened. With the addition which we propose to make this year, the general reserve will stand at £180,000, and there will be a reserve for bad debts of more than £28,000. I think you will agree that the position of the company is a thoroughly sound one, and that we may look to the future with confidence and satisfaction. There is, however, one element which, in looking to the future, gives some cause for anxious consideration. The volume of our existing loans is steadily diminishing as the instalments are paid, and in present conditions in Egypt there is no demand for new loans to take their place or to employ further capital. Up to the present time this shrinkage of our investment has been met by the repayment of the advance which had been made to us by the Agricultural Bank of Egypt, but it is probable that we shall soon find ourselves in the position of being unable to employ in our normal business the whole of the company's own capital. All that I am able to say at the present time is that the board are giving careful consideration to the problem thus created. We have, as usual, written off £E1,500 from the value of our freehold premises in Cairo, and, having regard to the improved position, we think it will be sufficient to write off £2,700 from property acquired by foreclosure, £2,500 from instalments in arrear, and to make a further provision of £3,300 for bad debts. We propose to increase the general reserve by £10,000, and from the balance which remains to pay, as last year, a dividend of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares. This enables us to carry forward to the current year a slightly increased balance.

Sir William E. Garstin, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The Imperial Bank of Persia has reopened its branch in Bombay.

Sir Thomas Barlow

writes:—"I do not smoke myself, but my friends say the 'De Reszke' Cigarettes are excellent."

Spencer Leigh Hughes, Esq., M.P. writes:—"I have tried the 'De Reszke' Cigarettes and can say that they have been in no way troublesome to the throat as other sorts have been."

Lawson Wood. Esq. writes:—"If everything that ends in smoke were half as good as the 'De Reszkes' what a glorious world it would be!"

Madame D'Alvarez writes:—"I find your 'De Reszke' Cigarettes most excellent and soothing."

IT is not easy to secure the praise of discriminating smokers. Only real merit can win such high approval.

"De Reszke" The Aristocrat of CIGARETTES

Sold at all Tobacconists, Stores, and Military Canteens.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Nedeem Tea.

The report of the Nedeem Tea Company for 1918 states that the crop totalled 6,606,479 lb. The balance brought forward, including a refund of £11,881 on account of excess profits duty paid in previous years, was £38,347. The revenue account shows a profit of £64,022. After adding £530 interest on investments and deducting £25,057 for income-tax there is a balance available of £77,841. The directors recommend dividend on preference shares of 5 per cent., less tax already paid, £9,619; interim dividend on ordinary shares of 5 per cent., less tax, already paid, £4,809; final dividend on ordinary shares of 20 per cent., less tax, making 25 per cent., £19,237; reserve account, £10,000; machinery and tramway account, £3,000; directors' additional remuneration, £2,000; carry forward, £29,175.

East India and Ceylon Tea.

The report of the East India and Ceylon Tea Company for the year 1918 states that the profit amounted to £22,369, making the balance available £24,318. Out of this the directors propose to place to general reserve account £6,270, to provision for income-tax £5,000, and recommend a dividend of 10 per cent (less tax) on the ordinary shares, leaving to be carried forward (subject to refund of excess profits duty) £5,518.

Makum Tea.

The report of the Makum (Assam) Tea Company for 1918 states that the profit, after providing for all charges and debenture interest, is £11,203. Add balance brought forward after payment of excess profits duty, £2,451, leaving £13,654. From this there has to be deducted interim dividend at 5 per cent., £2,500, leaving available £11,154. The directors recommend a final dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, amounting to £7,500, making 20 per cent.; and that £3,654 be carried forward.

Singlo Tea.

The report of the Singlo Tea Company for 1918 states that the net profit works out at £26,945, to which must be added the balance carried forward after deduction of excess profits duty and donations to war funds, £28,682, leaving £55,627. The preference dividend will absorb £6,825, and the directors recommend the payment of a dividend on the ordinary capital of 20 per cent., of which 2½ per cent. was paid on January 1, 1919, the balance to be carried forward being £27,802.

Pathini Tea.

The report of the Pathini Tea Company for 1918 states that the credit balance amounts to £18,789. The sum of £6,595 was received on account of excess profits duty paid in previous years, and, including this and sundry adjustments, the balance brought forward from 1917 is £44,717. Adding £718 for interest on investments and deducting £4,825 for balance of tax and directors' additional remuneration, the credit balance is £62,399. The preference dividend, of which 3 per cent has been paid, requires £1,860. Interim dividends have been paid on the ordinary shares amounting to £9,300. The directors now propose to pay a final dividend of 10 per cent., making 25 per cent. for the year, payable at once, £6,200; depreciation on investments, £1,000, leaving to be carried forward £44,039. An ad interim ordinary dividend of 5 per cent. on account of 1919 will be paid simultaneously with the final dividend for 1918. The investments account, after writing off £1,000 for depreciation, will stand at £14,606.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The returns of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended July 10 were:—Cattle markets, £404; general markets, £485—total, £889; total for year, £32,340. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918, ended July 11, were:—Cattle markets, £170; general markets, £353—total, £523; total for year, £28,534.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China announces the election of Mr. James Maxwell Grant Prophit as a director of the bank.

NEW COMPANIES.

Guardian Eastern Assurance.

The Guardian Eastern Assurance Company, Ltd., was registered on July 17 with a capital of £1,000,000, in £1 shares. The company is to carry on all kinds of insurance, reinsurance, and guarantee business in any part of the world, except (a) issuing bonds or endowment certificates by which the company, in return for subscriptions payable at periodical intervals of two months or less, contracts to pay the bondholder a sum at a future date, and not being life assurance business, and (b) the business of guaranteeing the sufficiency or repayment of any mortgage debentures or other security for any loan; and particularly to carry on fire, boiler, engine, motor car, accident, life, fidelity, marine, publicans' license and other insurance and guarantee business, with special reference to persons and property in, exports to and imports from, and all forms of trading with regard to Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, India and other Eastern countries. £21,400 Five per Cent. War Loan 1929-47 Bearer bonds have been deposited with the Paymaster-General of the Court in respect of life assurance, and a like amount in respect to employers' liability assurance. pursuant to the Assurance Companies Act, 1909. The number of directors is not to be less than two nor more than seven. The first are:—A. I. Belisha, 63, Old Broad Street, E.C., stockbroker; T. G. C. Browne, Barnhill, Hayes Lane, Bromley, Kent, retired actuary; S. J. Cohen, 11, St. Peter Street, Manchester, merchant; P. L. Gell, J.P., Chaulk Hill, N.W.10; E. Hubbard, 17, St Helen's Place, E.C., Russia merchant; Sir Edward R. Henry, Bart., 29, Campden House Court, W.; Colonel Sir Herbert M. Jessel, Bart., 24, South Street, Park Lane, W.; N. Larki, Bridgewater House, Whitworth Street, Manchester, merchant; G. W. Reynolds, 11, Lombard Street, E.C.3, general manager of Guardian Assurance Company, Ltd. Qualification, 1,000 shares. Remuneration (except a managing director), £2,100 per annum, free of income-tax, divided between them. On a poll the Guardian Assurance Company, Ltd., shall have ten votes for each share and every other member shall have one vote for each share. Secretary, N. Westrop. Registered office, 11, Lombard Street, E.C.3

COMPANY RESULTS.

East Indian Railway.—Annual meeting will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., on July 30, at 12.30 p.m.

The report of the Rupajuli Tea Company states that there is a profit of £4,638. The directors recommend a final dividend of 12½ per cent., making 20 per cent. for the year.

The report of the Ghoir Allie Tea Company states that there is a profit of £3,817. The directors recommend a final dividend of 60 per cent, less tax, making 90 per cent. for the year.

The report of the Borelli Tea Company states that there is a profit of £11,764, making available £14,661. Final dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, making 10 per cent. for the year.

The report of the Rajmai Tea Company states that there is a profit of £17,177. The directors recommend a final dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, making 25 per cent. for the year.

The report of the Ragalla Tea Estates for the year 1918 states that net profit is £7,830. The directors recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 7 per cent., making 12 per cent.

Privileged Company to Protect Production and Trade in Currants Five per Cent. Sterling Loan.—Coupon No. 19, representing the half-year's interest due August 1, will be paid by Messrs. Erlangers, 8, Crosby Square, E.C.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The traffic returns of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., for the ten days ended June 20 amounted to £E6,884, as against £E6,302 for the corresponding period of 1918. The total receipts from April 1 amount to £E31,046, a decrease of £E28,781 in last year's figures.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market during the past week has been rather more subdued. Producers, however, have not lost any of their strength, and much indifference has shown itself as to the falling off in demand. Many producers rather welcome the slower pace. Trade has undoubtedly been affected by the labour outlook, and the difficulties connected with international exchange. There has been more discussion as to the probable course of prices in Egyptian cotton when control is abandoned at the end of this month. Many people seem to think that values will go higher. The acreage for the new season is expected to be about 1,550,000 feddans, as compared with 1,300,000 feddans twelve months ago. Egyptian yarns have been dearer. Producers are very busy, and the owners of some mills are trying to avoid booking fresh contracts until more is known as to future prices in the raw material. Bolton spinners have a very wide margin of profit. On the whole cloth demand for Egypt and the Near East has not been quite so active as recently. It is now also impossible for shippers to secure delivery this year. There have been offers about, however, in sized and bleached cloths. Inquiry for India and China has been of rather smaller dimensions. Printing cloths, however, have not been altogether idle. American yarns have hardened in price, but trading has been somewhat restricted. In export descriptions, however, inquiry has been extensive, there being an encouraging turnover for China, India and several outlets of the Continent. Egyptian cotton freights for the new season are said to be fixed at 70s. against 67s. 6d. at present.

TRADE WITH SOUTH RUSSIA AND THE UKRAINE.

In the House of Commons on July 17 Lieut.-Commander Kenworthy asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether trade was permitted with Southern Russia and the Ukraine through Odessa and other Black Sea ports; and whether there were any British diplomatic and consular representatives in the Ukraine and the Caucasus respectively.

Mr. Harmsworth, who replied, said:—Trade is not permitted with those parts of Southern Russia or the Ukraine which are under the control of the Soviet Government. Trade is not only permitted, but is actively encouraged, by His Majesty's Government with part of the districts under General Denikin's control. For further particulars on this head, I would refer the hon. and gallant member to the official announcement which appeared in the Press on June 20. As regards the second part of the question, there are no diplomatic nor consular representatives of His Majesty's Government in the Ukraine, nor diplomatic representative in the Caucasus. His Majesty's Government are, however, represented by consuls at Novorossisk and at Batoum.

SMYRNA-AIDIN RAILWAY.

The estimated traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended June 28 amounted to £5,106.

The period under which the export of cattle is permitted from Morocco has been extended to September 30.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated July 16:—

Good rain throughout except in north-west frontier where precipitation was local.

Bombay cotton market steady, fully good broach July-August quoted 590, eight annas. Piece goods market quiet but steady. Calcutta jute market firm though business limited. Hessians firm. Fair interest, advancing prices. Sackings quiet but steady, poor demand.

Ahmedabad Kapadvanj railway reconnaissance survey by Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Co. sanctioned.

DISTRESS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agriculture Department, dated July 18:—

Our telegram dated July 11. On account of good rainfall and agricultural operations, distress is generally decreasing except in affected areas, Madras. Improvement most marked in United Provinces and Central Provinces. Numbers relieved:—Bengal: relief works 4,279; test works, 2,222; gratuitous relief, 20,278. Bihar and Orissa: relief works, 4,491; test works, 115; gratuitous relief, 34,914. Feudatory States of Orissa: test works, 10,637; gratuitous relief, 22,082. United Provinces: test works, 10,978; gratuitous relief, 20,327. Rajputana: (incomplete figures) test works, 3,651. Ajmer-Merwara: test works, 419; gratuitous relief, 410. Central India: (incomplete figures) relief works, 11,900; gratuitous relief, 8,400 Central Provinces: relief works, 11,114; test works, 8,504; gratuitous relief, 45,654. Bombay: relief works, 24,356; dependants, 14,179; village works, 3,237; test works, 805; gratuitous relief, 93,722. Madras: relief works (incomplete figures), 46,356; test works, 2,304; gratuitous relief (incomplete figures), 89,104.

M. C. Jannet, Manager of the Crédit Foncier Bank returned to Cairo recently from Paris.

Mr. J. P. Simpson has been elected Vice-Chairman of the Madras Chamber of Commerce in place of Sir Bernard Hunter, resigned

The total value of imports into India from Japan was £22,404,000 in 1918-19. Only a small proportion of the imports were not manufactured goods.

M. K. Stoyanovitch and M. V. Yankovitch, former Serbian Ministers of Commerce and Agriculture, with M. Protitch, a Serbian lawyer, have been appointed delegates to the forthcoming inter-Allied Economic Conference in London.

An official stamp to guarantee the authenticity and quality of Moorish carpets has been instituted in the French Zone of Morocco. A Dahir, dated June 22, states that the mark shall be impressed in ink on the back of the carpet It represents a Solomon's seal with the letters M.A.R.O.C. in the angles.

The Secretary for India notifies that the Deputy Master of the Royal Mint at Ottawa has been authorised to sell immediate telegraphic transfers on India without limit of amount against the deposit at the Ottawa mint of gold coin and bullion at the rate of one rupee for 9.416ℰ grains of gold.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

In the early part of the week the activity and upward tendency continued in Egyptian securities, but during the last few days there has been a lull, and with the labour unrest here and the slackening in orders from Egypt the market has become weaker with certain recessions in prices here and there. In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds are closing ¼ lower at 85¼, and there has been a similar decline in the 3½ Preference Loan to 72¼.

Amongst Bank shares National Banks, after jumping to 21⅜, buyers are finishing 3-8 higher at 21 5-8; but sellers remain scarce. There has been no change in either Agricultural Banks or Land Banks, but Anglo-Egyptians are 1-8 off at 17 7-8.

In Land shares Béhéras, after being 14 7-8 bid, were dealt in in a fairly large way at 14½, at which price they closed, being ¼ down. Delta Lands and New Egyptians, after the recent rise, have been subjected to a fair amount of profit-taking and are in each case 1s. 3d. down at 15s. and 24s. 9d. respectively. Sudan Plantations, after touching 7⅜, finish ¼ down at 7 3-8. A fairly large business has again been transacted in Consolidated Lands, which are closing, however, fractionally easier at 2s. 11d.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are 1-16 lower at 12 3-16, but Salt and Sodas finish 1-8 higher at 3½, after being as high as 3 5-8. Khedivial Mails, both Ordinary and Preference, have shed 1-8 to 5 7-8 and 4 1-8 respectively.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptians B. close ¼ down at 5 9-16, and Roumanians have dropped 1s. to 21s. 9d. Traians, after being down to 12s. 3d., close only fractionally lower at 12s. 6d.

In Greek securities a fair line of Monopolies changed hands in the neighbourhood of 57 5-8 and are now quoted round 57½—a drop of a ¼. The 1881 and 1884 Loans are both somewhat quieter round 73½—a drop of ¼. The 1890 Loan has been exceptionally weak, and is 1½ points down at 71½. The 5 per cent 1914 Loan has also been dull and closed 2 points down at 84. There has again been some business in Piraeus-Athens 4½ per cent Bonds round 68½.

THE SUDAN LOAN BILL.

The Bill authorises the Treasury to guarantee interest on a loan to be raised by the Government of the Sudan not exceeding an amount sufficient to raise £6,000,000, for irrigation and other works in the Sudan. The maximum period of the loan would be forty years, and the liability of the Treasury is limited to the interest, the amount of which will depend on the rate at which the Sudan Government are able to raise the loan. The Bill provides that the Treasury guarantee shall not be given until the Government of the Sudan have provided to the satisfaction of the Treasury and the Foreign Office for raising the loan, for establishing sinking fund, for charging on the general revenues and assets of the Sudan the principal interest and sinking fund payments of the loan, and for raising sufficient money to meet the above charges. Consequently, it is not probable that any charge will, in fact, fall upon the Imperial Exchequer in respect of the guarantee. The above guarantee takes the place of the guarantee of interest on a loan sufficient to raise £3,000,000 given under the authority of the Government of the Sudan Loan Act, 1913

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	July 16	July 23
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	82	82
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	96	85½	85½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	72½	72½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	74	73½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	74	73½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	57½	57½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	54½	54½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	73	71⅛
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	65	65
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	66	66
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	64	64
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	86	84
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	82½	82½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅞	6⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	18	17⅞
Bank of Athens	£2	72/6	72/6
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7½xr	7½xr
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	76	77
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	—	—
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	9¾	9¹¹⁄₁₆
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	7⅛	7⅛
London County and Westminster	—	16½x	16½x
National Bank of Egypt	13½	21½	21⅛
National Bank of India	43	52	52
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt, Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7½	7½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	87	—	—
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	101½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%.	90	68½	68½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	24/6	24/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	8½	14½	14½
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	—	3/-	2/11
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/3	15/0
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/6	15/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2⅜	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	26/-	24/9
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	2⅞	2⅞
Sudan Plantations	—	7⅜	7⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3⅜	3⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord	1⅛	23/6	23/6
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	3⅜	3½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	6	5⅝
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4½	4⅜
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	90¾	96½x	97x
Chinese 4½% 1898	92	80	80
,, 5% 1896	101	90	91
Argentine 5% 1890	—	—	—
,, 5% 1907	—	—	88
OIL.			
Anglo-Egyptian B.	¾	5½	5⅝
Anglo-Persian	1⅜	27/3	27/3
Anglo-Roumanian	—	—	12/3
Roumanian	1⅛	22/9	21/9
Traian (Roumanian)	—	12/7½	12/6

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON JULY 11.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	21⅞
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	102
,, Div.	Frs.	146
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅜
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	15⅛
,, priv.	L.E.	4½
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	140
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1¹¹⁄₁₆
Building Lands of Egypt	£	⅞
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3⅜
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6
Bonded Stores	L.E.	14½
Unifiée	L.E.	86⅜
Privilégiée		74
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7⅜
Nungovich Hotels	£	7⅛
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6⅞
,, ,, Fond.	£	450x
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4⅞
,, Ord		115/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	21½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7⅜
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	109
,, Jouissance	Frs.	177½
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		34/1½
Egyptian Markets		22/6
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	425
,, Div.	Frs.	340
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	308
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5⅛
Egyptian Salt and Soda		58/6
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	729
,, Fondateur	Frs.	990
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	426
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	305
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	286
United Lands	P.T.	4½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		5⅞

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

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CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
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ALBERT MIRABAUD.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
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25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
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(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

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Port Said.

PALESTINE.
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Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
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SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 430.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Balkan scaremonger is becoming more impartial in his outlook. He has manufactured so many risings and tumults in Bulgaria for France's edification that some of the shrewder observers were beginning to inquire what General Franchet d'Esperey and General Chrétien, who are together responsible for Bulgaria's observance of the Armistice, were supposed to be doing all this time. The same question may be asked when it is reported that Bulgarian soldiers attacked a "regiment of French troops as they were landing at Lom Palanka." The same mischief-maker now turns his attention to Yugoslavia. "A military revolt has broken out in the South Slav garrison at Marburg, and Croatian soldiers have in various towns proclaimed a republic." It is not true, of course; if it had been, we probably should not have heard of it. But it is a good sample of Balkan "news" that our pro-this or pro-that enthusiasts seize upon with avidity and make use of to confirm their preconceived ideas. Revolution-mongering is a favourite device of fishers in troubled waters. A fresh revolution in Bulgaria is also announced. As none of the others happened, we may regard this one with some scepticism. The pity is that our English newspapers publish these bogus reports.

The Allies could have saved themselves a considerable amount of worry and inconvenience in South-Eastern Europe if they had had any real knowledge of actual conditions in that part of the Continent. It would have hurt the feelings of none of the smaller States allied to Great Britain and France if at the outset they had been informed that in the interests of all concerned no Balkan troops would be used for occupation purposes outside the old boundaries of the States. The collisions between Italians and Yugoslavs, the friction between Serbians and Roumanians, and the troubles in Asia Minor would all have been avoided. In Hungary—or, rather, what is left of it as a result of the dismemberment of the Dual Monarchy—a British corporal's guard—or, at least, a British officer, with or without an escort, would probably have prevented the success of Bolshevism. The advance of Roumanians and Czecho-Slovaks galvanised the Magyars into self-defence, whereas nominal occupation by Great Britain or France would have brought home to them the futility of kicking against the pricks, and would doubtless have given them the lead required in the work of economic reconstruction that might have saved them from becoming a prey of Bolshevist theories.

Late in the day the Allies have decided upon drastic action against Bela Kun. He flouted the Armistice but they continued to negotiate with him. A fresh agreement was reached according to which Magyars, Roumanians, and Czecho-Slovaks were to withdraw their forces and leave a neutral zone separating the three armies. Again Bela Kun played false. This time the Allies have issued a declaration addressed to the "Hungarian" people (presumably "Magyar" is meant), pointing out that "if food and supplies are to be made available, if the blockade is to be removed, if economic reconstruction is to be attempted, if peace is to be settled, it can only be done with a Government which represents the Hungarian people, and not with one that rests its authority upon terrorism." A more practical step is the arrangement for a Franco-Serbian advance against Bela Kun's forces, which ought to have been undertaken long ago.

Some excitement was caused a few days ago by a statement, put forward by an Athens newspaper and cabled to London by a news agency, that Cyprus was to be handed over to Greece by Great Britain. According to the Athens journal, General Allenby had informed the Greek Diplomatic Agent in Cairo of the impending transfer, which was to take place on July 29. Naturally, the statement was received with considerable scepticism in this country, the more so as the *Times'* political correspondent, who is usually well informed, had written only a few days earlier:—"It is understood that the Government have decided that Cyprus shall remain under the British flag." The Foreign Office has since announced that the statement put forward by the Athens journal is wholly devoid of foundation; and on Wednesday Mr. Bonar Law informed the House of Commons that no decision had been taken as to the fate of the island, and that the Government would do nothing to commit the country without the knowledge of the House. London, therefore, was shown to be better informed on the subject than Athens.

King Peter of Serbia, whose return to his own country is chronicled this week by our Belgrade Correspondent, is reported by the *Petit Parisien* to be anxious to abdicate in favour of the Prince Regent, Alexander. In view of his Majesty's advanced age, and the experiences through which he has passed in the years of the war, which are known to have tried him sorely, such a report will surprise nobody. Should King Peter carry out his intention and retire to a monastery, he will be copying the example set by Stephen Nemanya

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and other early Serbian rulers, and he will carry with him into his retirement the good wishes not only of his own subjects, but of many Englishmen and other Europeans.

The recent disturbances in Malta appear to have affected the island unfavourably in regard to the export of news. Nothing has reached us from our own Correspondent for several weeks, and news from other sources is very scarce. Piecing together such items as are available, we receive the impression that the island as a whole is suffering rather badly from the results of the general demobilization, and that a section of the population is also sulking over more or less imaginary grievances connected with the late riots. The most recent riot, by the way, occurred in the prison, and as a result thirty-eight of the convicts are to be tried by court-martial.

Possibly as a result of the numerous trials of spies, France appears to be suffering from a tolerably well-marked attack of nerves, and at the present time the French Press and a portion of the French public are accusing this country of intriguing in Syria and Palestine. Well-informed opinion across the Channel will recognise the baselessness of such accusations immediately, but, in view of the true facts of the case, it is deplorable indeed that such rumours should be allowed to become current. Great Britain has not, and never has had, any particular desire to go to Syria, and with the exception of wishing for a rectification of frontier that would make her position in Egypt more secure, her interest in Palestine is confined to seeing it freed from tyranny in any form and free to develop along natural lines. If Palestine and Syria feel that they should be placed under the same mandatory Power, Great Britain will raise no objection; but she cannot be expected to bring any pressure to bear on either country to induce it to ask for the mandate to be given to any particular Power, and it is certain that she has done nothing of the kind. That a good deal of uneasiness has long been felt in certain parts of Syria at the prospect of a French protectorate is notorious, but to attribute the feeling in any degree to intrigue on the part of Britain is as unjust as it is ill-informed.

One of the inevitable, but none the less deplorable, sequelæ of the war is the gun-running that must be looked for in various parts of the Near East. It was, of course, very far from unknown before the war; both shores of the Persian Gulf being familiar ground to the "runners," and certain ports on the Red Sea being no strangers to their operations. But Egypt, at any rate, had not proved a profitable field for the trade, for reasons that are too well known to need recapitulation. Now, however, the Bedouin are reported by the *Times'* correspondent to be smuggling English, German, and Turkish rifles from Palestine into Egypt across the Suez Canal. The correspondent adds that it is expected that this traffic will soon be terminated, and it would certainly seem that it should not be a difficult matter to achieve that desirable end. A mixed patrol of aeroplanes and motor-boats, adequately equipped with searchlights, should prove difficult of elusion, even by the Bedawi.

On Monday, at Buckingham Palace, the King and Queen received the deputation which, headed by Sir Sayed Ali El Morghani, has come to this country to offer the congratulations of the Sudan upon the conclusion of Peace. Appropriately, the deputation was accompanied by Sir Reginald Wingate, Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, and Sir Edgar Bernard, who have all done good work on behalf of both the Sudan and Great Britain. The Address presented struck a less conventional note than is usual on such occasions, and was inspired by the same spirit of simple loyalty that characterised the Sudan throughout the war. With proud humility it spoke of the "poorest and youngest member" of the British Empire offering of that which it had with all its energy and zeal, and added that "the contribution of a poor but loyal people, small though it be in fact, is great in sentiment." It recognised the blessings which have been conferred on the Sudan under British rule, and referred to the Sudan's help in the war as "but the first-fruits of what your Majesty's Government has planted." The King in his reply recalled his visit to Port Sudan, and expressed his regret that the deputation had not been able to reach England in time to be present at the Peace celebration—a regret that will be shared by all who have followed recent events on the Nile. The ceremony concluded by Sayed Abdul Rahman, son of the late Mahdi, offering to the King, as a token of fealty, the gold "Sword of Victory" which formerly belonged to his father. His Majesty graciously accepted the historic weapon, but handed it back to Sayed Abdul Rahman to hold on his behalf as a proof of his "acceptance of the loyal submission of you and your followers." Subsequently the deputation was received by the Prince of Wales at St. James's Palace.

The Afghan Peace Conference opened at Rawal Pindi on July 26, but, according to telegrams received since last Thursday, fighting of sorts went on at several points along the Afghan frontier up to the very eve of its first meeting. The Ameer's influence and prestige have probably been shaken considerably by recent developments, and he may find it easier to order fighting to cease than to make his orders respected by his subjects and allies. An apparently trustworthy report has it that he was, about a fortnight ago, attacked by two soldiers of a Kabul regiment while riding with his staff. He came through the experience safely, if unmajestically, "the bullet passing," we are told, "through his breeches," but the incident is not without significance.

The opening of the Conference at Rawal Pindi was not entirely auspicious. After Sir Hamilton Grant had made a dignified and moderate, but firmly worded, statement of the British view of the situation and the causes leading up to it, Sirdar Ali Ahmed Khan, the leader of the Afghan delegation, delivered an oration of a somewhat surprising kind. He denied that the Afghans had first sought peace; stated that if the war were to end, there must be forbearance on both sides; and suggested that each side must avoid the appearance of dictating to the other. He hinted very broadly that the British, though powerful and in many respects superior to their opponents, might yet be vanquished, as the Germans, similarly placed, had been; and warned the Indian Government not to suppose that the Afghans were a sleepy and ignorant people. Finally, after remarking that the European war had aroused the aspirations of all nations, he showed that he had no objection to borrowing a hint from Europe, by making vigorous play with the bogey of Bolshevism, his line of argument being that a British victory over Afghanistan would let a flood of Bolshevism into India.

That argument is not easy to follow, and, having regard to Afghanistan's recent coquetting with the Bolshevists, it is a remarkable one to be put forward from such a direction. On the other hand, no competent critic would be any more likely to call the Afghans sleepy than he would be to call them backward in stating their own virtues or merits. Upon the whole, it is possible that Sir Hamilton Grant may not have had to revise his estimate of the Afghan quite so radically as the Sirdar appeared to think might be necessary. But the latter's speech was, if not instructive, distinctly interesting.

Official opinion in India is not likely to quarrel seriously with the views of the Government of the Near East stated by Major Ormsby Gore in the article we published last week. India has quite enough on her hands as it is, and it is a question of lightening the ship rather than taking fresh cargo on board; even the loss of Aden would probably be borne with entire equanimity, though we have heard of officers who like to be stationed there, because it is so easy to get away.

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What passes for public opinion is so very erratic just now in India that prophecy regarding it is dangerous; it is quite possible that the severance of Aden might be represented as "cutting off the nose of the mother-land," or something equally reprehensible, but seeing that its connection with India is only about 80 years old we may hope that such sentiments will not be held so widely as to cause serious political difficulty.

Whatever be the fate of Aden, and whatever form of authority may be established in Arabia and Mesopotamia, we trust that arrangements will be made for the prompt handling of questions affecting the relations of those countries with India. Even before the war Aden and the Gulf played an important part in Indian commerce, and a very great extension of business is confidently expected in the new conditions: If every question that arises between, say, Bombay and Busreh, is to be referred through Delhi and Baghdad for settlement by two co-ordinate offices in Whitehall, then commercial interests are bound to suffer; and, apart from commerce, there are such matters as pilgrimages, difficulties regarding which can best be settled by men thoroughly familiar with the local conditions. Administrative heads are notoriously averse from short-circuits, so that it is all the more important that the necessary arrangements should be provided from the outset.

The constitution of the Commission to investigate the administration of the Indian Army has been announced with tolerable celerity as such matters are handled nowadays, and the list of members will probably be accepted as on the whole satisfactory. Lord Esher was almost inevitable as chairman, while the two civilian members are adequate representatives of the important interests of recruiting and finance. Of the five Generals, two belong to the British Service and three to the Indian Army, the latter including officers with recent experience of Whitehall and Simla; so that if substantial unanimity should happily result from the inquiry the public will have the satisfaction of knowing that various schools of experience have contributed. It is rather a relief to find that no time-limit is imposed by the terms of reference, for the subject is exceedingly complex, but we may assume that the winter will be spent in India, and that if nothing goes wrong the report will be ready some time in the course of next spring.

Unlike the Army Commission, the Joint Committee on the Government of India Bill is working under an inelastic time-limit, and the chairman had to announce last week that they could hear no individual witnesses, and only a limited number of representatives of important interests. A good many busybodies have been disappointed by this ruling, but it was obviously unavoidable in the circumstances, and those interests which are properly organised are assured of a hearing. We should, however, like to know more about the interests which are not organised, particularly the greatest interest of all, the two hundred odd millions of peasants whose future is about to be decided; very little seems to have been said about them in the evidence taken so far, and we have not yet heard of anyone being summoned who is specially qualified to represent their point of view. Are they going to be left out? By a curious coincidence, some exceptionally well-qualified representatives of the peasantry are in this country just now, in the shape of the Indian Contingent, which unfortunately arrived too late for the Peace celebrations. Could not the Committee, or some of its members, find time to have a talk with a few of these peasant-soldiers and hear their opinions absolutely at first-hand? They would learn many things which the regular "deputations" are not likely to mention, and incidentally they would gratify visitors to whom the country owes a heavy debt; men, too, who rather enjoy talking when there is no serious work on hand. We suppose, however, that the time-limit will stand in the way, and that the gentlemen of the white robes have the first claim on the attention of the Committee. *Cedant arma togæ.*

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 5.

Bolshevism and Islam.

It will be news to many that Bolshevism is older than Islam and originated in Persia, where its tenets were spread by Zoroaster the Fire Worshipper. The story of how the first Bolshevists grew and multiplied and rose against the Magian Kings is told in a remarkable *Fetva* issued by Sheikh Mohammed Bakhit, the Grand Mufti in Cairo, in which the learned and venerable Doctor shows how contrary to Islam are all the teachings and doings of the disciples of the revived creed of Bolshevism, if indeed such a negation of all creeds of religion and mortality can itself be styled a creed.

Sheikh Bakhit has always been distinguished for his erudition and for the liberal trend of his mind, and during the recent "unrest" in Cairo, when the Mosque of the Azhar was a seething hotbed of intrigue (to call the doings there by no harsher name), his position was by no means easy or enviable. His counsels of moderation, offered whenever a fair occasion was presented, naturally led to suspicions of his independence; and it was even rumoured that the Sheikh had received some enormous bribe from the British Government to induce him to hold aloof from the popular and largely fanatical movement that had its centre in the great Moslem University. However, as he had never been a rich man, and as no appearance of his sudden accession to wealth was observed, the orthodoxy of the Grand Mufti and his independence of thought were not long called in question.

A Reminder to Moslems.

The *Fetva* that he has just issued, condemning in the most emphatic terms every principle put into practice by latter-day Bolshevists, will come as a very timely reminder to careless and loose-living Moslems the world over, especially as there has lately been a resolute attempt on the part of the Bolshevists to curry favour with Moslems, although it is difficult to conceive two theories of life more radically and diametrically antagonistic to one another than the Islamic and the Bolshevist.

It is not more than a month or two ago that Sheikh Bakhit promulgated another practical *Fetva*, enjoining punctilious cleanliness in the face of the somewhat alarming spread of infectious diseases, and quoting the Holy Koran in its continual insistence on the necessity of cleansing the body as being one of the first duties of a godly Moslem. The *Fetva* on Bolshevism shows a real perception of where there is a need for guidance and stimulus, and though perhaps Egypt, in her prosperity, is not immediately threatened with the new world-plague, it is all the more meet and fitting that instruc-

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tion and command should issue hence with authority to less favoured and more exposed Islamic lands.

The Strike Fever.

The general tendency to syndicate in protection of corporate rights, or claims to what are put forward as rights, is becoming very marked in all departments of Government administrations and in trades of every description. This, in a country like Egypt, is, perhaps, one of the inevitable consequences of the Great War. Before the cataclysm that has shaken to the foundation all that appeared formerly most solidly established, Egyptians had never realised that there was any possibility of bettering the position of any class by the modern weapon of striking. Very possibly also, ten years ago a strike would have had a very poor chance of success, as against a moral certainty of painful failure. Now, however, we have altered all that; and coachmen and scavengers, lamplighters and shoeblacks are encouraged by Nationalists, and possibly more still by Socialistic foreigners, to consider themselves, in an unconsciously Bolshevist spirit, entitled to anything they may choose to ask. With Orientals this is always the great danger—the lack of sense of proportion. A British, French, or German Socialist has generally a very shrewd idea of the power that is on his side and the Powers that he has got to fight—and formulates his plan of campaign accordingly. The Egyptians, however, as has happened with the Young Turks before them, as soon as any vista of something new and better opens in front of their eyes, lose all focus.

This has been the deplorable error of Saad Pasha Zaghloul and his deluded followers, who, without attempting to reason for themselves, or listening to reason when talked to them, have caused incalculable loss and damage, both material and moral, to the too credulous and ignorant masses.

The Syndicate movement, though not directly traceable back either to Saad Zaghloul's Utopian ideas, or to impalpable, but none the less real, moral waves of Bolshevism, is only another sign of the times. It does not yet constitute any danger, but is a putative element in the composition of the sort of national dynamite that is lying about all over the globe.

Great Britain and Egypt.

Egypt cannot expect to be free from all danger of a sudden explosion, and although there is temporary calm, this does not mean that all the fires are out. They are, in the opinion of many experienced observers, merely "banked," and it will depend on the line of policy followed in the immediate future, and the success that may attend it, whether those fires will be finally extinguished, or whether they will burst out afresh from under the ashes with which the British and Egyptian Governments have temporarily damped them down. Far be it from the writer to prophesy evil; but nobody can pretend that the furious appetites of the Nationalist Extremists have been in any way satisfied, or are ever likely to be; neither is it possible to claim that any sensible impression has, so far, been created either on the leaders, or on the masses, by the policy hitherto pursued. There is really no attenuation of the spirit exhibited during the public processions on the day that permission was granted to Egyptians to travel; and that was a spirit that had never before been shown in Cairo. The only difference perhaps is that the same creed and programme has, since then, been propagated sedulously, and apparently successfully, from one end of Egypt to another. The riff-raff no longer dance through the streets with obscene gestures and insulting cries; but the sentiment of Egypt has not changed for the better—and there are not wanting those who declare that the change, if any, is rather for the worse.

In the hurly-burly of Paris, and among the thousand and one questions that demand instant attention, Egypt seems to have been pigeon-holed. It has always been so comparatively easy for England to deal with any transitory trouble here, that the Powers in conference appear content to occupy themselves with any and every other problem first. And the Powers are quite right, because the Egyptian Question is a British question. Whether, however, the shelving of Egypt by the Power principally concerned till the autumn, or possibly later, is calculated to make for tranquillity before and after, events alone will prove.

There is a saying prevalent in India that "the patience of England is long as a summer day; but the arm of England is long as a winter night." It appears as if Egypt is going to serve as an object-lesson, or illustration of this apophthegm. Certainly our patience has passed the patience of Job in dealing with the Nationalist Extremists. They have yet to learn the length and strength of the British arm.

"Nile Projects."

Sir W. Willcocks has just published a last word on "Nile Projects." This good-sized pamphlet reproduces all the documents and the correspondence in the old dispute with Sir Murdoch Macdonald as to the preferential rights of Egypt, as against those of the Sudan, to the Blue Nile water.

The whole question is now brought up-to-date and Sir W. Willcocks seems to be hopeful of good results from the latest developments, particularly from the utilisation of vegetable refuse as fuel, after the system discovered by Mr. J. Wells.

Those interested in the subject will find "Nile Projects" both instructive and diverting reading. The writer has the knack of clothing the driest of bones in attractive dress.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

"Union with Greece."

Both the Press and town politicians now speak in a far less confident tone regarding the movement for union with the "Mother-Country," and reports from the deputation in London are presumably less encouraging. This change follows very closely on the self-congratulations of those who were "counting their chickens" rather prematurely. One of the Greek papers recently announced in large type that, according to the Athenian paper *Politeia*, an Envoy-Extraordinary had already left for Cyprus, with the approval of the British Government, in the person of the Consul, M. Khalikopoulos; also that persons arriving from Piræus had brought news that the Deputy, M. Gondikas, had been appointed Governor-General, and was about to proceed to the island; and that other officers of high rank, both military and civil, would shortly arrive, in order to arrange with British officials the details of the transfer. Island advocates of the cession are beginning to realise that the other side of the "question" involves far greater imperial and international considerations than those to which they desire to confine attention.

The Cost of Living.

The increasing cost of living is bringing about another crisis. To begin with Government officials, meetings have been held at which it was decided to present an application for increase of salaries all round to meet the difficulties that press upon all, especially the lower grades of the service. At Limassol (which has the unenviable distinction of being by far the most expensive district of the island) Major Bolton, O.B.E., the Commissioner, proceeded to Troodos to confer with the Chief Secretary. Local papers strongly support the claims. It is pointed out that in Egypt, besides the liberal increases granted during the war, the salaries of all officials have been again raised this year, being in some cases doubled. Misgivings are expressed throughout the island as regards the coming winter. The hardest lot is perhaps that of the village schoolmasters, whose pay is in many cases "less than that of field-watch-

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men and muleteers." The plight of teachers appears to be much the same in Greece; and M. Venizelos is said to have sent a promise from Paris that the matter shall receive the earliest consideration on his return, and the teaching body be placed on a better footing. Strikes have not yet come into being in the island, but foremen and workers on the Government railway are now clamouring for an increase of wages, as is but natural.

The King's Message.

The King's Proclamation and His Majesty's Message thanking the members of the Colonial Service for their work during the trying years of the war are published in the official *Gazette*. It is announced that July 19 is to be a public holiday. Te Deums and services in the churches have been celebrated.

ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, June 15.

The Case of the Banat.

There are three subjects which have spread anxiety and even aroused indignation among all classes in this country. They are the treatment of the question of the Banat, and the clauses of the Peace with Austria, which refer respectively to the question of the ethnical minorities and that of free transits. It is felt that the first of these, the territorial question, has been dealt with in a superficial and unstatesmanlike manner, by which the terms of the treaty of August, 1916, and the principles laid down by President Wilson have alike been disregarded. According to Roumanian opinion, there were two alternative courses open to the members of the Peace Congress. The one was to respect the terms of the Treaty; the other, to apply the principle of self-determination by means of a plebiscite of the whole of the Banat, under the strict control of Allied forces. Instead of either of these courses having been adopted, the province has been simply cleft in twain without regard to the interests of its inhabitants as a whole, and one portion handed over to the Serbs, without the Congress having pronounced its final sentence in the matter. It is now reported that the Five have put off their final decision to an ulterior date; and this has in some degree released the local tension by allowing the hope to arise that the subject may yet be studied in detail, and that impartial authorities may be called upon to say their word before an act of foolishness is committed which the Powers will probably have ample occasion to regret. A little judicious statesmanship should suffice to avoid the creation of a source of perpetual conflict between two nations whose mutual good relations have never been troubled in the past, thanks to the natural and efficient geographical boundary separating them. It may be said that the present more than strained relations between Roumania and Serbia are attributable in the first place to the attitude of the Powers. Only in a minor degree can the blame be laid at the door of those immediately concerned. The Roumanian people are united in their resolution not to concede voluntarily any portion of the Banat, and the Transylvanians have taken up a particularly resolute and intransigent attitude in the matter.

The Minorities.

With regard to the clauses aiming at the protection of the minorities, there is reason to consider that M. Clemenceau was ill-inspired when he invoked as a precedent the decisions of the Congress of Berlin, presided over by Bismarck. The principle is looked upon by many in Roumania simply as a measure created by the Great Powers for exploiting in their own interests those "with limited interests." This view is no doubt rather far-fetched; none the less, the great fault of the measure is that it lacks the character of reciprocity. It represents a general principle which is not receiving universal application. If M. Clemenceau will condescend to allow the German minorities in Alsace to benefit by it, he may be assured that by so doing he will rapidly dissolve all opposition in Roumania. Any measures tending to assure equality of rights to all nationalities, in conformity with the principles of modern democracy, are quite acceptable, provided they are universally applicable; but any one-sidedness throws doubt on the purity of the motives that have dictated them. We can even conceive, short of this universal application, the natural desire of the Powers to obtain some kind of guarantee in the case of a newly created State, of one particularly whose very existence is dependent on their goodwill; but the unilateral application of the principle of foreign interference in the case of a pre-existing sovereign State is quite another matter. Roumania is in some respects in a situation analogous to that of France. She, too, has her Alsace-Lorraine. No one doubts that France's ethnical minorities will enjoy equality of treatment, and only those who know nothing of Roumania and her people can for a moment entertain the doubt in her case. And this applies, if possible, with ever greater force in the case of the religious minorities. The truth is that Roumanians, with all their faults, are in this respect the most liberal people in the world, and singularly free from the Chauvinist spirit. Those who know them will bear me out when I say that their tolerance, if anything, goes too far. It is a fact that Roumania has shown herself eminently capable of resolving her own problems without foreign interference. The solutions found for the Agrarian and Jewish problems, the introduction of universal suffrage, the ready recognition of the broad autonomous rights demanded by the newly acquired provinces, all point to the truth of the foregoing statement.

In their application to Roumania the provisions in question aim primarily, it may be assumed, at the protection of three ethnical elements, the Jews, the Magyars, and the Saxons. Recent legislation confers the rights of citizenship on the Jews living within the old frontiers of Roumania, so that they, who already play such a prominent part in the national life of the country, have nothing to gain by foreign interference, for presumably it is not intended to create a privileged class enjoying international protection in addition to equality of civil and political rights. And in the provinces which have united themselves with the kingdom, as M. Maniu recently pointed out, there has long obtained the principle which demands absolute political equality for the Jew. This principle is here firmly established, and can suffer no modification or improvement as the result of protective clauses.

There remain the Hungarian and Saxon minorities. The former, dispossessed of the political ascendancy held so long in virtue of political principles that are regarded to-day as effete, will obviously not resign themselves easily to the new state of affairs, which introduces, apart from considerations of a national character, a regime of democracy incompatible with their reactionary tendencies. The situation is unfortunate, but inevitable, and by no means unique. The conciliatory action of Time can alone ameliorate it. Meanwhile, in spite of their suppressed hostility, they enjoy equality of political and civic rights with those who form the numerical majority. Of this subject I speak with first-hand knowledge, gathered on the spot. My observations have taught me that there is another factor which forms the strongest guarantee that the Hungarian minorities will be exposed to no depreciation of their rights, and that is constituted by the peculiar situation which renders a conciliatory attitude incumbent upon the Roumanian authorities. Under the old regime the Roumanians of Transylvania were practically excluded from every form of administrative and official activity, so that to-day, in spite of their great numerical superiority, they have not the technical qualifications which would permit of their supplanting the Hungarian officials, even if the clauses of their Act of Union permitted. Not a single State employee of Magyar nationality who has taken the oath of fealty (demanded of every employee in Roumania, of whatever nationality) has lost his employment, if we except the instances where they have been involved in some deliberate act of hostility, such as destruction of railways, or other interference in the public services.

What has been said of the Hungarians holds good to a greater degree in the case of the Saxon minorities, who held a privileged position in the former Magyar State, and have lost nothing by the change. They form highly civilised colonies enjoying a great measure of independence, and have in the past exercised a beneficent civic influence, appreciated by their Roumanian and Hungarian neighbours alike. Their manifesto, published in the columns of THE NEAR EAST, by which they claimed recognition as Roumanian citizens, and urged the other nationalities to follow suit, speaks for itself.

Free Transit.

The question of free transit is the third of the subjects which have elicited general disapproval, in spite of data being absent for forming a correct appreciation of the significance of the clause referring to it. Perhaps it is its very vagueness, and the uncertainty as to its full import, that have aroused mistrust. It must be remembered that Roumanians have before their eyes the example of Yugoslavia, which has become the economic vassal of a foreign power. There is some excuse if they regard indeterminate measures, possibly concealing or masking real intentions, with suspicion. To accept the clause with regard to free transit in its present form might be to expose themselves to the action of the thin edge of the wedge. And Roumanians, who know from sad experience that economic servitude is followed closely by political subjection, fight shy of anything that savours of those conditions from which they freed themselves, at so great a price, in 1916. So far as I can gather, neither M. Bratiano, nor M. Take Jonesco, nor M. Maniu will run the risk of disposing of the economic independence of their country by inscribing their names at the foot of a blank form.

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BELGRADE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, July 22.

A Cabinet Crisis.

A political crisis, which at one time appeared likely to have serious results, has been averted by the counsels of good sense and conciliation. On Friday, June 20, when the Cabinet was discussing the measures to be adopted to protect the country against Bolshevism, the President of the Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Stoyan Protich, and the Minister for Food and Reconstruction, Dr. Koroshets, did not see eye to eye. Gossip relates that the latter recommended harsh measures which the President said Serbs would not tolerate, adding that if his colleagues took that point of view they could no longer collaborate. Dr. Koroshets took affront at the President's manner, which he considered dictatorial and insulting, and at once tendered his resignation, with which his countryman and colleague, Dr. Gostinchar, Minister of Social Reform, associated himself.

Dr. Koroshets, who is a Roman Catholic priest, is an accomplished man, of great mental calibre, who carries considerable weight with his fellow-Slovenes, especially with the students and in the universities. Dr. Gostinchar is a very influential Slovene, leader of the Christian Socialist party in Liubliana. It was very strongly felt that nothing should be left undone to avert a Ministerial crisis at such a moment, especially when the personal equation played so large a part in it. In this respect the incident recalls the famous occasion of the fall of "The Tiger" in Paris some eight or ten years ago. The loss of these two prominent Slovenes was to be especially deprecated, as it would give the country's enemies reason to believe that there was feeling between these two branches of the Yugoslav people, which is in reality far from being the case; for the Slovenes, who are an uncommonly solid and determined people, are in close sympathy with the "Serbiantsi," or Serbs of the Old Kingdom; they are in too close proximity to the Italian aggression to think of anything but close union with Serbia. Dr. Koroshets had, however, another motive; he was unwilling to associate himself with a treaty that was to hand over two hundred thousand of his co-nationals to Italy, and for that reason was not unwilling to escape this responsibility.

The Crown Prince hurried back from Subotitsa, and the Bishop of Liubliana, a great and influential patriot, came specially to Belgrade, and at once had a long audience with the Regent. A Cabinet Council was held, to which the two Ministers who had resigned were invited. It was pointed out to them how undesirable was a crisis at this juncture, when it was so necessary to present a united front to the world. Meanwhile, the Bishop had exerted all his great influence on his fellow-countrymen in the cause of unity, pointing out that half a loaf is better than no bread, and a treaty that liberates the greater part of the people is better than none at all, even if it does leave two hundred thousand under alien dominance; and that it was better to bow to the inevitable. After mature consideration Drs. Koroshets and Gostinchar listened to these arguments, and consented to remain in the Government, and so the crisis was averted.

An Unsupported Strike.

The international strike that was to show the solidarity of Labour on July 21 provoked only a feeble response in Yugoslavia. The Dalmatians and the sturdy Christian Socialists of Slovenia declined flatly to have anything to do with an avowedly anti-national movement, for their patriotism is of the finest kind. There was a partial strike in Croatia, but in Serbia it was confined to a minor element of the population of Belgrade, beyond which there is no proletariat in this land of small yeoman farmers. The electric light and tramways ceased working; but the boats, trains, postal services, and water-supply were unaffected, while the smaller craftsmen, such as the tailors and bootmakers, continued to carry on their peculiarly lucrative work. The few strikers seemed to consider the day merely as an extra Sunday and an opportunity for strolling about the town. There were no signs of disorder; a few extra police were hardly noticed, and, but for the stoppage of the tramways, to which the population of Belgrade is already accustomed, and the absence of light at night, it required a close observer to know that there was a strike on.

Bolshevist Propaganda.

The Bolshevists have been endeavouring for some time to get a footing in the Serbian capital, but without success. A quantity of Bolshevist literature and eighteen million dinars' worth of various foreign currencies, including English and Russian, are said to have been confiscated in one house; but Messrs. Lenin and Bela Kun must be sadly disappointed at their misplaced attempt to propagate their peculiar form of political disease among this contented and individualistic people, where it excites only derision.

There is a feature in the Serbian temperament called "*inat*," which their friends call sturdy independence, but their foes truculence. As a matter of fact, it may appear in the form of either of these extremes. It was *inat* that made the Serbs show a united front in the boycott of Austria before the war, in spite of their domestic wranglings, and it was *inat* that kept alive their strong national feeling through the Turkish days, and finally enabled them to throw off the yoke without outside aid. It was well developed in the liberators themselves, Kara George and Milrosh Obren. It was *inat* that maintained them through their long exile at Salonika, and eventually enabled them to clear their country once more, and it is *inat* to-day that makes them appear intransigent in their demands for the entire fulfilment of their national aspirations; it is *inat* that makes them irreconcilable to their open enemies, the Bulgars and the Magyars, and unyielding towards their somewhat jealous neighbours and allies, Italy and Roumania. Westerners who cannot see below the surface may deprecate their truculence, but it is this very *inat* which has made this wonderful people what they are, and brought them through suffering into their present proud position.

King Peter's Return.

King Peter has returned to Serbia, from which, in spite of advanced age and severe rheumatism, he retreated with his army through the snows and mountains of Albania in the terrible winter of 1915. After resting three and a-half years in the balmy atmosphere of the Greek isles, he has returned to his faithful people, who idolise the old warrior who has never let slip an opportunity of fighting his country's natural enemy. It is a well-known story how in '70 he fought in the French army, was wounded, taken prisoner, escaped, and decorated; but it is less familiar how, under the name of Petar Mrkonjich, he headed a band of insurgents against the Austrians and Herzegovina in 1878; the romantic story of his appearance among his men in the trenches in 1915 has been often told, and how his presence inspired the weary and dispirited troops with such enthusiasm that they rose and swept the enemy out of the country at one rush. His return has been delayed until the line from Salonika was completed, and at last the old king is back in Serbia, at Arandjelovats, where, unfortunately, he arrived two days too late for his birthday celebrations.

His Telegram to King George.

To King George's cordial telegram to King Peter, congratulating him upon his birthday and upon the signature of peace, King Peter has replied as follows:—"The hearty congratulations which Your Majesty has been good enough to send me on the signature of peace have deeply touched me. I hasten in my own name and in that of my people to offer Your Majesty my most sincere thanks. The people of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, which has at last realised its independence at the cost of such great sacrifices, will ever remember that the soldiers of Your Majesty fought shoulder to shoulder with our own, and that in the days of suffering it has always found the precious help and assistance of Your Majesty and hearty sympathy of the British people. With that sentiment of deep gratitude, my people unite with me in begging Your Majesty to accept our most sincere wishes for your personal happiness and for the advancement of Great Britain.—Peter."

A Meat Shortage.

Serbia is threatened with two meatless days a week. The country has been so depleted of stock that serious steps are being taken to import large quantities; and the Allies, Great Britain in particular, are taking important steps to help. Consequently it has been felt that it is necessary to economise such stocks as remain in the country, especially as Serbs are large meat-eaters. The export of cattle, and of horses too, has been forbidden.

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ROADS IN PERSIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Owing to her geographical position, Persia has probably suffered more in the past from international rivalries than any other country. Situated as she is on the flank of India, it is to our interests that Persia should be prosperous and independent, and it has always been England's rôle to help her to become so.

Prior to the *rapprochement* between Russia and England there was intense rivalry and suspicion between the Consular and other officers of the two countries, and Persian politicians, who are past masters in the art of intrigue, took care to exploit to the utmost every possible cause of misunderstanding. In order to remedy this state of affairs and to remove possible causes of friction, an agreement was arrived at which defined the spheres in Persia in which Russia and England considered that their interests were paramount. As Persia is divided by nature into two halves by the band of desert which runs from north-west to south-east, this should not have been difficult, and the 34th parallel of latitude at once suggests itself as the true solution. The actual demarcation in its disregard of facts somewhat reminds one of the arbitrary alignment of the Petrograd-Moscow Railway by the Tsar Nicholas. The line runs from north-west to south-east past Ispahan and Yezd, both these towns being left just inside the Russian sphere, while the large provinces of which they are the capitals lay in the southern sphere. Such a demarcation was sowing the seeds of misunderstandings and pinpricks with a vengeance. As a matter of fact, the line as laid down, if correctly drawn on the map, passes some few miles north of Ispahan; but we let this go by default. The Russians always claimed Ispahan as within their sphere, and we acquiesced.

To understand what this means it must be remembered that the Bakhtiaris are the dominant race in the Ispahan region, and that it always has been and always will be the most cherished ambition of the Bakhtiaris to rule Ispahan. As has already been said, the Persian is a past master in the art of intrigue; but the Bakhtiari beats him. Owing to the war, Russian and British officials worked together in perfect harmony, and there was no friction, but if this had not been so there would have been endless difficulties. If we had tried to protect Southern Persia with a suspicious Russia in Ispahan city, our position in Ispahan province and the Bakhtiari country would have been impossible, and the Bakhtiaris would have had a most congenial time in playing off one nation against the other.

As the Russian sphere was the half of the country north of the line Ispahan—Yezd, it would be expected that we should have claimed that our trade interests were paramount in the area south of that line; but this was not so.

The British sphere was defined as the south-eastern portion, the south-western—presumably as a sop to German jealousy—being proclaimed a neutral sphere! As a result of the war the significance of the spheres has disappeared, and the only object in referring to them is to point out the mistakes which have been made in the past with a view to their avoidance in the future.

Broadly speaking, there are five possible routes for Anglo-Indian goods to enter Persia. Taking them from west to east they are:—(1) By the Tigris to Baghdad and thence to the Persian frontier at Khanikin; (2) up the Karun River from Mohammerah to Ahwaz; (3) and (4) through the Persian Gulf ports of Bushire and Bunder Abbas; (5) overland from India by the Nushki route through Baluchistan. There are, of course, other small ports on the Persian Gulf littoral such as Lingah, but these are of minor importance.

The first of these five routes, via Baghdad, entered Persia in the Russian sphere, the road traversing a region occupied by turbulent Kurd tribes, past Kerind and Kermanshah to Hamadan. The Russians enjoyed a practical monopoly in supplying the needs of Northern Persia, and therefore could not regard with equanimity the opening of this route, which would have challenged their trade supremacy. In order to prevent undesirable competition, the Russian Consular officers saw to it that this road never was safe. The Russians constructed a metalled cart-road as far west as Hamadan, and this has recently been continued to our railhead at the Mesopotamian frontier.

The Mohammerah-Ahwaz route has many advantages, but from Ahwaz to Ispahan the road is a mule track through the high mountainous country of the Bakhtiaris, and in winter it is often blocked by snow for weeks at a time. The Bakhtiari *charvadars*, or muleteers, have an unpleasant custom of accepting more goods than they can carry, and on reaching a certain stage they unload their mules, stocking the goods by the roadside and going back for fresh loads: the process being repeated as often as necessary. This, of course, means damage from exposure to inclement weather, in addition to loss from theft and breakages, considerable delay, and an impossibility of ever knowing when the goods will be delivered. A practicable cart road, passing south of the Bakhtiari country, from Ahwaz to Ispahan, has been surveyed. This route, like that from Bushire, lay through the so-called neutral zone.

There are two tracks from Bushire to Shiraz. The first and shortest passes Kazerun and then ascends to the Persian Plateau by a series of five very difficult passes. The other and more easterly route via Firuzabad is considerably longer, but is decidedly easier, and is even practicable for camels; there is a possibility that it could be improved into a cart road.

Sir Percy Sykes realised, when raising the South Persia Rifles, the importance of communications with the coast, and at once set about improving the roads from Bundar Abbas to Shiraz, and also to Kerman, and at making them available for wheeled traffic. It is now possible to motor from Bundar Abbas to both the above places.

On the last route, from India via Nushki, the railway has now been extended to the frontier, and its eventual continuation through Kerman and Yezd to Ispahan would present no great engineering difficulty. The worst problem would probably be to cope with drifting sands in the neighbourhood of Yezd. In the solution of this the experiences of the Russians when constructing the Trans-Caspian Railway could probably be studied with advantage.

At the present time Persia is suffering from a great shortage of transport animals, due mainly to commandeering and the wastage of war. This, of course, will right itself with time, but pack transport is always slow, and never cheap, and the crying need of the country is cheap, rapid, and reliable transport. In the west of Persia inexhaustible supplies of cheap petrol are available, and, given good metalled roads, the motor lorry is bound to exert a great influence in developing the country.

It is proposed, in a future article, to discuss the main routes in Persia in greater detail, examining their applicability for mechanical transport and their value for import and export trade.

THE CLAIMS OF PERSIA.

Speaking on Sunday at a meeting in West Hampstead of people interested in Eastern problems, Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall said it would have been wisdom on the part of the British Government to change the whole direction of its Eastern policy when Tsardom fell. It was no exaggeration to say that if the Turkish Empire was to be condemned on moral grounds, our late Ally, Tsarist Russia, deserved to be condemned far more; the massacres by Cossacks in the Caucasus alone during the last hundred years, if advertised as Turkish massacres had been, with Russian money, would have been sufficient to excite the indignation of all Europe and America. A million and a-half of Circassians had been forced to flee into Turkish territory in sixty years. Tsarist Russia had never kept faith with her own subjects, much less with foreign Powers. In 1907 we had made a pact with her, meaning to safeguard Persia's sovereign rights; but she had followed this by a series of invasions and outrages against the Persian territory and people.

The claims which Persia now put before the Peace Conference fell under three heads; the first was the claim for political, juridicial and economic independence. Persia claimed that the Anglo-Russian accord of 1907 should be definitely considered as void, and that all restrictions on her independence should be removed. She felt that she must have jurisdiction in her own territories, the right to choose her own advisers, or she would have no chance of progress and free development. Her second claim was for the restitution of certain territory. There was not in this case any pretext of a discontented Christian population to justify the depredation; for the people were predominantly Moslem and well affected towards the Persian Government. Nor was there the least pretence of liberating them; they were simply transferred from a despotism which was congenial and akin to them to another which they loathed. In 1828 an important tract of territory had thus been torn from Persia, and, later, she had been robbed of all Trans-Caspia. This and the district of Suliemania, ceded to Turkey in 1847, formed the subject of the present claim. There was also mention of Turkish Kurdistan, the principal inhabitants of which had expressed a preference for Persian suzerainty rather than any other, in case the Turkish Empire were to be destroyed. Persia's third claim was for reparation. Russia, by the presence of her armies, had violated the neutrality of Persia, which thus became a theatre of war, and, although a neutral country, had suffered more than some belligerents. These claims of Persia had been laughed at, but there was nothing laughable about them from the Persian point of view, and they were founded on principles for which the Allies had been fighting. Further, quite apart from principles of justice, it would be good policy for us to give our best attention to the Persian claims, for they had Asiatic sympathy behind them.

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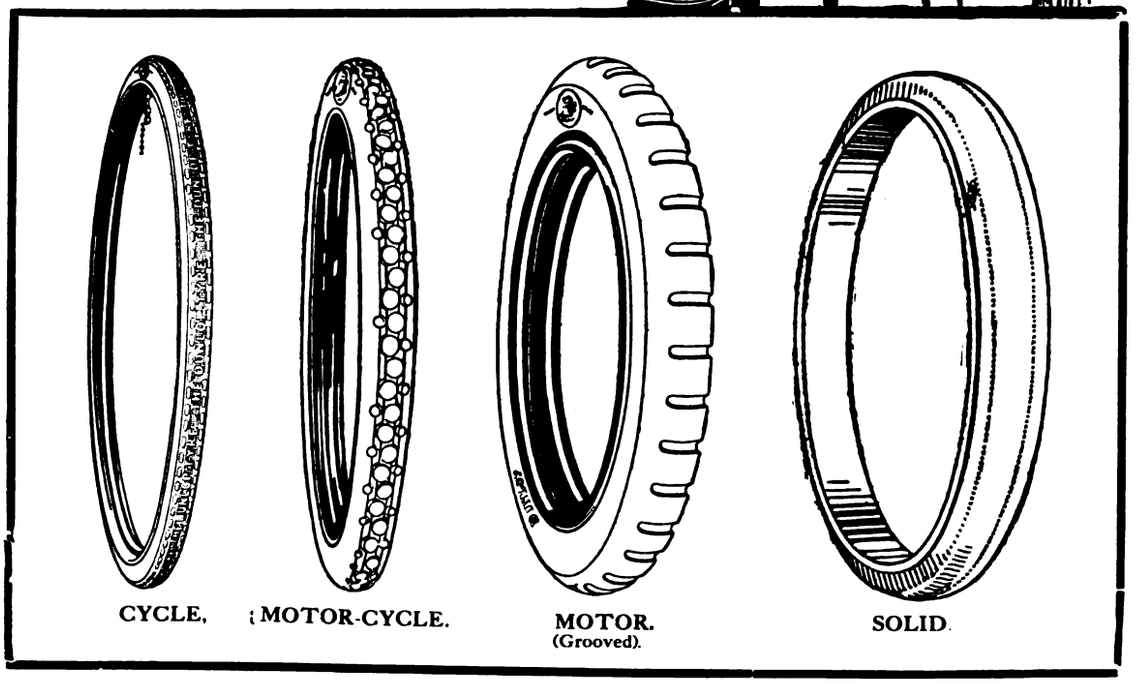

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Balkan Question.

The Times of July 26 contains an interesting leading article on "The Settlement in the Balkans." It says:—

There is no part of the world in which or about which passions run so high as the Balkans, and no question of international politics has been so warped by propaganda. It is extraordinarily difficult to achieve anything like detachment of view, especially at the end of a war, when one has to combine justice with generosity to Allies who have suffered in the common cause. There have been no sufferings in this war comparable to those of Serbia, and there has been no believer in the Allied cause quite so persistent against powerful opposition in his own country as M. Venizelos. These sufferings, this persistence, must be given a high place in our thoughts. On the other hand, Bulgaria, by joining our foes, dealt us a very shrewd blow, and, whatever our anxiety, to be just to her, there is no doctrine quite so demoralising to a nation as that which would give wickedness and bad judgment the rewards of political virtue and loyalty.

It then proceeds to support a project which has been repeatedly put forward in these columns—a federation of the Balkan States.

The passion for territorial sovereignty, based on racial arguments, must be governed by the League of Nations—a governorship under which a peace based on political justice and reason may be gained. The article concludes:—

Wrongly handled, and in a spirit of vindictiveness, the Balkan settlement, like that of the Treaty of Bucharest, will contain the seed, only too fruitful in this soil, of future war. If it is rightly handled, the Balkans will no longer be the slum of European politics, but a decent and prosperous thoroughfare of human progress.

Armenia and America.

Much has been heard in England of the suggestion of giving to America the mandatory of Armenia. It is interesting, therefore, to have an American view on the suggestion. In the *New Armenia* for June, Mr. Henry W. Jessup writes on the "United States as League Mandatory." He is decidedly of the opinion that America should accept the mandate; in fact, his reasons do not differ much from those put forward by Englishmen. He says:—

In respect to pecuniary responsibilities, one of the reasons for selecting the United States would be its disinterestedness. It is probably the only Power that could at the present time assist the new Government with a loan and be trusted not to exploit the resources of that land, great as they are, at the expense of the ward. One of the first temptations confronting a new mandatory in assuming such a tutelage will be the rush on the part of its own citizens to secure concessions in the new country and to exploit the mineral and other resources of the land for their own advantage. The utmost honesty is required of a trustee. He must not profit individually by his trust, and it would be the chief function and the highest glory of the American Commission or Provisional Government to see to it that the resources of Armenia were so handled that they would produce for the new nation a permanent and well regulated source of income that could put it upon a self-supporting basis, if what we have been told as to those resources is in any degree true, in less than twenty years.

One of the principal objections urged to the United States' accepting such a mandate has been that it might necessitate American soldiers being sent to a point far away from home for an indefinite period. Such an objection is considered almost final by those who urge it. As a matter of fact, the Armenian army, properly officered, did wonders in the early part of the war when they were fighting with the Russians, or later when they were fighting with the British against the Turks and Germans, and it might be sufficient to provide temporarily officers for their army. But the important thing, and the thing which would most speedily bring the tutelage to an end, is that the manhood of Armenia—such as is left after the deportations and massacres that have taken place, should get back to the soil, should get back to the loom, should get to work in the new mines, and be available for the development of the rest of the resources of that fertile land. Some system of constabulary police and militia is necessary in any country situated in that part of the world and with such neighbours. Hence a brigade of American troops may well be essential at the outset.

He proceeds to argue that the United States, which was largely responsible for the League of Nations, cannot well be the first to refuse a mandate from the League.

But, in the selection of those to whom the exercise of power will be confided, whose instructions must of necessity be general, and whose administration will be far from Washington, and upon the honesty and success of whose administration the future of this people will depend, the controlling principle in the selection of the personnel of this provisional government must be that *politics shall have nothing whatever to do with it.* It may be that among the great missionary heroes who have perilled their lives in the midst of this people during the war may be found one whose administrative abilities have already been tested, and who can be trusted (having a knowledge of the language and living among the people, and having consecrated his life already to their service) to undertake such a duty.

The equipment of a provisional government must not be on a niggardly basis. There must be the appearance of power as well as its existence. The head of an Oriental administration must entertain, and he must entertain like a ruler. Many difficulties disappear over the dinner table. Under a suitable governor, with a capable, expert council, and with an adequate military constabulary, or army, if you please, to safeguard the first troublesome years, we can trust to the patriotism of the Armenians, to their undying determination to achieve independence, to their thrift, industrious habits, and to the untold resources in their mines, forests and fields to bring to a speedy end, without financial loss to this country, the first great experiment under Covenant XIX. of the League of Nations.

Woman in the Near East.

The *Moslem World* for July contains an interesting article on "Women in the Near East," by Basil Mathews. The penetration of new ideas into the Near East is in some districts marked, and, though it is impossible to dogmatise on the future lines of development, yet, says the writer of the article,

There are, however, certain processes, both of destruction and reconstruction, that are already quite clearly in evidence, and that seem in the very nature of things bound to continue. In relation to the life of woman, the first of these is the gradual breaking of some of the shackles with which Islam has cramped the personality of woman. The veil, polygamy, and compulsory ignorance are three successive rows of entrenchments that are being "taken" by the powerful influences of the West.

The movement in this direction has already found such highly-qualified leaders as Madame Ulviye Hanoum, the leader of Turkish Feminism, trained, it may be recalled, in the Constantinople College for Girls, established by American missionary enterprise. Madame Hanoum is a leader in the society for the defence of the rights of women, which has a sevenfold programme. The aims of this society are: (1) To transform the outdoor costume of Turkish women; (2) to ameliorate the rules of marriage according to the exigencies of common sense; (3) to fortify woman in the home; (4) to render mothers capable of bringing up their children according to the principles of modern pedagogy; (5) to initiate Turkish women into life in society; (6) to encourage women to earn their own living by their own work, and to find them work in order to remedy the present evils; (7) to open women's schools in order to give to young Turkish girls an education suited to the needs of their country, and to improve those schools already existing. The society has a weekly illustrated paper, called *Kadinler-Dunyassi*.

This movement mainly appeals to those in the higher grades of social life in what was the Turkish Empire—the Lydias and Pricillas of to-day; and it is significant of the recognition paid by Government that such a development should, so far from being quelled, be helped to develop itself on regularised and orderly lines, for during the war the Government had set up in Beirut the beginnings of the organisation of a great Turkish Women's College, Moslem in basis, but committed to a progressive policy.

A similar development is certainly going on, though in a slower way and by different processes in the lower grades of society. The comparatively small development of industry on factory lines before the war had already called a number of girls and younger women to work of that order; while by an earth-shaking concession some Turkish girls had actually been introduced into the Telephone Exchange in Constantinople. But the work of the mill, the office, the factory is quite certain to develop. The over-work and under-pay of women in industries in Turkey was gross in pre-war times. The effect of this evil was relatively small then, but with the widespread development of industry that will almost certainly sweep across Asia Minor, Syria and Palestine, and up the Tigris and the Euphrates after the war, such conditions of labour as have prevailed would be calamitous if accepted; and if an attempt is made to impose them, they will almost certainly lead to severe social and industrial dislocation.

Articles to Note.

"Egyptian Nationalism," by Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, K.C.M.G., K.C., in the *Edinburgh Review* (July).

A White Paper was issued on July 28 showing that an additional sum of £170,000 is required on the original estimate in the Post Office vote to complete the Government wireless stations at Leafield (near Orford) and Abu-Zabal (near Cairo), thereby establishing direct wireless communication between England and Egypt.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

"GREAT BRITAIN AND THE NEAR EAST."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Most of those, I think, who have done work of a political nature in the Near East would support the proposals made by Major Ormsby-Gore in your issue of July 25. The mere fact of the bitter rivalry between Mecca and Riyadh, to take one instance out of many, shows the desirability of placing our relations with Eastern and Western Arabia under the control of a single authority.

In the last paragraph of his article Major Ormsby-Gore raises the question of including Zanzibar, Uganda, British and ex-German East Africa within the sphere of the proposed Ministry of the Near East. I should like to emphasise the importance of this question from two points of view.

1. Whether Pan-Africanism, encouraged by Pan-Islamism, is likely to become a serious danger in the future or not, it is certain that throughout Eastern Africa the Arab or Arabized Mohammedans have great influence with the Pagan natives, and that the loyalty of these Mohammedans is a matter of great importance to the stability of our East African Empire. It is eminently desirable, therefore, that the leading officials concerned with its administration should, as far as possible, be men who have had experience of Mohammedans in general and of Arabs in particular. Such men are rare among the Colonial Office authorities, who have hitherto shown but little interest in Islamic questions. Egypt and the Sudan, on the other hand, could supply a considerable number of Arabic and Islamic experts, whose services would be invaluable in the direction of East African policy.

2. There is little doubt that Eastern Africa generally, having no civilisation of its own, will eventually fall under the influence either of the North or of the South, and that the policy either of Khartoum or of Pretoria will prevail from Abyssinia to the Zambesi. It is clearly in the interests of the natives that Anglo-Sudanese influence should spread southwards rather than that South African influence should spread northwards. The Sudanese Administration is a model of what the government of primitive peoples should be, while South African native policy is more reactionary than that of any other part of the Empire. The proposal, therefore, to include Eastern Africa in the sphere of a Near Eastern Department should be supported by all who believe in the just treatment of the African races.—I am, etc.,

LELAND BUXTON.

Balavoulin, Pitlochry, July 29, 1919.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes on July 26:—A number of British officers in ten Ford cars, with specially equipped radiators, have left Cairo on a journey to Damascus and Baghdad. There is no record of this journey having ever previously been accomplished.

THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

Turning over the pages of an old notebook the other day I came across a strange story that I jotted down when it was told me, a good many years ago, in Turkey, by an American. It concerns another American, a doctor, whose name is—or was some twenty years ago—well known all over Asia Minor; but for the purposes of this tale he had better remain nameless, since one never knows how the Oriental may regard such things, even after the lapse of many years; and I hope the doctor may be still carrying on his good work in Turkey.

***

At the time the incident took place he was stationed at a certain city set amidst hills in which wild beasts, four-footed and otherwise, were numerous; and the citizens never cared to go about alone in the winter, and if forced to do so always carried a stout club and, at night, a light. Now, the doctor was the head of a training college, and it so fell out that he earnestly desired a body for dissection, for the instruction of students. In spite of all we hear about the lawlessness of Turkey, such a thing proved difficult to obtain. Perhaps the Hakim might have hired an assassin for a few *paras* to "do in" a living man, but he could not get a dead man at any price. So, sad to say, he fell before temptation!

***

(Handy things those asterisks: they indicate so much—in this case the approach of deeds of darkness. At the critical hour of temptation an Armenian was buried in the cemetery one day, and that same night the doctor and two of his best-trusted assistants went down to the place and exhumed the body. Needless to say, they had no light. However, they accomplished their purpose safely and expeditiously—for graves are always far too shallow in Turkey. Then, placing the corpse near by, they rapidly filled in the grave. But when they sought the reward of their ill-doing they found it not. It had apparently vanished into thin air. They searched in vain, feeling and groping everywhere—as they thought—but had at last to give up the search in despair, and to depart bewildered and not a little anxious.

***

The next day the mystery was solved. Very early news reached the doctor that a body had been found in the cemetery, with part of the face eaten away, evidently by a hyena. The animal must, they concluded, have come down within a very few feet of them as they refilled the grave, and contrived to drag the body some little distance. A great stir was made in the town—naturally enough—by the relatives of the dead man and the officials. But though suspicion settled on the college and the doctor, nothing was ever proved against them, and in all probability the affair was ultimately attributed to the *efreet*.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

GLASS HOUSES IN THE BALKANS.

Two reports on the Bulgarian occupation of Eastern Macedonia have been issued in pamphlet form, one by an Inter-Allied Commission and the other by a Committee of the Athens University. In the former body Great Britain was represented by Captain R. Strologo. In the eyes of anyone unacquainted with the history of the Balkans the evidence of these two reports will make the Bulgarians appear sinners above all other nations in Europe, and will place them virtually outside the pale of civilisation. The story of the occupation is sufficiently indicated by the cross-headings: Famine, Cases of Rape, Kidnapping of Children, Destructions, Deportations, in the one report; Outrages, Murders, and Plunders in the other. It may all be perfectly true; but, unfortunately, there is nothing new about it as far as the Balkans are concerned, and the only effect that the two reports can have on those who know the history of the Near East will be to make them more than ever resolved that this must be the last time when such things can be done in Europe.

The reader is instinctively reminded of the last report on these enemy occupations in the Balkans. It was based on an investigation of what had happened during or after the two Balkan Wars of 1912-13, and was the work of the Carnegie Commission. That report was a bulkier compilation than either of the two documents now published; but it tells the same story, with a change of names. For those who have not read the American volume we publish a few extracts side by side with extracts from the report of the Inter-Allied Commission:—

Report of the Inter-Allied Commission, 1919.	Report of the Carnegie Commission.
p. 18. The number of witnesses leaves no doubt as to the occurrence and frequency of acts of rape (*i.e.*, by Bulgarian troops).	p. 105. From Kukusk to the Bulgarian frontier the Greek army devastated the villages, violated the women and slaughtered the non-combatant men.
p. 21. Ninety-four villages have been totally destroyed . . . besides this, many thousand properties are reported as demolished or seriously damaged (*i.e.*, by Bulgarian troops).	At Serres the Bulgarians destroyed 4,000 houses in the conflagration which followed the fighting in the streets. The ruins of this considerable town has impressed the imagination of the civilised world. Systematically and in cold blood the Greeks burned one hundred and sixty Bulgarian villages and destroyed at least 16,000 Bulgarian homes.
p. 30. Neither can it (the Bulgarian Government) escape the direct responsibility as regards arbitrary arrests, tortures officially inflicted on persons in prison, and the deaths and injuries which resulted therefrom.	p. 146. In the appendix will be found the names of the persons killed and tortured for the sake of their money, and women outraged at Vinitza (*i.e.*, by Serbians).

Is it too much to expect of the League of Nations that it should take note of these happenings in the past, should try to understand the inevitable rancour that exists between the various peoples who have been so treated by one another, and should make up its mind that it will take the necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of Balkan excesses? There is, however, only one way of preventing their recurrence; it is by so regulating the settlement of South-Eastern Europe that neither Greeks nor Serbians nor Bulgarians shall remain under the jurisdiction of either of the others.

If these two reports bring home this point to the Paris Conference and to the Allied peoples, their publication will have served a useful purpose.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Historic Monuments of Cyprus." By George Jeffery, F.S.A. (Nicosia: Government Printing Office. 7s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

We have received a small pamphlet called "Palestine Restored" (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 6d. net). It is written by Albert Hiorth, C.E., Kristiania, and is concerned with the colonisation of Palestine. Stress is laid on the point that "the only possibility for a new agriculture lies in an efficient irrigation," and details of such an irrigation are given.

Another volume in "The Religious Life of India" series is being published immediately by Mr. Milford. The title of it is "The Ahmadeya Movement," and it is written by the late Mr. H. A. Walter.

"The Baroda Library Movement," by Sanardan S. Kudalkar, has been published by the Central Library at Baroda at the price of 3s. 6d.

The firm of Heinemann has published, at 10s. 6d. net, a non-technical history of Europe, 1870-1914 A.D., called "Armed Peace." It is written by W. S. Davis, in collaboration with W. Anderson and M. W. Tyler.

PAPYRI FROM PALESTINE.

The volume of the "Annales du Service des Antiquités de L'Egypte" issued for 1918 gives some particulars of another marvellous acquisition of papyri of the Greek era. Some of these offer to students what has always been so much hoped for in the shape of writings from Palestine and Syria. The moisture in these two countries renders it almost impossible for such fragile and delicate relics as papyri to remain preserved there, and hence scholars have looked to Egypt as the place in which such treasures might be found, as have many Hebrew manuscripts from Asia of the Middle Ages been obtained from the Synagogue Geniza of Cairo.

Some few years ago the archives of a Ptolemaic official whose career was mostly at Theadelphia, some fifty miles south of Cairo, were unearthed by the fellaheen. His name was Zeno, and he evidently treasured up his correspondence, all the items found being carefully docketed and dated.

The mass of material was immense. Many pieces have unfortunately been scattered, but the majority of them are now in the Cairo and Italian museums. The special interest in Zeno's *dossier* arises from the fact that several of the papyri texts concern transactions in Palestine or its immediate neighbourhood. For Zeno for some period acted as an official there in the third century B.C., under the second of the Ptolemy Pharaohs.

Mr. C. C. Edgar, of the Egyptian Department of Antiquities, has published three essays relative to the Zeno manuscripts that are stored in Cairo, and Italian scholars have edited some two hundred of those in their possession. In his last printed essay Mr. Edgar commences a preliminary copy, in ordinary Greek type, of a series of the Cairo collection, with a short commentary upon each, and amongst the first ten of the documents are two which emanate from beyond Egypt.

The most important of these is relative to the purchase, by Zeno himself, of a girl slave, and is a deed and acquittance for her value, which was only 20 drachmas. It was drawn up and executed at a place called Birta, in the land of Ammon—that is, the country immediately to the east of the Jordan.

Among personages mentioned in the transaction is a certain Loubias, a name which in the Old Testament is especially assigned to an Ammonite. There are about twenty-two lines of text, fairly legible, from each one of which important details may be derived.

The second papyrus preserves a letter in which the correspondent relates the result of his having, as requested, endeavoured to recover a sum of money or obtain equivalent reparation from a Jew named Jeddore. This wily Semite, as might be expected, declined to give either, but assaulted and insulted the applicant instead. Although the affair occurred more than twenty-two centuries ago, it throws some light, perhaps, upon the opposition of many present Palestinians to their native land becoming a home of the Zionists.

JOSEPH OFFORD.

According to information which has reached this country from Montenegro, the revolt of the Montenegrin people against the Serbian troops of occupation is spreading all over the country. The Montenegrins have killed several representatives of the Serbian authorities, and the Serbian Government has proclaimed a state of siege at Podgoritza. The insurgents demand the withdrawal of the Serbian army from Montenegro.

One of the most interesting war stamps issued concerns King Peter of Serbia. Before the *débâcle* in Serbia that country had prepared a new series of stamps, bearing a picture of the King sitting upon a boulder. He is accompanied by his Staff, and is watching a battle in progress among the hills. Only two denominations of the stamp got into legitimate circulation. The stock of the other denominations was commandeered by the Austrians after the Serbians had evacuated Nish.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. August	1919. July		1337. Julkada.	5679. Ab.
1	19	Friday	4	5
2	20	Saturday.....	5	6
3	21	Sunday	6	7
4	22	Monday	7	8
5	23	Tuesday	8	9
6	24	Wednesday	9	10
7	25	Thursday	10	11

General and Lady Allenby are leaving Egypt very shortly for England.

Major Venizelos, the son of M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, left London on July 23 for Paris.

Lord and Lady Barrymore have left London for Fota Island, where they will remain for several months.

Canon F Newham, Chief Inspector of Schools, Cyprus, is in England on three months' leave.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of El Kamal upon Lady Allenby.

The Metropolitan of Trebizond visited the Archbishop of Canterbury on July 26.

The Governor of Madras will probably make a tour of the West Coast in October on his way to Madras from the hills.

Mme. Misu, the wife of the Roumanian Minister, has left London for Eastbourne.

Relations between the Ukraine and Roumania having been resumed, M. Matzjevitch, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed to represent the Ukraine in Bucharest.

Archdeacon Beresford Potter has returned to England from Cyprus after a long absence, during which he wandered far on land and sea in a previous attempt to reach these shores.

The King has been pleased to confer upon Mr. H. C. Norman, C.S.I., C B.E., Counsellor of Embassy in his Majesty's Diplomatic Service. the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary in that Service.

Among the passengers on board the Manora, which recently arrived at Bombay, were Lady Chelmsford and the Maharajah of Bikanir.

General Sir Julian Byng has been appointed chairman of a new organization to dispose of the canteen profits of the war for the benefit of past and present soldiers and their dependents.

Lieut.-General Sir Herbert Vaughan Cox, Military Secretary, India Office, and Brigadier-General E. W. Costello, V.C., General Officer Commanding, India Contingent, had the honour of being received by his Majesty on July 29.

Major-General Sir C. H. Burtchell, Army Medical Service, is appointed Director of Medical Services in India, and Major-General F. Moore, Army Veterinary Service, is to be Director of the Veterinary Service in India.

The Secretary of State for India held a reception at the India Office on July 30 of Indian officers of the Indian Contingent which recently arrived in England in connection with the Peace celebrations.

Sheikh Abdulla bin 'Isa Ali al Khalifah, C.I.E., son of Sir Sheikh 'Isa bin Ali al Khalifah, ruler of the Islands of Bahrein, is now in London. He was received on July 30 by the Secretary of State for India at the India Office.

It is announced that Colonel Wilfred Thesiger, D.S.O., brother of Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy of India, has been appointed Consul-General to New York. He has been in the Consular and Diplomatic Service for twenty-two years, and from 1909-14 was Consul-General for Abyssinia.

Prince Nicholas and Princess Marie of Roumania, attended by Colonel Arion, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, and Miss Milne, left Victoria on July 30 for Paris on their way to Bucharest. Their Royal Highnesses will return to England in September.

The marriage was celebrated on July 21, at Ilketshall St. John's, Bungay, by the Rev. W. Wright, M.A., between Colonel G. F. Francis, Indian Army (retired), and Eleanor, widow of Harry N. Evans, of Pensthorpe, Fakenham, sixth daughter of the late Joseph Robinson, of Lewnis, Edenbridge, Kent.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain (Acting Major) A. G. Copeland, 5th Cavalry, second son of Mr. D. P. Copeland, O.B.E., and Winifred Ida, youngest daughter of Colonel R. C. Onslow, Indian Army, and Mrs. Onslow, of 6, Queen's Gardens, Poona.

The engagement is anounced of Nicholas Robin Udal, Assistant Director of Education, Sudan Government, youngest son of his Honour J. S. Udal, late Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, and Mrs. Udal, to Margaret Ruth, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roderic Oliver, of Orlestone, Kent.

The marriage was celebrated on July 5, at the Cathedral, Vancouver, between James Daziel Baker, only son of Robert J. Baker, of Stanley House, Exmouth, and Anna Colquhoun Colvin, daughter of the late Clement Sneyd Colvin, C.S.I., and granddaughter of the late Sir William Shelford, K.C.M.G.

The engagement is announced between Rowland Huntly, only son of Colonel C. W. Muir, C.B., C.I.E., and Mrs. Muir, of Lowbrook, Cox Green, Maidenhead, and Beatrice Sydney, youngest daughter of the late James Russell and Mrs. Russell, late of Auckland, New Zealand.

The marriage was celebrated on July 26, at the Private Chapel of the Palace, Armagh, by the Lord Primate of All Ireland, between Major Mervyn Doyne Vigors, D.S.O., M.C., 9th Hodson's Horse, only son of C. D. Vigors (late Ceylon Civil Service), Gowran Castle, Gowran, and Daphne Stewart, second daughter of James Wilson, of Hockley Lodge, Co. Armagh.

A marriage will shortly take place between Major Walter Kingsmill Cook, Indian Army, son of the late Surgeon Major-General Henry Cook, M.D., I.M.S., and Mrs. Alicia Anne Kingsmill Cook, Greycliff, Bonchurch, I. of W., and Joan, daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. A. W. W. Woodruff, of North Waltham Rectory, Hants.

The marriage was celebrated on July 1 at the Garrison Church, Citadel, Cairo, by Captain the Rev. C. C. Thacker, assisted by Captain the Rev. H. Lloyd, M.C., between Major Nelson Rooke, Highland Light Infantry, younger son of the late Dibney Rooke, Esq., and Mrs. Edith de Chair, to Marjorie Leslie, elder daughter of Sir Alexander and Lady Wood Renton.

The marriage was celebrated on June 11 at All Saints' Church, Srinagar, Kashmir, between the Honourable Major-General W. R. Edwards, C.B., C.M.G., K.H.P., I.M.S., Director-General, Indian Medical Service, and Nell, widow of Lieutenant-Colonel R. Bird, C.I.E., M.V.O., I.M.S., and daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel R. Dewar, R.A.

The marriage of Mr. Wilfred Francis Herbert Watson, Egyptian State Railway, of Ballingarrane, Clonmel, County Tipperary, eldest son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Watson, R.A., and the Hon. Mrs. Watson, and Evelyn Irene Hamilton, only child of the late Arthur J. H. Wills and of Mrs. Macculloch, took place at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, on July 26. The Rev. W. Marshall Selwyn, of St. Simon's Church, Chelsea, officiated.

The marriage was celebrated on July 24, at St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens, Kensington, by the Rev. C. S. Woodward, between Sydney C. Woodhouse, M.B.Lond., M.R.C.S.Eng., Temp. Surgeon Lieut., R.N., youngest son of the Rev. J. T. and Mrs. Woodhouse, Teignmouth, Devon, and Erica, younger daughter of the late Donald and of Mrs. Ferguson, of Croydon, formerly of Colombo, Ceylon.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Colonel E. A. P. Hobday, C.M.G., Royal Artillery, son of Lieutenant-Colonel T. F. Hobday, Indian Staff Corps, and Katharine Mary, only child of William Dixon Jollands, of Buxshalls, Lindfield, Sussex, and widow of Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Sampson, late 9th Bengal Lancers (Hodson's Horse). J.P. and D.L. for Sussex.

The Secretary of State for India announces that by the courtesy of the Office of Works, the House of Lords stand, which was erected for the Peace Celebrations Procession on the 19th, and which has accommodation for just under 1,050 persons, will be left standing, and placed at the disposal of the India Office for the procession of the Indian contingent to Buckingham Palace on Saturday, August 2. Will any officer of the Indian Army on the active or retired list, or any civil officer, active or retired of any Indian Service, or any relative of the above, who wishes to view the procession from the stand, apply to the Military Department, India Office, Room 310, stating the number of tickets that he or she requires?

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—

Mr. George Wilson has been recognised as American Consular Agent in Cyprus.

Mr. C. S. Cade, Commissioner of Nicosia, will act as Chief Inspector of Schools during the absence on leave of Canon Newham.

Major G. C. Bayly, Acting Chief Commandant of Police, acts as Commissioner of Larnaca from June 24.

Mr. H. Simms, M.V.O., will act as Director of Public Works pending the appointment of a successor to Mr. Nicolls.

Major Bolton, O.B.E., has been presented with the Order. The Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Stevenson, came from Troodos for the purpose, the honour being conferred on the principal Law Court.

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We are indebted to a Persian correspondent for the following notes:—

Princess Azizieh Sabit and her husband, Mohammed Bey Sabit, have arrived in Paris from Egypt.

A marriage has been arranged between Prince Said Halim of Egypt (only son of Prince Mehmet Ali of Egypt, and Princess Mehmet Ali of Egypt, née Jélal Pasha), and Princess Maria Carracciolo de Brienza.

Princess Kadrié Jemalleddin (daughter of the late Sultan Hussein of Egypt) and her husband, Jemalleddin Bey, have arrived in Switzerland from Egypt and France.

Prince Eumer Farouk, Prince Nourreddin, and Prince Charafeddin of Turkey, who have been in Switzerland since the signing of the Armistice, left Lausanne on July 10, returning with the Ottoman Peace Delegation to Constantinople.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

M. GAVRILOVITCH.

The appointment is announced of Monsieur Michel Gavrilovitch as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James's for the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Monsieur Gavrilovitch is an outstanding figure in the Serbian Diplomatic Service. He has represented his country at the Vatican, and during the recent absence of M. Protitch in Paris was acting Prime Minister. M. Gavrilovitch, who speaks English, can count on a cordial welcome in Great Britain. The Yugoslav Government could hardly have made a more felicitous appointment.

The Council of Armstrong College, Newcastle, on July 25, appointed Lieut.-Colonel Sir Theodore Morison, K.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., Principal of the college.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. C. G. Todhunter, I.C.S., to be a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Madras in succession to Sir A. G. Cardew, K.C.S.I.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on June 26, at 1, Rue des Fatimites, Alexandria, Egypt, of Michel Sinadino, President of the Greek community in Alexandria, in his 65th year.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—

The death of Mr. Hatton Richards will be regretted in Cyprus, where he was for many years assistant to the Chief Secretary. Much sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Hatton Richards in her bereavement.

Mrs. Mavrogordato, who has recently died in England, was the widow of the late Mr. T. Mavrogordato, who was for some time a Local Commandant of Police in Cyprus, and afterwards served in the police in South Africa.

A Reuter message from Pekin states that Colonel Wright, of the Eighteenth Infantry Regiment, Indian Army, commanding in North China, has been drowned while bathing at Shanhaikuan.

Major C. H. G. Mansfield Clarke, M.V.O., late Rifle Brigade, died on July 27. He served in the Nile Expedition, 1898, and received the Egyptian Medal.

Major-General Charles Louis Raikes died at Cheltenham on July 25. Son of the late Henry Thomas Raikes, Judge of the High Court, Calcutta, he entered the Madras Army in 1855. He was afterwards appointed to the Indian Staff Corps, and retired with the honorary rank of Major-General in 1887.

The death occurred on July 26 of Major-General John Ruggles (Retired List, Indian Army). Born in 1827, he was present at the siege and capture of Fort Kanysu in 1846, and in 1857 was one of the gallant Lucknow garrison in the Indian Mutiny. After much service in China, he was made Colonel of the 19th Punjabis. Some years ago he published his experiences in India under the title of "Recollections of a Lucknow Veteran."

General Sir Henry Grant, K.C.B., C.B., G.C.V.O., son of the late Field-Marshal Sir Patrick Grant, was accidentally killed while out rabbit shooting on July 28 in the neighbourhood of Laggan Lodge, Inverness. Sir Henry was 71 years of age, and entered the Army, 7th Dragoon Guards, in 1868. He served in the Nile Expedition (1884), Sudan (1885), and commanded 15th Division, Southern Command, and was Inspector-General of Cavalry. He was Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Malta, 1907-9.

The *Times of India* states:—An extraordinary bathing fair is being held at Allahabad owing to the confluence of the rivers Ganges and Jumna shifting to Balughat. This is due to the increase in the current of the former by the over-flooding water of the latter remaining stationary. The popular mind attaches special significance to this, because in one of the sacred books it is stated when the Ganges begins to flow towards the west the world would come to an end. This is the first time the confluence has travelled up so far.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A mail service has been established between Baghdad and Bulgaria.

The *Basrah Times* states that a post office has been opened at Haditha.

The next big airship flight is expected to be made by R 33 to Cairo and India.

Owing to demobilisation of the naval forces, the French naval bases at Galata, Constanza, and Corfu have been abolished, and the Naval Delegation at Messina has also been withdrawn.

By the explosion of an ammunition dump containing from 40,000 to 50,000 kilogrammes of dynamite, great damage was caused at Samsun, in the vilayet of Trebizond.

In Afghanistan the population declines to accept the money issued by the Soviet power, and the peasants are full of animosity towards the Bolshevists.

A message from Moscow states that Admiral Koltchak has directed a part of his forces to assist the English troops operating in Turkestan. Another message suggests that the English have entered into an alliance with the Khan of Khiva.

A correspondent in Switzerland informs us that the ex-Khedivah Ikbal of Egypt has arrived in that country from Germany. Also that Prince Abd El-Kadir of Egypt, second son of the ex-Khedive Abbas Hilmi, has died in Berlin at the age of 17.

A Commission to inquire into the disturbances of June 7 in Malta is to be composed of Judge Parnis, the Acting Chief Justice, who will preside, two senior military officers, who are to be sent from England, and two leading Maltese citizens.

In a written answer to Major Waring, Mr. Churchill states that the total strength of the British Constantinople Command on June 28 was 84,000, made up of 37,000 British and 47,000 native troops, including 20,000 Indians.

The Ottoman League (Ligue pour la défense des droits des Ottomans, Geneva) asks us to state that there is no truth in certain statements published lately in a London daily newspaper regarding its activities. The League wishes it to be known that it is in no way connected with the Orient League.

The work of the American Red Cross Society in Egypt, Syria, and Palestine will henceforth be carried out by the "Near East Committee," which consists of civilian members bearing special brassards, and enjoying the same privileges that were granted to the members of the Red Cross.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1919.

ANGLO-FRENCH RELATIONS IN THE EAST.

The dilatory procedure of the Paris Conference is responsible for, among many other things, a distinct strain upon Anglo-French relations in the Near East. But inasmuch as the close and cordial co-operation of Great Britain and France in all parts of the world should be an axiom of the foreign policy of both countries, the wisest course to pursue is to encourage a frank discussion of all outstanding points, with a view to effecting an amicable settlement and to eliminating any permanent sense of grievance on either side. The secret of the Anglo-French entente, it must be remembered, is that it is something more than an official agreement between Governments; it is based on a complete understanding between the two peoples, and its success in the future depends on the retention of this feature. Nothing is more calculated, however, to overshadow the good-fellowship cemented by the war than an attempt to hush up points of difference that must inevitably arise in the complicated settlement that the two countries have to reach. An early decision on the part of the Paris Conference would have presented both peoples with the *fait accompli*, and their good sense would have prompted them to accept it; and as each side would have found some item not altogether to its liking, both would have set themselves to make the best of the compact. The delay in the settlement has allowed the controversialists in one country or the other full scope for the exercise of their ingenuity, or worse, in attempts to influence the ultimate verdict, and, as generally happens in such instances, the protagonists are inclined to exaggerate their case in the hope that, if they do not obtain all that they ask for, they will at least secure the more important part. Accordingly, while the relations between the two Governments remain strictly correct, a certain amount of ill-feeling is engendered in less responsible circles by the extremists. It is characteristic of the British public that it has chosen to nurse its grievances and say nothing for fear of seeming to do violence to the spirit that has brought the two peoples through the war. The French, on the other hand, do not hesitate to reveal their feelings, and in the circumstances this may prove the more practical method to adopt.

For the moment France, or, at least, the French Press, is troubled over the Syrian question. This was one of the problems which an attempt was made to settle during the war, but, unfortunately, on a wholly artificial basis. In the Sykes-Picot agreement the only instructions which seem to have been given to the British representative—for which the Foreign Office is understood to have been in no way responsible—were that he was to come to an agreement at all costs with the French. So literally was this injunction carried out that the French themselves were probably surprised at the ignorant and undiscriminating surrender to French claims. The two things not appreciated across the Channel were Britain's satiety of territorial possessions, as well as her readiness to make sacrifices, if necessary, for the sake of an ally. Other people, however, besides the two contracting parties were interested in the Sykes-Picot agreement, and the Arabs soon showed that they were far from being inclined to imitate Great Britain's accommodating spirit. Whatever may have been the arguments used by the French to convince the British Government that their claim to Syria and parts of Arabia and Asia Minor was justified, it is evident that they were invalidated by facts subsequently brought to light. Both Governments realised that a fresh stock-taking was necessary, but they have delayed to clear up the difficulty, and in the meantime there has been a very vigorous unofficial canvassing of French claims. To clinch their arguments, these extremists are now talking of British "intrigues" in Syria and Palestine, presumably to account for the discovery that French popularity in these parts is not as pronounced as they had been led to suppose. They can spare their laments. Intrigue abroad implies a definite foreign policy, and clearly the British Government has none. If it has, it certainly does not envisage Syria as part of the British Empire. The truth is that France's popularity is restricted to a comparatively small section of the Syrian population, and among the Arabs it is non-existent. If we might venture a friendly suggestion to our allies, it would be that seekers after popularity in the East are well advised to do nothing to court it. Certain it is that both French and Americans have worked very hard in the Near East since the Armistice, unofficially, if not officially, to win popularity, and the orders and concessions that are supposed to go with it. In regard to the latter, they have achieved a greater measure of success than in the matter of popularity, if appearances can be trusted. Great Britain, on the other hand, having done nothing to push herself into the good books of the various peoples, stands to gain popularity, orders, and concessions, if she will stretch out only one hand to help herself.

Clearly the three Powers stand to lose more than any one of them is likely to gain by quarrelling among themselves for the *beaux yeux* of the Near Eastern peoples. If our allies will try to appreciate the sturdy independence of the latter, they will realize that in the long run it is a better asset to the world in general, and consequently to the Powers themselves, than the subservient spirit which their present policy suggests that they would like to find in the Easterns. One result would be an immediate improvement in international relations all round. The French would no longer consider it worth while to handicap the British postal service in the hope of stealing a march on possible trade rivals, and they would not desire to impose their mandate on any territory where they were not sure of a welcome, or at least of being tolerated. The United States Government would not waste time in trying to bring in more territory under its mandate, but would accept the situation as it finds it, and not seek to force it to conform with some artificial standard of national dignity. Every day's delay in the final settlement tends to aggravate the position. The United States, it is understood, are still inclined to consider the question of a mandate in the Near East, but would seem to be associating mandates with what is to be got out of them by the mandatory Power, and for that reason are wondering whether their jurisdiction might not be made to include Mesopotamia as well as Asia Minor. Such an attitude was bound to make France still less willing to forgo Syria; consequently it has been necessary to suggest an investigation on the spot by an Inter-Allied Commission in regard to the wishes of the population of Syria and Palestine. An American Commission has already explored the ground, and has decided that the people would prefer an American mandate, but, failing that, would accept British control. There is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the verdict; but it remains to be seen whether the French will abide by it. It is to be hoped that it will not encourage the United States Government to press further its claim to have Mesopotamia within its mandate, and thus to protract the negotiations indefinitely. A final decision on the subject is urgently required, and should be pressed for by the Paris Conference.

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BULGARIA REVISITED.

[The following article, by a military correspondent, describes a visit paid to Sofia some little time after the close of hostilities. The conditions depicted are those ruling at the beginning of the year, and in some respects they have been changed—for the better—as later observers have testified in our columns.—ED.]

It was with feelings of no little curiosity that I found myself again approaching Sofia, the little-known capital of Bulgaria. Much had happened in the interval. Bulgaria had been drawn into the Teutonic net. Emperors and Kings from Central Europe had passed through the city on their way to and from Constantinople or the Macedonian front; German and Austrian officers had strutted about the streets, and had doubtless made themselves at home; Sofia had been the base of an army that had stubbornly resisted the troops of some five or six nations of the Entente for three years; and it had been reported in the English Press that King Ferdinand had been deposed, King Boris had fled, and that a Republic now reigned supreme. Bulgaria, the home of a truculent, self-centred people, proud of their independence, was in occupation by foreign troops. How would they bear themselves in their misfortunes?

A New Railway.

Sofia is now connected direct with Salonika by means of a Decauville railway and a motor road, both of which follow the rocky Struma valley. The railway was made by the Bulgars during the wars as their main line of communication to the Salonika front, and the road is now being kept in excellent order. Consequently those who are fortunate enough to secure a seat by motor-car or lorry choose this line of approach, and I was delighted to find myself one of that number.

After a somewhat lengthy but uneventful journey, during which I had ample time to enjoy the beautiful scenery, I chanced, while walking up a pass, to meet a Bulgarian non-commissioned officer, looking smart and wide awake. In broken Bulgarian I asked him how far it was to Sofia. "Sixty-two kilometres," was the immediate response.

Evidently an intelligent fellow! thought I; so I ventured another question—namely, why his country had fought against us. "God knows, you were on one side, we were on the other. We wanted Macedonia. We went to war against the Serbs, who robbed us of it in 1913, not against the French or English. But we had to defend ourselves." "Did you have a bad time?" I asked. "No, there was plenty of food in the trenches, not so much now, though"—and with that he saluted and went his way. No trace of hostility in this man, no cringing and no truculence. He seemed to take it all in the day's work!

Along the road I had noticed some traces still remaining of the retreat of an army—skeletons of horses, ruined motor-lorries, masses of barbed wire, and debris of all kinds. Here and there were monuments bearing testimony to Bulgarian prowess, and to the eternal friendship existing between German and Bulgar, a friendship evidently made in Germany!

Darkness closed in before I reached my journey's end, but at last the welcome lights of Sofia seemed to promise much-needed food and rest. Alas, however, Sofia was no exception to the general rule: hotels full to overflowing; every house in the town occupied; and it was by a lucky chance that I was furnished with a bed.

Sofia After the War.

Sofia by the light of day presents no great alteration: the same houses, the same regular and somewhat monotonous streets, the same but rather dirtier, and still more out of repair; the same sea of mud; nothing new. Building has been at a standstill during the war. Nevertheless, Sofia has now 200,000 inhabitants; while before the war there were little more than half that number. Refugees have flocked in from all sides, especially from Macedonia. There are said to be well-nigh 200,000 Macedonian refugees in Bulgaria, and some 60,000 or 70,000 of these were in the army. Many of the leading generals and statesmen are Macedonians.

But to return to Sofia—the shops, always somewhat meagre, look much the same as usual. A visit to the market shows that there is still plenty of food to be had for those who can pay for it. Honey, cheese, and vegetables are conspicuous. Meat is scarce, so are ham and goose flesh; but they are obtainable, at a price. And the prices are fabulous! Never mind, there are prenty of millionaires, I am told, in *levas*. The *leva* used to be worth a franc, but is now about fourpence! However, even the poor people don't look starved, as yet.

I enter a café. Somehow, I hardly know how, I find myself in the company of politicians, and being presented to some conspicuous orator. I then remember that in Bulgaria all men and most women are politicians, and all without exception are orators. And yet the men are men of action, too. In other countries one hears such expressions as "deeds, not words!" "Dogs that bark don't bite!" These are inapplicable to Bulgaria, I fear. My new acquaintances at once accost me. "Why do you treat us like enemies?" they ask. "We got rid of the Germans as soon as we could. We were dead sick of them, and of the war too. Our men had begun to go home. They wanted to cultivate their fields. Then you broke through our line. We marched on Sofia, fought a battle with the Germans, and in spite of German efforts to restore the situation, we sent Ferdinand packing!"

The New King.

"But where is your republic?" said I. "We were told you had a republic." "No," was the answer. "We have a constitutional sovereign, like your own. King Boris has nothing to do with his father. He is a Bulgarian born, of the Orthodox faith, and there is no one more democratic. We can get along with him all right.

"Do you not know that our first act was to get rid of all German influences? As soon as King Ferdinand accepted his fate and left the country our revolution came to an end. We are not Bolshevists. Why, then, do you blockade us, prevent food from coming into the country, and stop our trading with you? Matters are worse with us now than when the war was going on. We are getting hungry!"

"You seem to forget," said I, "that you have been fighting against us, your old benefactors, for the last three years, and that you are still our enemies."

"But whose fault is that?" said they. "We have done nothing so bad as your friends the Greeks! Why did you not force us into the war like you did the Greeks? You landed against their wish at Salonika. Why did you not land at Dedeagatch in the same way in 1915? You had asked the Serbs to give us back our Macedonia. Why did you not see that they gave it to us? Besides, have you not heard that in 1915 the great majority, in fact, all the parties except that of Radoslavoff, then Premier, came together and presented a petition to the King to enter on the side of the Entente. The King listened to them with attention, but tricked us with his sphinx-like attitude; and a few days later declared a mobilisation directed against Serbia. Then you all went away. The Bulgarian nation was helpless in the matter. We were under martial law and had to obey. Then, however, thoroughly committed to fight, we did our duty. We have fought three wars to free the Bulgarian Macedonians, and we have defended our own country! None of our divisions went across to the enemy, there was no treachery. We never liked the Germans. We thought we might make use of them, but they made use of us!"

Then almost before I could get a word in edgeways, they were upon me again.

"You call yourselves our benefactors! Of course, we know that Russia liberated us. Who says we are not grateful? Have we not erected a statue to the Tsar liberator, and called a main street after his name And had the Tsar no '*arriere pénsée*' in this famous liberation? Was it not Beaconsfield or Salisbury that broke up Greater Bulgaria after the Treaty of San Stefano, which gave us our Macedonia and Eastern Roumelia, and all that we are now asking for?

"Did you not teach us to beware of Russia when it suited your politics to do so, and did you not afterwards turn round in 1906, when you had made an alliance with Russia, and assure us that the Bear had ceased to hug? Did you not in 1915 promise Constantinople to that same Russia, whom you had taught us to fear like death? No, we are simple people. We learned the lesson you had taught us and we could not unlearn it. We did not wish Russia to have Constantinople nor to sound our own death knell."

"What strange views these poor deluded people seem to take?" thought I. "Surely they must have known who were their real friends, and how wicked it was of them not to support them through thick and thin, and then I seemed to hear the words of Lord Roberts: "Right or

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wrong, my country!" and I bade them good-bye hastily, and sallied out into the residential part of the town.

Soon I spied a French flag over a doorway, and beneath it, mounting guard, the stolid face and figure of an African negro in uniform, "a Black Frenchman," as the Boche would say, and not a bad-looking specimen either. No one appears to take any notice of him. Bulgars are evidently already becoming accustomed to the novel sight, and perhaps reconciled to a foreign occupation. This it appears is the residence of the officer commanding the Allied troops. A little further on is a large building gay with bunting and many flags. What is this? An inter-Allied Officers' Club, it seems from the inscription over the door. This also is something new. Officers of all the Allied nations can meet here, dine, read the papers, play billiards, and even give musical soirees. Again, a little farther on the familiar Stars and Stripes are floating over the new American Legation.

Impassive Tommy Atkins.

Farther still, and the sight of the grand old Union Jack warms one's heart, and, best of all, there stands honest Tommy Atkins, smart as new paint, with every button shining like gold, and sublimely indifferent to the looks of curiosity (are they not also of admiration?) from the loitering Bulgars, as he smartly brings his rifle to the present before a passing officer.

Soon some Bulgarian soldiers come slouching along, saluting nobody, a sullen look on their faces. Their physique is good, so is their clothing; but gone is the smart, soldier-like air of old. Lack of discipline, lack of *moral*, clearly tell the tale of three years of unsuccessful war. Bulgarian officers are not so bad, but even they, to some extent, share the same characteristics.

I wend my steps towards the Boris Garden, where all the world and his wife were wont to take the air. Italian officers and men, a few French officers, and an occasional Englishman are met. Several Bulgarians, chiefly young men and girls, are strolling about. They appear to be happy; the girls seem better dressed, and the type is improving in appearance. Peasants are returning home from market along the Constantinople road in their picturesque costumes, precisely as they have done for ages past, the wife carrying her purchases and the husband riding on a donkey in front of her. Suddenly, round the corner comes swinging a company of cadets from the Military School—nice, clean, well set-up lads, spick and span, even, perhaps, a little smarter than they need to be. Is this, perhaps, the result of the German goose-step? I do not know, but there is no sign of demoralisation. Clearly the youth of Bulgaria is as yet untouched by the war, and full of confidence—the sublime confidence that youth imparts.

Changing Character.

A few more days spent in Sofia convince me that a certain change has come over the people. Closer contact with other Europeans has not been without effect. People hanker more after amusements and society. One or two new theatres producing plays in the style of Viennese light opera are crowded to overflowing nightly.

It is whispered that morals in the towns are laxer than they were. It would be strange, indeed, were they not. But in the country, I am assured, the old peasant virtues still remain, and there the people are still the same sober, honest, hardworking and strictly moral race that one had known before.

Thrifty, obstinate, suspicious of foreigners, entirely selfish, the man in the street has not yet begun to think of what the consequences may be to him personally and to his country for having espoused the losing side. The great European War was for him merely an incident and an opportunity for settling his private Balkan quarrels. He regrets another failure for his arms, and thinks he has already suffered amply for his mistake. What will happen when he realises that he is only at the beginning of his troubles, that he may be expected to make good the losses sustained by Serbia, Greece, and Roumania? That may be a new idea to him. He is still brooding over the wrongs he believes he suffered in 1913, and looks to the Peace Conference to make this good. But the statesmen? They must know, and I wonder how they are supporting the long-drawn-out agony of suspense?

They are a sturdy, sensible, sober people, these Bulgars, never grasping more than they can reasonably hope to hold, never letting go a resolution formed. What will be their attitude to the Bolshevist tempter? A few such there must be in Sofia, and in one or two of the larger towns, who will strive to overturn the Government; but let us hope that the common sense and conservatism of the ideal peasant proprietor State of Europe will withstand the shock and prove a solid obstacle to the further spread of anarchy.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Egyptian Education. July 24.

Mr. HARMSWORTH, replying to questions by Captain W. Benn, said:—Amounts expended on public education in Egypt are as follows:—(a) By Ministry of Education: 1900, £E109,091; 1910, £E333,377; 1918, £E410,753. (b) The creation of provincial councils in 1910, with power to impose taxation up to a maximum amount equal to 5 per cent. of the local assessment of the province to Land Tax, has resulted in the expenditure of considerable sums on elementary education. In 1912 the total amount devoted by provincial councils to education was £E240,746.

Being asked by Captain W. Benn for the details of those employed in the Education Department, Mr. HARMSWORTH said: The number of officials employed in the Ministry of Education (in July, 1919) is as follows:—Egyptians, 1,337; non-Egyptians, 242. These figures do not include temporary officers or servants, who are all Egyptians.

Greeks' Behaviour at Smyrna.

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH, replying to Lieutenant-Colonel Aubrey Herbert with regard to the reported massacres in Smyrna and Aidin by Greek troops, said:—The incidents to which the hon. member refers, regrettable as they are, do not appear to have been exactly on the scale indicated in the question, though there can, unfortunately, be no doubt that there has been a considerable loss of life. A certain amount of damage seems to have been done to British interests during the disturbances, and the claims arising therefrom are being examined. The Peace Conference at Paris has decided to send immediately a special commission of inquiry into the alleged atrocities in the territories in question, upon which each of the four Great Powers will be represented by an officer.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. HERBERT: Can the hon. gentleman give an assurance, although the fact is well known here and recognised in other parts of the Empire, that we have no responsibility for these massacres and repudiate them?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: The hon. and gallant member may accept my assurance that no British troops had anything whatever to do with them.

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH, replying to Lieutenant-Commander Kenworthy on the same subject, said: While at least one village near Aidin has been partially burnt, no information as to the murder of its inhabitants has reached me. There have undoubtedly been excesses in the other districts mentioned, excepting possibly Manissa, but these are not necessarily traceable to the Greek military forces. While the state of war exists, the appointment of diplomatic and consular officers is impracticable. In addition to the British naval representative at Smyrna, the British High Commissioner at Constantinople has his own representative at that place. There are also naval representatives at Aidin and Aivali, and two naval missions have recently visited Aidin and other places, and I am informed that their presence has exercised a marked restraint upon the attitude of both parties. As I informed the House on the 22nd inst., the Peace Conference are doing their utmost to prevent the recurrence of such disorders by an arrangement strictly defining the limits of the Greek military occupation.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the Official Report.

INDIA: Kut Defence (Awards).—Industrial Commission Recommendations.—Karachi Troop Train Incident.—Government of India Bill. EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. INDIA: Uncovenanted Services (Pensions).—Union Parliament (Legislation Affecting Asiatics). (July 21.)

BRITISH SALONIKA FORCE (LABOUR CORPS). PRISONERS OF WAR, TURKEY (OFFICERS' CLAIMS). INDIA: Press Act (Proceedings).—Rice (Hoarding). (July 22.)

INDIA: Karachi Troops' Train Incident.—Army Officers (Pay, etc.).—Panjaub and Delhi.—Officers on Leave (Medical Advice).—Government of India Bill.—Home Administration (Lord Crewe's Committee). CEYLON. PERSIA (TROOPS AT KASVIN). MACHINE GUN CORPS (DRAFTS FOR EGYPT). AFGHANISTAN (PEACE CONDITIONS). INDIA: Sangor School (Officers' Pay).—Disorders (Suppression).—Defence of India Act (Operation). (July 23.)

BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES, EGYPT. DEMOBILISATION: SALONIKA. INDIA: Troops (Heat Stroke). (July 24.)

WAR CABINET (EASTERN COMMITTEE). ARMIES OF OCCUPATION: Egypt (Coast of Offence).—Mesopotamia. ASIATICS' TRADING AND LAND BILL, SOUTH AFRICA. (July 28.)

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MONTENEGRO.

A meeting called by the Montenegro Committee was held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on July 17, to hear an address by Mr. Alexander Devine on "The Present Crisis in Montenegro." The chair was taken by Sir Robert Kennedy, K.C.M.G., formerly H.B.M. Minister in Montenegro, and there was a large attendance.

In an introductory speech the Chairman referred to the enemies of Montenegro. He said that some of them—many of them—could be found in Serbia. There were many among discontented Montenegrins. Every country had discontented people, and many Montenegrins who had emigrated to America, had imbibed democratic, anti-monarchical views. Enemies could also be found in the Foreign Office, from which safe retreat they ejected poisonous gas upon gallant little Montenegro and its brave sovereign.

Mr. Alexander Devine, speaking of King Nicholas, said:—"He is the maker of modern Montenegro, and he and his people helped Serbia and Greece to win the Balkan War. And now to-day he finds his State in peril of annexation and swallowed up by the very sister country and ally, Serbia, whom he has always stood by so strongly and gallantly. When Austria declared war on Serbia he did not hesitate for a moment. Small as Montenegro was, and unlike the Greece of King Constantine, Montenegro, the champion of Slav liberty, promptly took her place by the side of Serbia, and defied the armies of Austria and Germany. Montenegro declared war against Austria on August 6, 1914, and against Germany on August 9. This is set forth also in the memorandum handed by the German Delegation to the Peace Conference, in which memorandum Montenegro is accused of having been the aggressor against the Central Powers, and consequently not entitled to a war indemnity. The formal proof of her chivalry towards Serbia is that one-third of the Montenegrin army fell on the battlefields. At the moment when the Serbian army, disbanded and disarmed, were running away across Montenegro, the bulk of the Montenegrin army fought against the right wing of Mackensen's army, thus assuring the retreat and safety of the Serbian army."

He proceeded to say that it was Serbian Imperialism disguised under the name of Yugoslavia that had involved and would involve her in deadly conflict with Greece, Roumania, Italy, and Albania, which she was treating similarly to Montenegro.

He then announced another grave fact. Why, it might be asked, did not the King of Montenegro return to his own people upon the Austrian evacuation? The time had come for plain speaking. The King of Montenegro and his Government wished to return to their country, but were confronted, to their amazement, by a communication from the French Government to the effect that France would break off diplomatic relations with Montenegro if they returned at the present moment. In spite of the protest of the Montenegrin Government, Montenegro was being administered by Serbia, that very Serbia which was always talking about self-determination when it affected her claims upon Fiume. But Serbia was the friend of President Wilson, and incidentally a concession had been granted by the Yugoslavs to an American corporation for the construction of docks, warehouses, and railways to connect with the interior at any and all points on the Dalmatian Coast ceded by the Peace Conference to the Yugoslavs.

Referring to the mission sent by the British Government to Montenegro, he said: "Mr. Harmsworth, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, says the Government of Montenegro were not consulted as to the appointment of this mission, and that they have made no protest with regard to it. This is simply not correct. The Government have protested. They protested that no mission had been sent to Serbia or Italy or Roumania, and why should one be sent to Montenegro? As to a plebiscite, there had been none on the restoration of Belgium or Serbia or invaded France. Why Montenegro? Montenegro must be restored. A plebiscite imposed on Montenegro would mean the annihilation of her sovereignty and violence to her honour. She must be restored without a mission, without a plebiscite, and her own people, free from either Austrian or Serbian domination, must settle their own affairs."

In conclusion, he said that all we as Englishmen could do was to ensure that the Balkan peoples should be free to determine their own fates. If Montenegro wished to be absorbed by a Great Serbia, well and good; if she wished her old King to return to her, well and good; if she wished a republican form of Government, well and good; but she must be free to settle these matters herself, and until the Serbians evacuated the country missions or plebiscites or self-determination were a farce.

The Secretary of State for India announces that, in view of the number of applications already received for temporary appointment to Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service for India, no more applications can be accepted at present. If and when further applications are desired, another announcement will be made.

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UNION OF ORIENTALISTS.

Agreements entered into during the war provide for close and practical co-operation between the great Oriental societies of the chief Entente countries. The union will be celebrated in the first week in September by a joint session in London of the Royal Asiatic Society, the Société Asiatique of France, the American Oriental Society, and the Scuola Orientale of the University of Rome. The war shattered the internationalism in the republic of letters and scientific research which found expression in periodical congresses at various centres on the Continent and in this country. Its full restitution, with Germany again a prominent participant, may take years to accomplish, and meanwhile the Orientalists of Britain, France, America, and Italy have worked out agreements for co-operation in work, and for the interchange of facilities for their various members. There are to be annual joint sessions, and the first of these will be held on September 3 to 6 (Wednesday to Saturday) in the rooms of the Royal Asiatic Society.

INDIAN REFORM.

At Prince's Galleries a reception was held on July 28 under the auspices of the European Association of India. Among those present were Sir Stephen and Lady Finney, Sir Alfred Welby, Sir George Forbes, Sir Wilfred Collet, Mr. W. Joynson-Hicks, M.P., and Mrs. Joynson-Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. T. Earle Welby, and several Indians representing important interests.

Mr. Ramarayinga pointed out that opposition to the Montagu scheme of Indian Reform did not proceed solely from the British in India. The European Association had, on certain important points, the sympathy of non-Brahmin Indians. He besought the British public, if they meant to go forward with the scheme, to do so with a full understanding of its real nature. If they believed in oligarchy, and thought it the best thing for India, let them go forward with the Bill in its present form. But let them not mock the intelligence of the Indians he represented by pretending to them that oligarchy was democracy.

Mr. Welby emphasised the fact to which Mr. Ramarayinga had drawn attention, that opposition to the Bill was not racial. He impressed upon the audience that the European Association of India included British men and women of the most diverse schools of political thought. But the one thing common to all its members was Indian experience, and it was in the light of that that they condemned the present Bill.

THE INDIAN CONTINGENT.

The whole of the contingent which was to have represented the British Army in India and the Indian Army in the Peace celebrations has now arrived in England, and is encamped at Hampton Court. His Majesty the King has consented to review the contingent in the grounds of Buckingham Palace at 3 p.m. on Saturday, August 2. The contingent will arrive at Waterloo from Hampton Court by train, and will march in procession to the Palace, leaving Waterloo at 1.45 p.m. The route will be Westminster Bridge, Parliament Street, Admiralty Arch, the Mall, Victoria Memorial.

The procession will be headed by a group of distinguished Generals on the active list of the Indian Army who commanded Indian troops in one or other theatres of war. Banners, crowned with laurel, and bearing the names of the various fronts on which Indian troops have fought, will be carried. The contingent numbers about 1,800, and comprises, besides British troops, detachments of every unit in the Indian Army as well as of the Imperial Service troops of the native States. Every martial race in India will be represented—Sikhs, Punjabi Muhammadans, Pathans, Gurkhas, Dogras, Garhwalis, Rajputs, Jats, Mahrattas, and others. It is hoped that Londoners will turn out and give a rousing welcome to these brave soldiers.

THE ARMY IN INDIA.

The Secretary for India, with the concurrence of the Secretary for War, has appointed a Committee to inquire into the administration and organisation of the Army in India. The terms of reference are: (1) To inquire into and report, with special reference to post-bellum conditions, upon the administration and, where necessary, the organisation of the Army in India, including its relations with the War Office and the India Office, and the relations of the two Offices with one another. (2) To consider the position of the Commander-in-Chief in his dual capacity as head of the Army and member of the Executive Council, and to make recommendations. (3) To consider and report upon any other matters which they may decide are relevant to the inquiry. The composition of the Committee is as follows:—President, Viscount Esher. Members: Sir M. O'Dwyer, late Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab; Sir G. Fell, late Financial Adviser, Military Finance Department, Government of India; Lieutenant-General Sir H. V. Cox, Indian Army, Secretary, Military Department, India Office; Lieutenant-General Sir C. W. Jacob, Indian Army Commanding 2nd Army Corps, Army of the Rhine; Lieutenant-General Sir H. Hudson, Indian Army, Adjutant-General in India; Lieutenant-General Sir J. P. Du Cane (late R.A.), late Commanding XV. Corps, B.E.F.; Major-General Sir W. Gillman (late R.A.), recently Chief of the General Staff in Mesopotamia. Secretary, Brigadier-General C. M. Wagstaff. The Committee will meet first in London, where two months' work is anticipated. Later they will proceed to India to examine witnesses and conditions on the spot.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The Sudan Loan Bill, which is the subject of a White Paper which is given elsewhere in this issue, passed its second reading on July 28. Mr. Harmsworth, who introduced the measure, explained that the irrigation would be worked out, he understood, on the lines that the Sudan Government will be responsible for the construction of the main irrigation works, and for the provision of the necessary land, while the Sudan Plantations Syndicate will provide the minor irrigation works, buildings, ginning factories, offices, and the like. The syndicate, he stated, will have a run of ten or fourteen years, during which time they are to reimburse themselves for their main expenditure, the cost of buildings, etc., being on revaluation repaid to them by the Sudan Government. One-third of the 300,000 feddans or acres will be under cotton each year, another third being under leguminous crop, while the remaining third will lie fallow. Of the proceeds of the cotton, 40 per cent. will go to the native cultivators, 35 per cent. to the Sudan Government, and 25 per cent. to the syndicate. In addition, the total proceeds of the leguminous crop will go to the native cultivators.

***

The importance to Lancashire of the extension of cotton cultivation, which the scheme has in view, received full recognition in the debate. Lancashire, as all those who are *au courant* of the question know, depends mainly on America for her cotton supply. The unsatisfactory nature of the position is well brought out in a lecture by Mr. de Segundo, which will be found on page 132. Conditions in America apparently are such as to hold out little prospect of increased production, and it does not need a particularly vivid imagination to picture a time when, if adequate measures have not been taken to increase cotton-growing within the British Empire to a sufficient extent, Lancashire will actually have to go short of cotton. That contingency is not to be contemplated. "We cannot take risks with Lancashire," said Mr. Harmsworth in the debate, and that sentence aptly summarises the position.

***

The continued rise in the price of silver brings within the bounds of possibilities a further increase in the exchange value of the rupee. The rupee at 1s. 8d. is roughly equivalent to silver at 53d. per oz., but silver now stands fractionally above 55¼d. per oz., which means that India will lose in any further transactions in the metal for currency. The whole question of Indian currency is now, of course, being considered by a Commission, and it will be interesting to see what line it takes on the question of the exchange value of the rupee.

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The Indian mail papers show that at the present time there is a remarkable outburst of industrial enterprise in the country, evinced in the formation of new companies on a most extensive scale, many of which are purely indigenous undertakings. As in this country, war restrictions have had a considerable effect in bringing about what is aptly described as a "company promoting boom," but in the main its impetus is derived from the attention paid during the war to the question of the development of India's resources. A feature much commented on is the ease with which capital is obtained for any project. At home it is noteworthy, that despite the constant flood of new ventures the public has on the whole been well able to discriminate between promising companies, and those which are, shall I say, "just so so"? Needless to say, the apparent absence of this quality in India carries with it the seeds of future difficulties.

***

I note with extreme pleasure the strong line taken by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce in regard to subjects of countries which were ranged against us in this war. India proved a happy hunting-ground for the German trader before the war, and in few countries outside the Balkans was a more unscrupulous advantage taken of the opportunities afforded him. In short, he made out an absolute case for precautionary measures against him in the future, which precisely describes the action taken by the Chamber. At an extraordinary general meeting the articles of association were altered, three being substituted for the two existing classes of members. The classes are Chamber members, associate members, and honorary members. British subjects are alone eligible for election in the first class, while non-British subjects who are not subjects of enemy countries may be elected as associate members, who will not be entitled to vote, nor to hold office in the Chamber. Subjects of countries which took part in the war against us will not be eligible for election as associate members for ten years, and then only granted that at a meeting specially called for that purpose three-fourths of the members are in agreement. Further, any firm, whether a Chamber or an associate member is to be expelled if it takes an enemy subject as partner, director, agent, or manager.

***

I never had the slighest doubt that the Germans, if they were in a position to do so, would do their utmost to re-establish their old position in the Near East. From particulars given by our Constantinople Correspondent this week, it is evident that they have lost no time in taking the preliminary steps to find out how the land lies, and whether they are likely once more to have things their own way. This activity must not—and I do not think it will—be under-estimated by British traders, whose knowledge of the German trader and his methods is very different from what it was before the war.

The annual report on the maritime trade of Bengal throws an interesting light on the rapid development of Japanese trade with India. Japan's imports into Calcutta averaged Rs.148 lakhs for the five years ended with the year 1915-16. The total for 1917-18 was Rs.603 lakhs, while it reached the remarkable figures of Rs. 1,139 lakhs in the year under review, or roughly 18 per cent. of the total import trade of Calcutta. Unquestionably, Japan has taken the fullest advantage of the unique opportunity offered for the extension of her trade by the war; but whether her increased share of trade in India and elsewhere is permanent must be at least open to doubt.

***

Whether it would not have been well to have postponed for another year the removal of State control of Egyptian cotton when the market conditions of the world will more closely approximate to the normal must remain to be seen. With two classes in Egypt, the grower and the merchant exporter, the control has been far from favoured. The growers have received an excellent return, but their view has been that the control has prevented them obtaining the increased prices that might have been expected, as a result of the restricted acreage, while the fact that in reality the Government was the exporter, made the exporting middleman unnecessary. The attitude, of these two classes is, no doubt, an important factor in bringing about the removal of control. One great advantage of control from Manchester's point of view, was that it stopped gambling in cotton. Movements in futures in the last few days have been rather marked, which may, or may not, be significant.

***

Judging from an article in the *Ahaly*, the transfer of the Khedivial Mail to new ownership has not been altogether pleasant reading to Egyptians. "The Egyptians," says our contemporary, "still remember the time when they had steamships," and it goes on to emphasise the regret felt when the Government sold its steamers. The result of the present development has been, it says, to stimulate the wish "to restore a steamer service to the country." Most people who know conditions in Egypt will be of opinion that there are many other directions in which enterprise is first called for. Apart from that, the country is well served by existing British lines, and with the increased facilities that, it may be expected, the Khedivial Mail will provide in due course, the scope for a purely Egyptian service would be somewhat restricted.

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CONSTANTINOPLE BUSINESS LETTER.

The Revival of German Trade.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, July 5.

If there were any doubts as to the fallacy of the supposition that German industry is not in a state to begin operations at once, and that in spite of the restrictions which have been imposed, such doubts would at once be dissipated by the letters which have recently fallen into my hands. One of these letters, for instance, was from a firm of toy manufacturers at Nuremburg, and offered samples by return of post. This particular letter came to the British Post Office in an envelope bearing the name and address of the sender in large print, and had been censored by the Italian Censor. As one business man remarked, unless we wake up to the fact that the Germans are quite ready to begin about where they left off, we shall find them in the saddle again before the peace is three months old. All the same, it seems hardly the thing that the British Army Post Office should be used so soon for the reopening of German trade to the Near East. There is one other detail about the letter in question which is worthy of remark. Since it bears the date of May 2, 1919, how was it allowed through at all?

Strike of Bank Clerks.

The event of the week has been the strike of bank clerks for an increase of salary. The banks affected are the Imperial Ottoman Bank, the Credit National Ottoman, the Russian Bank, the Salonika Bank, the Bank of Athens, the Banco Commerciale d'Italia, the Banco di Roma, and the Crédit Lyonnais. Of all these the Imperial Ottoman Bank alone was able to keep going, although with the greatest difficulty and only with the help of a certain number of old employees who had retired on their pensions, and came forward to help in the crisis. The National Bank of Turkey is not affected at all, although all the clerks in the National Bank belong to the union, as the bank has been paying their salaries in gold, which gives them more than the increase for which their less lucky confrères are striking, and they felt that it would not only be utterly foolish but also the basest ingratitude to strike.

The strikers demand an increase of 300 per cent. in salaries, and the bank managers replied that as they also were no more than employees they could not agree to such a demand without first having the authority from their several headquarters. The union did not consider this to be a satisfactory reply, so on Wednesday the clerks struck work. According to one manager, the banks were already about to accord of their own free will a certain increase of salaries, when they found that the union was using "des moyens de pression les plus condamnable."

On July 3 the union published a statement to the effect that if certain banks maintained their uncompromising attitude, the union would permit a certain number of employees to return to work in banks with which an agreement would be signed, in order that the "honourable clientèle" might be able to withdraw their deposits and re-deposit them in the banks which had yielded. The manifesto finishes up with a statement couched in truly Homeric language:—"The bank employees, calm, immovable, fully dignified and conscious of their rights, will wait as long as necessary for the triumph of their cause."

Trade with Russia.

The approaching downfall of the Bolshevists renews our prospects of doing business once again with South Russia. Even at the present moment there is a good deal of trade with the ports that are open to commerce. Drugs, especially aspirin, are in great demand at present, but there is a ready sale also for articles of clothing, especially hosiery and underclothing.

Exports.

During the last week or so there has been a fair amount of wool, mohair, and opium exported to England. A considerable amount of tobacco has been shipped to the United States. The result has been to send up the value of the Turkish paper money about 5 per cent. On the whole, however, business remains very quiet, the political situation rendering serious business out of the question. After all, Turkey's commerce depends to a very large extent upon agricultural pursuits, and as three-fourths of the country is in a state of chaos it is impossible for matters to improve until order and security are re-established.

OUTLOOK IN EPIRUS.

Trade and Resources of District.

Owing to constant political vicissitudes followed by the European war, the Province of Epirus, the British Vice-Consul at Janina points out in a recent report, has not yet had a chance of modern development. The country, mostly mountainous, has been chiefly used for sheep and cattle-breeding. Agriculture has been neglected and conducted on primitive lines. Available industries, such as dairy-work, tanning, spinning, and weaving, have not yet been developed by modern machinery. Exports embrace cattle, wool, cheese, and butter, olives and olive-oil (from the Prevesa district), hides and skins, valonea, etc. Exports to the United Kingdom have been nil. Some cheese and livestock and hides are sent to Malta, and butter to Alexandria.

The inhabitants, though intelligent and industrious, are not educated up to modern standards of enterprise and commerce, and large numbers have emigrated for lack of industrial employment and security. Spending capacity, before strictly limited, has improved since the war, and with settled conditions a certain rather slow and cautious development may be expected, and modern needs will form. Some of the local notables, who have considerable means, are now beginning to combine with the more enlightened and up-to-date business men to form companies for trade and exploitation. But anything like rapid development or exploitation will be seriously hindered for some time to come by the district's isolation.

Lack of Communications.

Janina, the chief town of Greek Epirus, standing, roughly, in the centre of the province, is at present practically isolated from the outside world. It has no railway communication, and the only metalled road (at present in very bad repair) connecting it with the rest of Greece is that to Prevesa, the port sixty-seven miles away on the southern port of Epirus, at the entrance to the Gulf of Arta. The Greek Government maintains a very indifferent motor service between Janina and Prevesa. The journey by cart takes two days. There are three small harbours on the western coast of Epirus, available for coasting trade by local steamship companies, but they have no road communication with Janina. The Greek Government are preparing to make a road from Janina to the port of Doumenitsa, about sixty miles away, on the Corfu Straits, and to use this port to replace that of Santi Quaranta and supplement that of Prevesa. Janina will also, as soon as possible, be connected by road, and eventually, doubtless, by rail, with the rest of Greece in an easterly direction, thus allowing for communication with Volo and Salonika. But there seems little prospect of these improvements being rapidly effected. Direct imports from the United Kingdom must be shipped to Piræus, or Patras, or Corfu, and thence transhipped locally to Prevesa. British steamships have not hitherto called regularly at Prevesa.

Trade Position.

An accurate survey of trade possibilities in this district is out of the question in the circumstances noted above, and in view of the confused political situation both during and after the war in this part of the world. Trade in the district has been at a standstill during the war, with the exception of a few imports—mostly indirect—from Italy, Spain, and the United States of America. Italy was the chief importing country in the past, and there is no doubt that her competition will be very serious. The geographical group representing Austria is placed next on the list of estimated competing countries. France will presumably be the third, with the United States of America or Spain next in order.

The United Kingdom has hitherto held a firm position in textiles and metals which should be retained in spite of the competition of Milan. The local population are strongly pro-British. The moment is psychologically most favourable to British trade expansion. There is a general conviction in the market that British manufactures are the best, and increased spending power should lead to their being preferred to the cheap stuff with which local needs were before satisfied. This Vice-Consulate has for the last six months been working hard to supply a general demand for facilities to learn the English language, and it is hoped that the initiative undertaken will result in the establishment of some form of English school in Janina. At present only one local firm is able to correspond in English.

It is recommended that advertising should now be done in the following lines:—Building materials, chemicals, bedsteads, window-glass, cutlery, metals, wire goods, nails, locks, hinges, water-supply fittings, boots, agricultural machinery and implements, dairy appliances, small motor-engines, paint, groceries, rubber goods, sporting requisites, textiles, cycles and accessories (including motor-bicycles), photographic apparatus, paper and stationery goods—inks, fountain pens. It would be useful for firms sending representatives to Greece in connection with agricultural machinery, engineering, mining, and public works, to let them visit this district and study local conditions. British insurance work might also be undertaken.

Various properties are being purchased at Rabat, Morocco, for town improvements.

The seaborne trade of Bengal for the year 1918-19 amounted to over Rs.206 crores, which represents an increase of Rs.35 crores over the figures of 1917-18. The increase in the case of imports is 16 per cent. and in the case of exports 21 per cent.

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THE NEW SUDAN LOAN.

Irrigation and Railway Estimates.

A note giving the reasons for doubling the amount of the Sudan Guaranteed Loan has been issued as a White Paper. The note states:—

By the Government of the Sudan Loan Acts 1913-14 it was provided that the Treasury should guarantee the interest at a rate not exceeding 3½ per cent. on any loan raised by the Government of the Sudan for the purposes set out in the schedule to the 1914 Act not exceeding in the aggregate an amount sufficient to raise £3,000,000. The schedule to the Act is as follows:—

	£
I.—Works for the purpose of irrigating the Gezireh Plain	2,000,000
II.—Extension of the Sudan Railway system	800,000
III.—Other irrigation works and contingencies	200,000
	3,000,000

The schedule to the Bill now before Parliament is as follows:—

	£
I.—Works for the purpose of irrigating the Gezireh Plain, including the repayment of any temporary loan raised for those works under the Government of the Sudan Loan Acts 1913 and 1914	4,900,000
II.—Extension of the Sudan Railway system	700,000
III.—Tokar irrigation and railway extension	400,000
	6,000,000

Item I.—The Gezireh plain is situated between the Blue Nile and the White Nile immediately south of Khartoum and the works for the purpose of irrigating it comprise a masonry dam or weir near Sennar on the Blue Nile, some 170 miles south of Khartoum, to hold up the level of the river, a main canal to carry the water by free flow from the dam to the land to be irrigated, and a system of subsidiary canals to conduct the water throughout that land, the area of which, as the scheme was originally designed, was to be 100,000 feddans, a feddan being for practical purposes the same area as an acre.

In January, 1914, the sum of £500,000 was advanced to the Sudan Government by the National Debt Commissioners against bonds issued under the 1913 Act to enable a commencement to be made with the Gezireh irrigation works pending the amendment of the Act and the flotation of the loan. The works were begun, and when war broke out in 1914 arrangements were on foot for issuing an instalment of the loan, but no issue was ever made, and the £500,000 advanced as aforesaid has now been expended on the work which has been carried on slowly during the war upon the main canal and certain other portions of the scheme.

Further study of the scheme in view of the altered conditions attributable to the war showed that the area to be irrigated had to be increased to make the scheme financially a safe enterprise for Government, while it should not be too large for the population and resources available. These considerations fixed the area to be irrigated at 300,000 feddans instead of the 100,000 feddans originally contemplated. Owing to the immense increase which war conditions have produced in the cost of all materials and labour, and to the higher price of money, the estimates for the scheme, including interest during construction, now amount to £4,900,000. When the works were going to cost only £2,000,000, and money was a great deal cheaper, it was intended that the Sudan Government should provide out of its revenues the annual interest and sinking fund payments in respect of the loan. This is no longer possible in view of the enormously increased annual charges in this respect, and the strain thrown upon the Sudan Government's Budget by present conditions. It has therefore been necessary to include in the loan £1,000,000 to provide for interest during construction of the works, and until the time when it is anticipated that the receipts derived by the Government from the scheme will be sufficient to support the annual charges.

It may be mentioned that criticisms have from time to time been launched against the scheme on certain grounds. These criticisms were the subject of investigation by the Commission appointed by the Foreign Office to consider them, and the Commission decided that the criticisms were entirely without foundation, and should never have been made. The burden of the criticism was that Egypt would suffer by the abstraction of water from the Nile to meet the needs of this project in the Sudan. As a matter of fact, in any one year the Nile always carries more water than is now required for Egypt, even in the years of the very lowest supply, but unfortunately the flow is so variable that at some periods water has to be wasted to the sea, while at others there is an actual shortage. To eliminate as much as is necessary of this irregularity in the flow, Egypt is now undertaking further works of control. These works will secure her position absolutely for many years to come, and at the same time allow development in the Sudan to a much greater extent than is contemplated by the present scheme. But the latter will not affect Egypt, even without the construction of the new control works now in hand on her behalf, as the bulk of the water required by the Sudan will be abstracted at a time when there is ample water for all purposes in the river. It is true that for some time in the spring of each year the Sudan will be obtaining water which Egypt might require in years of very poor supply, but this is met by the fact that the dam at Sennar will provide a reservoir where sufficient water will be stored from the preceding period of high supply to irrigate Sudan crops while allowing the low water supply to pass on to Egypt without diminution. In short, the Sudan can be developed to the extent contemplated by this Bill without in any way prejudicing Egypt.

Item II.—The second item in the Schedule to the Act of 1914, viz., "Extension of the Sudan Railway System, £800,000," was intended to provide for the repayment to the National Bank of Egypt of the advance of £800,000 which they made to the Sudan Government for the building of the extension of the Sudan Railways from Khartoum through the Gezireh to El Obeid. Since that time the Sudan Government has been able to make provision out of revenue for the reduction of the debt to £700,000, and this constitutes the second item in the Schedule to the new Bill.

Item III.—The Tokar cotton-producing area is situated about sixty miles from Suakin and is flooded annually by the flood of the River Baraka. Cotton has been grown there for many years and the average annual yield is about 4,000,000 lb. of ginned cotton, but the industry is capable of improvement and development by the construction of a modern irrigation system and the provision of railway transport from Tokar to Port Sudan, the port of export of the country, by extending the line from Suakin to Tokar, a distance of about sixty miles. In the schedule to the Act of 1914, these items were not specifically provided for, but an item of £200,000 for "other irrigation works and contingencies" was included in it. The development and improvement of the Tokar cotton-producing industry for which, of course, railway transport is essential, is a work of some importance, not only to the Sudan but to British cotton interests. The present schedule provides for these works the sum of £400,000, which includes, in addition to the estimated cost of the works, an allowance for interest during construction for the reasons given above in the case of the Gezireh scheme. It will be seen from the foregoing that, although the amount of the loan originally sanctioned is to be doubled, no new schemes are involved. The necessity of applying in Parliament for additional financial assistance is due to the conditions resulting from the war.

In conclusion it may be mentioned that the experimental cotton-growing areas in the Gezireh have been at work for a number of years and have produced a very valuable and satisfactory type of cotton which has sold at high prices in the Liverpool market. The Sudan Government bases its estimate of the financial prospects of the scheme upon a sale price of cotton of 10d. per lb., which is the average price for eight years prior to the outbreak of war, whereas Sudan cotton has recently been sold on the Liverpool market at 31d. per lb. The yield has been taken at 300 lb. of ginned cotton per feddan, which is less than the actual yield obtained in the worst year from the experimental stations, and much less than the average yield, which is 417 lb. per feddan. The Sudan Government believes that the results obtained from these experimental stations are a true index of the yield which may be expected from the whole area. Full publicity has been given to this and all other schemes of the Irrigation Service in the annual reports of the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works.

The following is the estimate of the annual receipts and charges involved in the Gezireh scheme:—

Receipts (after the first five years for which loan charges are provided out of capital)	£1,250,000
Charges (including loan charges)	1,107,000
Balance	£143,000

CABLES IN CODE.

With reference to previous announcements respecting the abolition of the censorship on British-controlled cables and wireless telegraphs, the Post Office notifies that the restrictions on the use of codes (whether public or private) and registered abbreviated addresses have been withdrawn by practically all countries outside Europe, except the Argentine, Siberia, French, Italian, and Portuguese possessions, and the territories formerly controlled by Germany. As regards Europe the censorship restrictions have not yet been withdrawn in Bulgaria, Malta, North Russia, South Russia (including the Caucasus), Roumania, Turkey, or by the Governments of France, Italy, Portugal, and Switzerland, and the regulations hitherto in force in connection with telegrams for those countries, as regards the use of plain language, must be maintained for the present. All restrictions have been withdrawn as regards telegrams for Germany and German Austria, except that telegrams for the parts of Germany in Allied occupation must be in plain language—English, French, or Italian.

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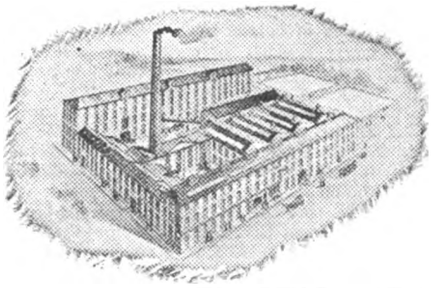

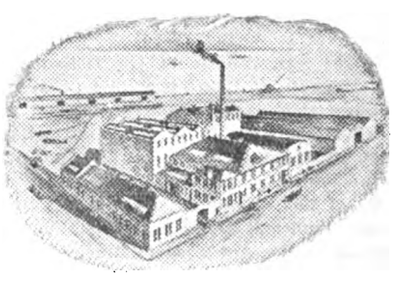

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Bulgarian Railways.

It is reported that representatives of American syndicates are in Bulgaria in connection with the construction of new railways which the Bulgarian Government had in view before the war. The American proposals, it is said, are very tempting, and details of them may be made known as soon as peace is quite settled. Bulgaria had, as far as is known, two schemes for the extension of her railway net; but as the one was more or less of a character that present political changes would not support, it is probable that the American syndicate is interested in the other, which will serve home districts. This project includes a line from Radomir, via Dupnitza, to Lumaja, with a branch line from Dupnitza to Bovordol, together about 90 kilometres; another from Plevna to Lovetch, about 53 kilometres; and another from Gabrovo to Sevljievo, 30 kilometres. These lines are very useful for the country from an economic point of view, and their construction may lead to further extensions or branches. As to the advisability of Bulgaria's hurry to dispose of the contract for the construction of these lines, it can only be said that from a technical and economic point of view it would be to her greater advantage if tenders were invited when her political and industrial troubles are entirely over.

Roumania's Chemical Industry.

The war undoubtedly had a beneficial effect in regard to the future development of certain industries in the Balkan States, which, either owing to lack of the necessary administrative experience or to political complications, had hitherto made more or less spasmodic and inadequate progress. Thus important industries which might have been great sources of wealth to the states, in general, remained, in spite of good prospects, in a state of atrophy, which, of course, was very favourable to the neighbouring German States. The war gave ample opportunities to those concerned in the development of certain industries for realising not only the great value of those industries, but also the fact that most of the needed raw materials, which hitherto had had to be brought from distant countries and from Germany, could be obtained locally. There is great scope, for instance, for the chemical industry, as the means for its development exist in nearly all the Balkan States. With the exception of Greece, however, which in recent years has made great strides in the production of chemicals for agricultural and general purposes, the Balkan States have not made the progress which they could have made. Roumania's chemical industry was more promising that that of her neighbours; and although of comparatively recent origin, and still in the course of development, its progress is remarkable; but it was impossible for interested firms to take steps fully to control their own market and to enter the neighbouring Balkan markets during the Balkan wars and the recent European war. The Germans used to say that Roumania lacked the necessary raw materials, machinery, and technical men; and that, above all, she was lacking in alkalies, caustic soda, ammonia, soda, and potash, together with mineral acids, as the land was still unable to meet the domestic requirements; moreover, that the chemical industry was in many ways dependent upon the imports of Spanish and Portuguese pyrites, the supply of which during the wars had become so irregular that the mineral acids branch had had to introduce restrictions in working. All these discouraging arguments were absurd. It is well known that abundant supplies of the necessary raw materials can be obtained in various parts of the country. Better class and more efficient machinery than that of any foreign origin can be obtained at a few weeks' notice from England; while the intelligence and aptitude of the Roumanians in anything pertaining to science is a guarantee that there will be no lack of technical men for the purpose. The alkalies which it might be necessary to import will certainly not cost more than they cost to other continental countries. It is possible therefore for the Roumanians, by their own individual energy and enterprise, aided as much as possible by the State, to establish their chemical industry on a modern basis—free from German interference, and thus to create an industry which will probably prove one of the principal sources of wealth in the country.

Refrigeration of Provisions.

Our note on the refrigerating plants for preserving meat, fruit, etc., in last week's issue has apparently been of much interest to a party of shipowners and captains from the Eastern Mediterranean, who have come to England on the chance of finding ships for sale. The writer has been asked a number of questions on the subject, and as it is probable that the question is in the mind of many others in the Near East, some further reference seems called for in the hope that British makers of refrigerating plants will give the necessary attention to a very promising market for such machinery now that shipping is reorganised, and the application of modern methods for transporting food, etc., is recognised as indispensable.

For preserving provisions on passenger steamers, steam yachts, making ice, etc., a small type of machine is generally used, consisting of a single vertical steam cylinder and a compressor, both secured to a casting containing the condenser coils. Behind this casting is another secured, containing the evaporation coils, the whole making a very compact and accessible design. This type of machine is very simple, and can easily be worked by a person of ordinary intelligence. Brine services are fitted for producing the temperatures required in the meat, vegetable, butter, and fruit rooms, as well as for making ice and for water cooling. These are controlled from the refrigerating machine, which may be placed in any available corner in the main engine-room, where it comes under the eye of the engineer on watch.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

The traffic returns of the Egyptian Delta Light Railway for the ten days ended June 30 were £E7,331, making the total for the year £E38,377. The figures for the corresponding period of 1918 were £E6,457 and £E66,284.

Lieutenant-Colonel Du Cane, a representative of the well-known engineering firm of Sir John Wolfe Barry and Partners, has been recently inspecting and studying the condition of the ports of Tuticorin, Negapatam, Cocanada, and Mangalore on behalf of his firm, and subsequently went to Ootacamund to confer with Government before returning home to make his report to his firm.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Moroccan Merchant Shipping Code.

The *Bulletin Officiel* of the French Zone of Morocco of May 26 contains a Dahir, promulgating a "Code de Commerce Maritime," a "Code Disciplinaire et Pénal de la marine marchande chérifienne," and a "Reglement sur la pêche maritime." The "Code de Commerce Maritime" specifies what vessels are to be considered Moorish, the conditions being that they must have been built at a port in the French Zone or, if built elsewhere, at least three-quarters of the shares must be owned by French or Moorish subjects. The registration, survey, and measurement of ships, ships' papers, sails, nationality, and flag are also dealt with. The Code further provides that, in order to command an ocean-going or coasting vessel of more than twenty-five tons under the Moorish flag, the master must hold a certificate issued in France or the French Zone. The French Decrees of February 21, 1897, November 9, 1905, and May 7, 1914, as regards collisions at sea, now apply to Moorish vessels. Some of the penalties imposed in the Dahir for infractions of the regulations will apply to British ships after the abolition of the capitulations. The law in regard to merchant ships, their sale, mortgage, seizure, and forced sale, affreightment, liabilities, etc., is also laid down. It is further provided that a mortgaged vessel cannot be sold to a foreigner, and that the mortgages, whether entered into abroad or in the French Zone, are not effective as regards third parties until they have been filed at the port of registry of the vessel. The articles regarding seizure and sale of vessels will not apply to British vessels until after the abolition of the capitulations. The third and last portion of the Code deals with the law in regard to marine transport, sea risks, and casualties, and marine insurance.

The regulations regarding fishing in Moorish territorial waters, defined as extending to a distance of six nautical miles below low-water mark, does not appear to contain any provision to exclude other than French or Moorish ships from fishing, though the grant of concessions for certain waters seems to be contemplated. A licence has to be obtained in order to fish in territorial waters, and an annual fee, varying according to the size of the vessel, is imposed. Restrictions are imposed as to the nets to be used. The use of explosives is prohibited.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows under date July 2:—Our market here has been quiet for over six weeks, but within the last 5/6 days local speculators came forward and bought about fifteen cases of fine druggists' manufacturing material at prices ranging from 15s. to 20s. per lb. as to quality. No arrivals of new crop opium have as yet reached this market, but we learn that very little opium has been sown this year in the low lands, so we depend on what the upper districts will give, which are, however, always a month to six weeks later in maturing.

It is announced that the Government of India is considering improved machinery for assessing the income tax in that country and preventing evasions therefrom.

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COTTON SEED UTILISATION.

Importance of Increased Empire Cotton Production.

An interesting lecture was given by Mr. E. C. de Segundo at the British Scientific Products Exhibition on July 23 on the utilisation of cottonseed and the importance of increasing cotton production within the Empire.

The world's average annual production of cottonseed, he said, was probably about 11,000,000 tons, of which rather more than half was grown in the United States. This quantity of seed contained, potentially, about 2,000,000 tons of oil and about 8,000,000 tons of feeding-cake for cattle. Of course, the whole of the world's production of cottonseed could not be brought to market, but in the United States, where the cottonseed oil and feeding-cake industry had been developed practically up to the limit of the annual production of cottonseed, the value of the cottonseed produced in that country in 1917 was between £60,000,000 and £70,000,000 sterling. On the American system the seed was split open in a decorticating machine and the kernel of the seed extracted, the latter alone being crushed for the manufacture of oil and feeding-cake. A crop of 6,000,000 tons of cottonseed in the United States would yield about 900,000 tons of crude oil, over 2,000,000 tons of decorticated feeding cake, and over 2,000,000 tons of seed-remains, or decorticated cottonseed hulls, as they were called. The proportion by weight of residual cotton fibres of American cottonseed to that of the actual shell of the seed was 1 to 3, so that about 600,000 tons, or about 10 per cent. of the original weight of the cottonseed consisted of short residual cotton fibres, which until a few years ago were looked upon as practically a waste product.

Residual Fibres.

Proceeding to discuss the question of the utilisation of the residual fibres, Mr. de Segundo explained that of the derivatives from the cottonseed, which were constantly being added to, this product might be said to be one of the most important, as it related to a question which it was no exaggeration to say was of supreme, indeed vital, importance to the future of our economic position in the world, namely, the question how the problem of an adequate supply of cotton for the world's present and future requirements was to be solved. Such fibres were looked upon as a waste product until about seven years ago, when he was fortunate enough to work out a machine which successfully separated them out from the decorticated hulls of the cotton seed produced under the American system of manufacturing cottonseed oil. These machines had been at work in the United States commercially since the autumn of 1913, and a good many thousand tons of such fibre in the form of explosives were used by the Allies during the war. About five years ago he was led to attempt the solution of a somewhat similar problem involved in removing these residual fibres direct from the cotton seed, and this machine removed from the woolly varieties of cottonseed such of the residual fibres as were not recoverable efficiently or economically by existing devices, and delivered them in a form so free from the dirt and debris always present in the cottonseed of commerce that the highest grades of paper, artificial silk, vulcanized fibre, and other commodities could be manufactured from the product of this machine, which was termed "seed-lint" to distinguish it from the "hull-fibre" recovered by the other machine. "Seed-lint" was, of course, identical in its characteristics with "hull-fibre," but was superior in quality, being exactly the same material but removed from the seed before decortication. Apart from the industrial value of these residual cotton fibres, the removal thereof from the seed concomitantly resulted in a considerable improvement in the seed for the purposes of the production of oil and feeding-cake, and in a corresponding increase in the market value of the seed.

The Cotton Supply Problem.

He had said that the results achieved by this machine bore upon a question of vital importance to the Empire, namely, upon the question of an adequate supply of the raw material for their great cotton spinning industry. Now, it was not generally known—except by those whose business it was to know such things—that Lancashire was, and had been for years past, dependent upon the United States cotton crop for about 75 per cent. of the raw cotton needed by their spinning mills. Lancashire drew annually about three and a-quarter million bales of cotton (about 800,000 tons) from the United States. From Egypt she obtained about 15 per cent. of her annual requirements, or about 150,000 tons; from India about 6 per cent., or about 72,000 tons; and the remainder from other parts of the world. This dependence for so large a proportion of raw material upon one source of supply (the United States) was clearly an unsound policy.

In the year 1907 a cotton conference was held at Atlanta (Georgia, U.S.A.), at which American and European cotton manufacturers were assured by American cotton growers that they could rely with confidence upon the American cotton belt furnishing all the cotton required by the world's ever-increasing demands, and that therefore the opening up of other cotton fields was wholly unnecessary. At the same time it was made clear that the United States intended to develop the cotton-spinning industry within their own borders, because the Director of the United States Bureau of Agriculture told the delegates at the same conference that he looked forward to the time when the United States would work up the greater part of the cotton crop instead of exporting it, and thus retain the enormous profits arising out of the further manipulation of this valuable commodity. Let them note what had happened to the cotton crop in the United States since 1907. Whereas up to 1890, about 30 per cent., on the average, of the United States cotton crop was absorbed by the textile industries in that country, a gradual increase took place between 1890 and 1910, and from 1910 to 1918 the increase had been very rapid, the proportion of the crop now spun in American mills having reached nearly 60 per cent. The prognostications of the Director of the Bureau of Agriculture had been realised so far as spinning the greater part of the United States crop in American mills was concerned, but where was the promised increase in the American production which was to have provided for the world's needs? The size of the crop referred to at this conference at Atlanta in 1907 was 13,500,000 bales. In 1909 the crop was about the same, in 1912 there was a bumper crop of 16,000,000 bales, in 1913, 1914, and 1915 the crops were 14,000,000, 14,500,000, and 15,000,000 bales, respectively. In the years not mentioned the crop was smaller than that of 1907. In 1916 the crop fell to 12,800,000 bales, in 1917 to 12,700,000 bales, and in 1918 to 11,800,000 bales.

The British Cotton Growing Association had already proved the existence of enormous areas in our possessions and protectorates in Africa where climatic and other conditions were favourable to the cultivation of the American variety of cotton, but the labour question and the question of transport stood in the way of any rapid materialisation of what otherwise would be most eminently desirable projects. Uganda appeared to be the district in Africa whence they were most likely to make rapid progress in cotton cultivation. In 1904 only a few bales were grown. In 1908 the shipment of cotton was 4,000 bales, and in 1911 the shipments had increased to 20,000 bales. Had the war not broken out, it was estimated that Uganda would have sent us about 40,000 bales in 1914. Similarly, rapid progress was reported in South Africa. While these figures were encouraging, this quantity was but a drop in the ocean compared with the world's needs, and there seemed little doubt that they must look to India as the source whence they might most readily and speedily obtain the supplies of cotton for the maintenance of the spinning industry and bring about the much-needed stabilisation of prices.

The Outlook.

Enough had been said to enable them to realise that they were faced to-day with a very grave and difficult problem in regard to adequate supplies of the raw material. The rapid increase in the proportion of the American crop taken by American mills was alone a serious menace to the prosperity of the spinning industry; and the fact that not only the American crop, but the world's production had fallen continuously for the last four years meant that the very life of Lancashire's chief industry was now most gravely threatened. One remedy was to extend the cultivation of cotton throughout the Empire in the most rapid manner and in the greatest measure possible.

The changes brought about by the war had seriously affected cotton growing conditions in the United States. At the present moment there seemed little doubt but that the production of cotton in the United States would continue to decline unless the present situation was grappled with, and the prevailing conditions altered in such wise as to making cotton a paying crop in competition with other crops under a considerable reduction in the present price of cotton.

They had seen that with the best will in the world their American friends had not been able to make their production keep pace with their own demands and also with theirs as was so confidently expected at the Atlanta Conference in 1907. The aphorism "charity begins at home," applied to nations as well as to individuals, and they could not expect the United States to curtail the development of their spinning industry in order that they might be able to maintain theirs.

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NEAR EASTERN PRODUCE.—British Trading Company established in Egypt with Offices in Jaffa and Beirout and opening in Smyrna and Mesopotamia, is open to represent importers of eggs, onions, cotton, seed and all other Near Eastern products.—Interview can be arranged with principal, now in England.—Write Box B 473, Lee and Nightingale, Advertisement Offices, Liverpool.

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It was clear that the world was short of cotton. The prices they had to pay to-day for cotton goods was sufficient proof of that. More cotton must be grown, and it was a matter of simple common sense that the cotton they needed for the maintenance of their spinning industry should be grown, in as large a measure as possible, within the Empire. In the course of the discussion which followed a lecture he delivered before the Royal Society of Arts in February last. Professor Todd said that "there were many countries in the world in which cotton could be grown, but the question was whether it could be made to pay in competition with other crops. One of the factors in that question was the by-products that could be realised, and he thought the by-products obtained from the cottonseed by means of the author's machine might just turn the scale in many cases in favour of cotton. The importance of those by-drcts could hardly be exaggerated." They certainly did not wish to see "nationalised cotton," nor did they wish to produce "Empire cotton" at the expense of "Empire cereals" or at the expense—direct or indirect—of the taxpayer. It was therefore of moment that the cultivation of cotton should be "self-supporting," and should pay in competition with other crops. Thus the additional revenue derivable from turning industrially to account the hitherto neglected residual fibres on ginned cotton was a factor in cotton economics which they could not afford lightly to neglect.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Sudan Produce.

Gum.

The C. E. B. report for May states that during the month 815,580 kilos of hashab gum, of the value of £E22,471, 23,776 kilos of bleached gum, of the value of £E787, and 94,730 kilos of talk gum, of the value of £E1,853, were exported via Port Sudan. Exports via Haifa amounted to 59,750 kilos of hashab gum, of the value of £E1,647, and 28,409 kilos of talk gum, of the value of £E399. 9,247 kantars were sold in El Obeid Market, as against 23,945 kantars in the same month last year, at an average price of £E1.002 m/ms per kantar of 100 rottles. Arrivals from Nahud were 1,918 kantars, as against 5,683 last year. At Um Ruaba 1,517 kantars were sold, at an average price of 940 m/ms per kantar, as against 3,815 kantars last year. Arrivals were short during the month owing largely to the exceptionally dry season and low prices. In the Upper Nile Province 407 kantars of hashab gum were exported during the month from the Northern District.

Cotton.

Red Sea Province.—Tokar.—Only about 4,400 kantars (315 rottles) arrived in the cotton market during the month. The crop apparently cannot now exceed 11,000 kantars. Prices have increased, a maximum of P.T.880 per kantar having been reached.

Kassala Province.—The cotton season is almost over, and not more than a further 254 kantars are to be expected before the market closes on June 5.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The tone of the market has continued quieter. There have been no indications, however, of spinners and manufacturers losing any of their strength, and late rates have been well held. The people interested in Egyptian cotton have discussed the probable course of values when Government control comes to an end. It is generally believed that values will be higher. The outlook, however, is very uncertain. Mixed reports have again been received relating to the prospects for the new crop. There has recently been some improvement, but the growth as a whole does not seem to be doing very well. Business in Egyptian yarns has been considerably checked by the disposition of spinners not to sell until the course of prices in the raw material is more definitely defined. Many firms have withdrawn quotations for the time being. Engagements, of course, are very extensive. Shipments of piece goods to Egypt continue on a large scale, but rather less buying in Manchester is now taking place. Shippers are quite in the hands of makers, and for anything wanted full prices have to be paid. Some fair lines have been mentioned for Greece. Other Near Eastern outlets have not been by any means idle. Irregular operations have occurred for India, but moderate lots have been sold for Calcutta in grey shirtings and light bleaching cloths. China has bought standard makes for delivery next year. Although manufacturers as a body are not now selling very freely, their position tends to be strengthened. In American yarns for home use buying has been rather limited. Twists remain much stronger than wefts. Extra hard yarns and coarse counts generally have been in healthy request for the Levant. India and China have bought twofold qualities. Supplies are wanted by several European countries.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The returns of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended July 17 were:—Cattle markets, £362; general markets, £513—total £875; total for year, £33,215. The figures for the corresponding week in 1917, ended July 18, were:—Cattle markets, £288; general markets, £432—total, £720; total for year, £29,254.

GOOD HARVEST IN YUGOSLAVIA.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (July 22):—"The harvest appears to be a fairly good one in spite of the scarcity of labour, but there is a serious shortage in Montenegro. The requirements there are 7,700 wagon-loads, but the harvest has only produced 5,400 wagon-loads, so that there is a shortage of 2,500, which must be made good from outside."

Average crops are anticipated in Morocco, and it is stated that the grain will be of good quality.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.

New Issue of Shares.

A circular has been issued to shareholders of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, stating that since the destruction of the wells, machinery and stocks in Roumania in 1916, followed by the enemy occupation down to November, 1918, the company's title-deeds have been recovered, and the managing director and leading members of the staff are now back in Roumania, and have succeeded in resuming possession of the oil properties. The company's claim in respect of the destruction of its wells, machinery and stocks was made up from a valuation of every item and based upon the audit of and certified by Messrs. Harmood Banner and Son. This claim amounts to £1,270,725, and was sent in to the British Government in 1917. As all overtures with the object of inducing the Government to settle proved unavailing, the directors, with great reluctance, took proceedings by petition of right to recover the amount of the claim, and have been advised throughout by Sir Edward Carson, K.C., and other eminent counsel. The case has been set down for trial for some months past, but it is very improbable that it can be reached before the autumn. The directors also hear from Roumania that the rents, royalties, etc., accruing during the enemy occupation, and the sums which the company is required to pay in respect of administration, the value of the oil extracted by the enemy, and other items, will, together with a sum for compensation and the increased cost of the machinery and plant, all form the subject of a further claim which is to be made through the Roumanian Government, and will be quite independent of the company's main claim above mentioned. Steps have been taken under competent advice in Roumania to formulate this further claim. The directors have no reason to doubt that the company's claims will eventually be recovered, and, having regard to the information coming forward from Roumania that already a substantial output of petroleum is being obtained, which the additional plant and machinery now being purchased will largely increase, they have every confidence in the future of the undertaking. In the meantime it is urgently necessary that the company should be provided with funds for the purchase of a considerable quantity of new machinery and plant, and for proceeding with the work of development, and the directors have decided to offer 300,000 £1 shares to the existing shareholders for subscription pro rata with their present holdings. They have also agreed with the Oilfields Finance Corporation, Ltd., to underwrite 200,000 shares of this issue at a commission of 1s. per share, together with the call at par until December 30, 1920, of the balance (if any) unapplied for of the 300,000 shares.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—July 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 3,580,000 francs, against 1,940,000 francs.

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NEW COMPANIES.

Commercial Aviation Company (Ceylon).

A Commercial Aviation Company has been formed in Ceylon. The objects of the company are to carry on the business of dealers, manufacturers, hirers, repairers, etc., of aeroplanes, balloons, airships, and flying machines of all kinds, to establish and maintain lines of regular service of aircraft of all kinds; to establish aerodromes, etc., for the reception of aircraft, to enter into contracts for the carriage of mails, passengers, goods, etc., by the company's own aircraft or by any other means. The nominal capital of the company is Rs.15,00,000, divided into 15,000 shares of Rs.100 each. The first directors are Major-General Sir W. G. Brancker, Mr. G. Holt Thomas, the Hon. W. H. Figg, Sir James Thomson, Mr. R. Reom and Mr. R. Elliott.

Anglo-Eastern Shipping & Trading

The Anglo-Eastern Shipping and Trading Co., Ltd., has been registered as a private company, with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. The objects are to carry on the business of shipowners, shipbrokers, steamship agents, managers of ships and shipping companies, coal and coke merchants, importers exporters, timber merchants, and commission agents, etc. The subscribers (one share each) are E. Furness, Furness House, Billiter Street, E.C., shipowner; S. J. Forster, Furness House, Billiter Street, E.C., company secretary.

Anglo-Balkan Trading.

The Anglo-Balkan Trading Company, Limited, has been registered as a private company with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To enter into an agreement between E. A. New and this company for trading in the Balkan Peninsula and elsewhere, and to carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in manufactured and other merchandise, provisions and live stock, miners, explorers, metallurgists, etc. The subscribers (one share each) are: J. C. Scrivener, 24, College Street, E.C.4, surveyor; R. V. Flower, 21, Keith Grove, Shepherd's Bush, W., solicitor's managing clerk. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Solicitor: M. Moseley, 20, Bucklersbury, E.C.

Indian Mines Development.

The Indian Mines Development Syndicate was registered as a private company on July 14 with a capital of £20,000 in £1 shares. Objects: Prospectors, explorers, financiers, miners, searchers for minerals and precious stones, etc. Subscribers (two shares each):—M. Low, D.L., J.P., 22, Roland Gardens, S.W.7; R. Taylor, 6, Queen Street Place, E.C., M.E.; V. H. Smith, 62, London Wall, E.C.2, merchant. M. Low, R. Taylor and V. H. Smith being respectively directors of the Gold Fields of Mysore and General Exploration, the Nundydroog Company and the Ooregum Gold Mining of India, are the first directors, and each may retain office while he continues to be a director of his above specified company. Qualification: The holding of shares and/or Debentures of the company. R., E., H. C. and A. E. Taylor, trading as mining and civil engineers at 6, Queen Street Place, E.C., as John Taylor and Sons, are to be the managers and consulting engineers of the company.

SHIPMENTS TO SOUTH RUSSIA.

The Agency in London (Empire House, Kingsway, W.C.2) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry at Ekaterinodar has informed the Department of Overseas Trade that the task of the Ministry, which is doing everything in its power to promote the exchange of goods between this country and South Russia, will be facilitated if British merchants and exporters will advise the London Agency of any proposed shipments to South Russia. The Agency will then telegraph particulars to the Ministry of Commerce at Ekaterinodar, which will take measures to secure every facility for the goods as soon as they reach port in Russia.

An Anglo-Russian Chamber of Commerce was recently formed at Ekaterinodar for the territory which is under the rule of General Denikin, the Commander-in-Chief of the forces in South Russia. The Chamber was constituted at Ekaterinodar, and Mr. Lebedeff, the Minister of Commerce, was elected President. The Chamber occupies an official position under the Ministry of Commerce.

The directors of the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company recommend a final dividend for the year 1918 of 1s. per share, less income-tax, making with the interim dividend already paid 2s. per share for the year.

The preliminary forecast of the Indian jute crop gives 2,749,120 as the total acreage under cultivation, being an increase of 182,037 acres in Bengal, 53,501 in Behar and Orissa, and 13,200 in Assam. The percentage of increase is 9.9 above that of last year.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Jokai (Assam) Tea.

The report of the Jokai (Assam) Tea Company for 1918 states that the profit amounted to £107,360, which with interest received on investments, etc., £1,670, and the balance brought forward, £29,243, makes £138,274, less Income-tax, etc., £14,315, leaving £123,959. An interim dividend of 3 per cent. has been paid on the Preference shares, and the directors now recommend a final dividend of 3 per cent., also a final dividend of 11 per cent. (less Income-tax at 5s. 9d.) on the ordinary shares, making 16 per cent. for the year, to transfer to staff provident fund £1,000, to reserve fund £5,000, and to carry forward £71,959, subject to excess profits duty estimated at £35,500. The balance, which it is proposed to carry forward, is intended to meet the additional expenditure for labour, machinery, and buildings required to replace the shortage which could not be made good during the war.

Parambe.

The report of the Parambe Rubber and Tea Company of Ceylon for 1918 states that the profit, after writing off depreciation on factory and machinery, amounts to £3,465, which with the amount brought forward makes £10,191. The company's liability for Income-tax and excess profits amounted to £4,713, leaving £5,478. The directors propose to pay a dividend for the year of 7½ per cent., less Income-tax, and to carry forward £3,378.

Looksan Tea.

The report of the Looksan Tea Company for 1918 states that the result of the season's working is a balance at credit of revenue account of £1,104. Dividends on investments and profit on sale of investments amounted to £1,498. The amount brought forward is £3,908, including £616 refund of excess profits duty, and after providing for Income-tax £1,301 there remains an available balance of £5,210. The directors propose to deal with this as follows:—Preference dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, already paid, £445; ordinary dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, £1,781; carry forward, £2,983.

Pindenoiya.

The report of the Pindenoiya Rubber and Tea Estates for 1918 states that the undivided profit at December 31, 1917, was £7,500, less dividend of 5 per cent. paid March 1, 1918, which absorbed £3,159, leaving £4,341. Profit was £3,153, less coast advances, £520, making £6,975. The directors recommend a

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Chairman: WALTER LEAF, Esq. Deputy Chairmen: SIR MONTAGU TURNER, R. HUGH TENNANT, Esq.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£33,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	8,503,718
RESERVE	8,750,000

(30th JUNE, 1919).

Current, Deposit and other Accounts	£308,395,000

Head Office .... 41, LOTHBURY, E.C.2.

Joint General Managers: F. J. BARTHORPE, J. C. ROBERTSON, W. H. INSKIP.

Foreign Branch Office ... 82, CORNHILL, E.C.3.

BELGIAN BRANCHES ... ... ANTWERP: 41, Place de Meir. BRUSSELS: 114 & 116, Rue Royale

SPANISH BRANCHES Barcelona: Paseo de Gracia 8 and 10. Madrid: Avenida del Conde de Penalver 21 and 25

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PARIS ... 22, Place Vendôme. BORDEAUX ... 22 & 24, Cours de l'Intendance.

LYONS ... 37, Rue de la République. MARSEILLES ... ... 31, Rue Paradis.

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dividend of 5 per cent., to place to general reserve £2,000, and to carry forward £1,816. In order to round off Rencastle Estate a plot of 11 acres of planted rubber has been purchased for £760, which the directors consider reasonable.

Badulipar Tea.

The report of the Badulipar Tea Company for 1918 states that the balance brought forward, after adjustment and provision for excess profits duty, amounting to £1,946, was £26,809. Revenue account shows a profit on working of £14,328, to which has to be added £444 for dividends on investments. After deducting Income-tax, £9,344, there remains a balance at credit of profit and loss of £32,237. The directors recommend a final dividend of 15 per cent. (less Income-tax) on the ordinary shares, payable at once, making 20 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward £22,048. In view of the heavy expenditure incurred in recruiting new labour and the necessity for providing new machinery it is not considered advisable to pay the bonus which has hitherto been paid at this time.

Alliance Bank of Simla.

The year ended June 30 was a very successful one for the Alliance Bank of Simla, and the working shows a profit which, including Rs.2,77,000 carried forward from last year, amounts to Rs.13 lakhs. The directors propose a dividend of 14 per cent., plus a bonus of 3 per cent., making 17 per cent. for the year. One lakh is added to the reserve fund, making it Rs.38 lakhs. One lakh is set aside to form the nucleus of a pension fund for the staff, and Rs.1,87,000 is carried forward. The annual meeting of the shareholders will be held on August 11.

Bank of India.

The net profit of the Bank of India for the half-year ended June 30, 1919, including the sum of Rs.42,692-11-11 brought forward, amounts to Rs. 5,91,780-9-9. The directors have resolved to declare an ad-interim dividend at Rs. 3 per share, that is, at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, on the paid up capital of Rs.50 lakhs, which will absorb Rs.3,00,000, and to carry the balance of Rs.2,91,780-9-9 to the next account.

Bank of Baroda.

The net profit of the Bank of Baroda for the half-year ended June 30, 1919, subject to audit, including the sum of Rs.76,792 brought forward, amounts to Rs.2,78,506. The directors have resolved to declare an ad interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, on the paid-up capital, which will absorb Rs.1,00,000, and to carry the balance of Rs.1,78,506 to the next account.

Benares Bank.

The net profits of the Benares Bank for the half-year ended June 30, after making all provisions, amount to Rs.52,711. Adding to this the sum of Rs.11,408 brought forward from the previous half-year's accounts, the divisible balance amounts to Rs.64,120. The directors recommend a dividend at 8 per cent. per annum to the shareholders, which will absorb Rs.40,000. The sum of Rs.12,500 is to be transferred to the reserve fund, increasing it to Rs.4,00,000. After providing Rs.9,459 for the contingency funds, the rest will be carried forward to the next half-year's accounts.

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN INDIA.

Special Department Advocated.

The Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa has issued a pamphlet on the progress of the sugar-cane industry in India, in which it is pointed out that the extension of sugar-making in India is handicapped by the extremely poor character of the canes grown, by the unequal competition of *gúr* where it has a steady and satisfactory market, by the relative cost of initiating *gúr* and sugar-making, by the extreme subdivision of the land, which renders it impossible to work a factory economically, and by the competition of crops already on the land and which can be easily and profitably grown. To encourage the industry on commercial lines it is necessary, where the price of *gúr* is low, where the land is not fully settled, and where it is possible, to introduce a better class of cane varieties.

The formation of a Sugar Department for India is recommended, under the Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India, which should include among its functions (1) the collection into one office of the scattered information recorded regarding the character of the sugar-cane tracts in India, the varieties grown, the methods of cultivation, and of making the finished product; (2) the collection of similar information regarding all previous attempts at founding sugar factories, with the reasons for their discontinuation; (3) a continuation of the work on improving the class of canes growing in different parts of the country; (4) an organised investigation into the local practice of *gúr*-making throughout the country, with the object of introducing improvements according to the local conditions; (5) a special study of the possibility of starting a sugar-making industry in the various tracts where sugar-cane is grown.

The following experts, it is suggested, should be attached to the department: (1) A sugar-factory expert, who should be thoroughly acquainted with the conditions in India as regards factory work, labour difficulties, general cultivation, and the use of by-products. It would be an advantage if he had a working knowledge of the factories and plantations in Java, where the conditions are somewhat similar to those in India; (2) an engineer, for the study of existing installations and the preparation of new models and combinations for *gúr* and sugar-making; (3) a chemist, for the study of the cane juice and fibre, to conduct ripening tests and manurial experiments, and to assist in the factory work; (4) an agriculturist, whose main duty would be to study the local conditions of soil and climate as affecting the need of irrigation and drainage, the proper times for planting and reaping, and the relative period of growth in different tracts; (5) a botanist, for the study of the numerous varieties existing, the transference of varieties from place to place, and the raising of new seedling canes for each tract.

The total approximate gross earnings of Indian State railways from April 1 to June 14 show a decrease of Rs.1,80,055 on the figures for the corresponding period of last year.

The Burma Ruby Mines, Ltd., have received a cable informing them that a ruby weighing 42 carats, of exceptional beauty and great value, has been found in their Magok mine; it has been named the Peace Ruby.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The weaker tendency for Egyptian securities which set in during the latter half of last week has continued this week; and, although there has really been no pressure to sell, the slackening in buying orders, and the reduction here and there in limits, have caused a general slight set-back in the prices of certain securities. Egyptian Unifieds have dropped ½ a point to 84¾, and Egypt 3½ per cent. Prefs. have receded ¼ to 72.

In Bank shares National Banks have remained a fairly firm spot with hardly any sellers, and are quoted nominally ¼ lower tonight at 21½. Agriculturals have receded 1-16 to 6⅛. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have dropped back ⅜ to 17½, and Land Banks are nominally quieter at 7.

In Land shares there has been nothing doing this week in Beheras. Consolidated Lands are 2d. down at 2s. 9d. New Egyptians are fractionally quieter at 24s. 6d. On the other hand Union Foncières have remained a firm spot at 3⅝, and Sudan Plantations have, exceptionally, improved 3-16 to 7 9-16.

Amongst Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are 1-16 quieter at 12⅛, but, whilst buyers will not give more than 12, sellers will not reduce the price of 12¼ which they are asking. Salts and Sodas have been dullish the last day or two, and close 3-16 down at 3 5-16.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptians B, after being higher and lower, close 1-32 better at 5 19-32. Roumanians have dropped 1s. to 20s. 9d., and Traians 6d. to 12s.

In Greek securities the 1889 and 1890 loans are about half a point down at 54 and 71 respectively, while the 1914 loan is about two points lower at 82. There is still some demand for Piraeus-Athens 4½ per cent. bonds round the current level.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated July 23.

Good rain throughout except in North-West Frontier Province.

Bombay Cotton market revived interest better tone. Fully good Broach July August quoted Rs. 635. Piece Goods market improving, feeling optimistic. Calcutta Jute market very firm though business limited. Hessians firm with strong demand advancing prices. Sackings also firm with moderate inquiry.

PORT CONGESTION AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Constantinople, cabling on July 24, advises United Kingdom merchants to pack their goods in as small bales as possible, in order to facilitate unloading at Constantinople. At present there is great congestion at the port.

The Burma seaborne trade returns show an increase of seventy lakhs compared with 1918.

At the Calcutta monthly opium sale on July 1 300 chests of Benares opium were sold for Rs.12,66,700, the average being Rs.4,222.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	July 23	July 30
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	82	82
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	85½	84¾
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	88	72½	72
Greek 5%, 1881	57	73½	73¼
Do. 5%, 1884	56	73½	73½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	57⅛	57½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	54½	54
Do. 5%, 1890	56	71½	71
Do. 5% Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	65	65
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	77	66	66
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	—	64	64
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	84	82
Do. 5% Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	82½	82½
Roumania 4½% (Id. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 3/16	6⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17⅞	17½
Bank of Athens	£2	72/6	72/6
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	7½ xr	7x
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
British Trade Corporation	—	11	11
Chartered Bank of India	65	77	77
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	—	—
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	9 11/16	9 11/16
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅛	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	7⅛	7
London County and Westminster	—	16¾x	16¾x
National Bank of Egypt	13½	21¼	21½
National Bank of India	43	52	52
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7½	7½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	—
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	87	—	—
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	101½	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc. Rail. 4½%.	90	68⅓	68½
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/6	24/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2 1/16	4¼	4¼
Béhéra Co.	8½	14¼	14½
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	—	2/11	2/9
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/-	15/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/6	15/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2⅛	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	24/9	24/6
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
Sudan Plantations	—	7¼	7 1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3⅜	3⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12 3/16	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord	1 1/16	23/6	23/6
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	3½	3 3/16
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5/8	5⅛	5¼
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 431.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The friction that has for some time existed between members of the Serbian Government increased instead of diminishing, as it was hoped it might do, and, becoming acute at the end of last week, has now brought about the resignation of the Cabinet. In tendering his resignation to the Prince Regent, M. Protitch stated that the differences between himself and the Ministers of the Interior and of Agrarian Reform rendered useful collaboration for the service of the State impossible. Only two weeks ago, it will be remembered, our Belgrade Correspondent reported that M. Protitch and the Minister for Food and Reconstruction had found it impossible to work together, and that the Minister of Social Reform had sided with the latter. The letter which we publish this week from the same correspondent reports that this particular difficulty was overcome; but the root of the matter was not, apparently, reached; and now the strain has proved too great to be supported. The Ministers will, however, remain in office until their successors are appointed.

It is proverbially dangerous to swap horses while crossing a stream, but it is to be hoped that Yugoslavia will effect the operation with no more serious result than a slight wetting, at worst. Indeed, if certain reports are to be trusted, she may even benefit by the change, by the substitution of a Minister who is prepared to recognise that there are two sides to every question for one who has apparently not yet made that discovery. Unhappily the situation seems to be complicated by something like religious rivalry. At any rate, M. Protitch gave as one reason for his resignation the distortion by the democratic journals of representations made by the Cabinet to the Vatican regarding the nomination of a new Bishop of Jakova; and Belgrade is somewhat resentful of the action of the Vatican in making the appointment without reference to the Yugoslav Government. In the days of Austrian rule, when a bishopric fell vacant in Croatia the provincial Government nominated three candidates, from whom the Vatican made its selection, and the Yugoslav Government had expected the same proceeding to be followed on this occasion.

To the outside world the incident may not appear to be of any great importance; but the young Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes may well be pardoned a certain amount of self-consciousness—which is apt to make nations as well as individuals ready to imagine a slight where none is intended. Moreover, it would appear that if the Vatican considered the present moment a suitable one for abolishing a custom which it may have regarded with some disfavour, it would have saved soreness if it had notified Belgrade in advance of its intentions. That, however, is by the way. We can only trust that the incident does not mark the extension of the secular bitterness between the Orthodox Church and the Church of Rome, and that in no case will it be allowed to cause any lasting ill-feeling between the newly united peoples of Yugoslavia.

We have been told so often that the Fiume problem was on the point of being solved only to be told subsequently that it still remained unsolvable, that we must confess to feeling a little sceptical regarding the latest rumour of the kind. It is, however, a very modest one. The *Petit Journal* announces that the troublesome problem "is entering a stage which entitles one to hope that a satisfactory solution of it will be reached very shortly." That, after all, does not impose a great strain upon our optimism, and it is at the same time encouraging. Signor Tittoni, to whom the improvement in the situation is largely due, is reported to have "accepted proposals which safeguard the interests of the opposing parties," and he is to confer with Mr. Lloyd George on certain details which still remain unsettled.

Friends of Turkey who are anxious regarding the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire are working hard on her behalf, and, whatever may have been the case a short time ago, it cannot now be said that the Moslem point of view has not been placed before the Paris Conference. A new and influentially signed memorial was last week forwarded by them to Mr. Lloyd George, from whom it will doubtless receive the careful consideration it merits as expressing the hopes and fears not only of the majority of the King's

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Moslem subjects, but of many other subjects of his Majesty who own no allegiance to Islam.

The memorial contains no arguments likely to be new to readers of THE NEAR EAST, but it does protest that the Indian Moslems' interest in the maintenance of Ottoman sovereignty over Constantinople is not newborn and factitious, as has been alleged. It also emphasises the services rendered to the British Empire by Indian Moslem soldiers; and refers to the pledges given by the Prime Minister regarding the maintenance of Ottoman sovereignty over Constantinople. The fine work accomplished by Indian soldiers is not likely to be forgotten by any responsible Englishman, especially at the present time, when London has so recently had an opportunity of showing its admiration for these gallant troops; but there is another side to this question, and we doubt whether the memorialists would be well advised to lay too much stress on this point. Mr. Lloyd George's pledges are quite another matter. It appeared to us, and it still appears, that there could be no misunderstanding about his meaning when he spoke of leaving Constantinople under the Turks, and it is quite certain that Moslems regarded his words as a pledge. It must be remembered, however, that the Prime Minister did at the same time specifically declare that "Arabia, Armenia, Mesopotamia, Syria, and Palestine are in our judgment entitled to a recognition of their separate national condition."

Trustworthy information regarding the situation in Turkey as a whole is rather harder than usual to obtain just now, though news of what is going on in Constantinople is not lacking. In the Smyrna region there have been numerous little affairs between Turkish irregulars and Greek troops, and the Turkish exodus from the area in Greek occupation continues. In the East the intentions of Mustapha Kiamil Pasha continue to provide a subject of interest—and anxiety—for the Porte, and along the Turco-Persian border there are numerous indications that fresh trouble may break out at any moment. Meanwhile, in Constantinople the American section of the International Commission on Mandates has been gathering information from the very numerous parties represented in that city. Genuine Turks of the old school, if any such there be left to-day, can hardly find the outlook for their country anything but painful.

The Bolshevists of Budapest, after achieving a very short-lived success against the Roumanians, have now met the fate that they deserve—or something like it. Bela Kun is a prisoner and Szamuely, his lieutenant, or rival—it is really immaterial which—is credibly reported to have been shot. What Government will be eventually established at Budapest is not yet clear, but the present Cabinet is obviously unlikely to continue long in power. Since Hungary falls outside the field of THE NEAR EAST our interest in the situation is confined to the part played by Roumania in bringing about the satisfactory development of affairs there. For it was undoubtedly the successful counter-attack launched by the Roumanians, in reply to the Hungarian offensive, that brought about the fall of Bela Kun and his associates. Unleashed at last by the Allies, the Roumanian troops soon forced their way to the outskirts of Budapest, and on Sunday that city was occupied by three Roumanian divisions. The next day French troops followed them, and on Tuesday British and American contingents were added to the garrison of occupation. The Roumanian Commander has presented to the Hungarian Government an ultimatum, the terms of which certainly do not err on the side of leniency. The Hungarians can, however, hardly expect very tender consideration from a people to whom they never showed any consideration in the days of their own prosperity.

At the critical moment when it seemed that Spain was bent upon "making good" in her zone in Morocco and giving Raisuli a much-needed lesson, a political crisis in Madrid brought about a change in the situation, and the considerable force that had been collected to cope with his reinforced army was dispersed. Doubtless heartened by this turn of events, Raisuli continued his attacks upon isolated posts, and scored several successes, the Spanish forces opposed to him being too small and quite inadequately equipped to make headway against him. For the time Spain contented herself by issuing official reports of an optimistic character. Another change has now taken place, and she seems bent upon vigorous action. General Silvestre was lately appointed to the command of the Ceuta district, and, in view of his record, it is generally anticipated that a forward policy is to be pursued once more. The Spanish forces have been strengthened, and are said to be favourably placed for a resumption of operations against Raisuli, and if only Madrid will determine to see the thing through at all costs the Spanish zone may ere long be reduced to order.

The Indian Peace contingent received its due welcome on Saturday, when the small but eminently representative force marched from Waterloo to the Palace under a sun which for the moment seemed to have borrowed some measure of the real Indian heat. The crowds were enthusiastic, but we take it that the Palace meant more than the streets, and the large gathering of the Royal Family must have gratified the men of Indian race as much as any feature of the proceedings except the King-Emperor's speech. It would be as unbecoming to praise as to criticise the utterances of Royalty on such an occasion, but the opening words, in which his Majesty expressed his pride and gratification in welcoming the contingent in his home, struck a chord which will in due time echo through the villages of India. It is a long way from the postern-window at Delhi to the private gardens of Buckingham Palace, but the distance will be bridged by Indian insight and imagination.

Criticism of the composition of the Indian Army Commission has been directed mainly to two points—one personal, the other of a wider import. The personal matter is, of course, the inclusion of Sir Michael O'Dwyer, against whom some of the Indian politicians now in this country are pursuing their vendetta with remarkable assiduity and some skill. It does not matter to them that Sir Michael is exceptionally well qualified to represent the interests of the classes from which the Indian Army is mainly drawn. In his time he has said some unpleasant things about politicians, and the politicians are paying him back with interest, calculated at Indian rates. Possibly some of the mud may stick, but it has certainly soiled the hands which threw it, and the exhibition of so much petty spite is making ordinary people ask what India will be like when the politicians have been sorted into Ministers and Opposition, and are free to pay similar compliments to one another.

The other point on which criticism has fastened is the preponderance of military officers on the Commission. It is argued that the higher administration of the Army is so intimately bound up with the Government of the country that the Commission will have to examine the working of the Viceroy's Council, and that it should be strengthened for this purpose on the constitutional side—an effective phrase which signifies, we understand, the addition of a few eminent Indian lawyers to the list already announced. We imagine, however, that the constitutional aspect of the question is reserved for Mr. Montague. The Commission will give him an idea of the arrangements which the Army would like, and then he will settle the matter, either alone or with the help of such advisers as the labours of the Joint Committee may provide.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 14.

Peace Celebrations.

The last week has been to the public eye almost entirely absorbed by preparations for celebrating the great peace, and the celebrations themselves. The beginning was made at Alexandria, when the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby received the representatives of officialdom and society of all nations at the Ramleh Residency. This was followed by a similar reception at Kasr-el-Doubara in Cairo on Thursday the 10th. Nearly double the usual number of invitations to Egyptians were issued on this occasion, and apparently almost all of them were accepted, to judge from the predominance of the wearers of national headdress over all the foreign element united. General Sir Edmund and Lady Allenby received their guests at the head of the steps leading down to the lovely garden, and had to stand there for more than an hour before the stream commenced to thin down.

A more ideal setting for an evening *fête* could scarcely be imagined than the grounds of the Cairo Residency, with the broad sweep of turf, kept soft and elastic as green velvet, the feathery palms, the borders of flowers flinging their delicate perfume on the night air as soon as the sun has well set; and on the other side of the low terrace the sleepy waters of the Nile silvering under the full moon. Few receptions can rival those of Cairo in the rich variety of the costumes of the inferior sex. The dresses of the ladies, of course, do not require mention, being always infinite in their combinations, but there are not many places where so many styles and colours can be seen on the men as at a function like this. Besides the uniforms of the British and every European Allied Army, worn by officers stationed, or on leave, in Egypt, there are the uniforms of the Indian, Egyptian, and Hejaz armies; of Sheikhs from Syria and Mesopotamia, from India and Arabia; and the no less gorgeous raiment of the Sheikhs and notables of the country.

At the Kursaal.

On Friday the High Commissioner returned to Alexandria, and Cairo gave itself up to the hands of electric light fitters, flag-hangers, and the usual band of professionals entrusted with the toilet of a city. Already by Saturday many large establishments and places like the Ezbekieh Gardens and the Ghezireh Sporting Club were rehearsing their illuminations, and on Sunday evening Cairo was in gala dress for the Gala Performance at the Kursaal. This was an international and inter-Ally *fête*, and places were only to be had by invitation. General Gorringe, who is taking over the Egypt Command, occupied the British box, and next to him was M. Gaillard, the French Consul-General and Representative. All the other Allied representatives in Cairo were also there, and the house was crammed. About half the places had, however, quite rightly, been reserved for the troops, who formed a very appreciative and enthusiastic audience. On Monday, July 14, the combined *fêtes* of the Peace and the French Republic were ushered in by a thunderous salute of 100 guns at 7 a.m., and parenthetically by one of the hottest and most furious *khamseen* winds of the year.

Dinners and Dances.

But notwithstanding the sweltering and Turkish-bath-like temperature, the holiday crowds thronged Luna Park at Heliopolis and the Ghezireh Sporting Club grounds from four o'clock onwards. At the former centre there were the usual switchback scenic railways, water chutes, and all the popular "attractions" made familiar to Londoners at the White City, whilst at Ghezireh fathers and mothers brought the rising generation of Allies in their thousands to partake of tea and sweetmeats and romp to their hearts' content. Boxing went on in the evening at both places, and the French especially occupied the Ezbekieh Gardens after dinner till midnight.

Shepheards gave a special dinner and dance, and its historic balcony was a vantage ground to watch perpetual processions of soldiers and civilians mixed, carrying their country's banners and fraternising boisterously in song. There were no Italian flags waving in Cairo, owing to the unfortunate views taken by Italy of her rights and wrongs, but this did not at all prevent her festively-minded sons and daughters from unobtrusively joining in the general merrymaking.

Echoes of the Riots.

So much for the outward and visible happenings of the memorable week. Besides these brilliant and noisy accompaniments to the "European Peace Week" a very big move forward was made towards the pacification of Egypt. Over fifty of the accused men before the military courts in connection with murder and outrages in March had been condemned to death. Mohammed Said Pasha pleaded earnestly with G.O.C. Egypt, and obtained the remittal of a few of these; but not content with this measure of success he again applied to the Commander-in-Chief. Sir E. Allenby once more went carefully into the cases and remitted another six, reducing the final total to thirty-six, who have since been duly executed. Greater clemency than this could not by any stretch of sane imagination be expected for the unprovoked, abominable, and cowardly assassinations of unarmed British officers and civilians by a mob of bloodthirsty savages. But as well as lightening many sentences passed by the military courts the Premier persuaded the High Commissioner to suspend all the Military Courts except for offences of violence against members of the force in Egypt as from July 15.

This should go a long way with the Egyptians, who desperately dread a British court-martial, and would far rather take chances of uneven justice at the hands of native judges, who, as they say, "understand" them and the circumstances surrounding the alleged crimes, better than Englishmen ever can. It is possible that they are right to a certain extent, but the lack of complete grasp of Egyptian atmosphere and mentality that may beset a court-martial is generally more than compensated for by its discrimination between real and sham evidence and its stern impartiality—two qualities which are not always conspicuous in an Egyptian criminal court.

The Labour movement is still increasing in strength all over the country, and before another six months Egypt will probably not need to envy Paris in any respect so far as Syndicalism goes.

Cairo, July 21.

Heat and Politics.

The increasing heat appears to have a somewhat tranquillising effect on the spirits of the Extremists. With the thermometer moving about the 100-degree line all day it is not easy to work up much enthusiasm, or to do anything beyond the absolutely necessary minimum. It is true that cricketers, tennis players and golfers continue to disport themselves much as usual; but it is not so difficult to play as to work, and Ministries and Public Departments are already showing the strain of half a summer behind them.

Retiring Advisers.

Messrs. Haines and Dunlop, respectively Advisers to the Ministries of Interior and Education, have gone

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home this week on leave, at the expiration of which they both retire on pension. The important position thus vacated at the Interior will be temporarily filled by Morice Bey, for several years past Director-General of Public Security; but he also retires from the service in the autumn, and it is generally stated that General Sir G. Clayton is "designate" to succeed Mr. Haines. However, until the Royal Commission has made its reports it is scarcely probable that any definite new appointments will be made. The functions of British high officials, like advisers, may be sensibly modified by extension or reduction in their scope, and until the new conditions of Egyptian administration under the Protectorate are fixed, the whole situation and future of British officials may be considered, to use an expressive phrase, as being "in the melting-pot."

Although very indefinite replies were made to the sarcastic questions put in the House as to the composition and date of arrival of the Commission, it is tolerably certain that it will be here before the end of October, and arrangements are already being made for its comfortable installation in the Semiramis Hotel, close to Kasr el Nil Bridge.

The Azhar.

From now onwards the Nationalist orators will have to seek new quarters, as it is stated that the Azhar will be definitely closed to all but a few of the regular old pensioners, for the next few months. It has been discovered that the University-Mosque is much in need of repairs, and it will no longer be lit after sunset, and will be handed over to masons and engineers, whose labours will be guarded from interruption by sufficiently armed sentries and patrols. The Rector, or Sheikh el-Islam, has been several times to visit the Prime Minister at Alexandria, and also the Sultan, in this connection, as has also the Grand Mufti, whose *Fetva* against Bolshevism is going to be published in the course of the next day or two. Although there has been no open manifestation yet of Bolshevism, under that name, in Egypt, it cannot be doubted that some poisonous fumes from the Bolshevist cauldron have reached and are hovering about the country. Consequently the *Fetva* comes very appropriately as a warning. The genuine and pious Moslem, however, could never join or sympathise with practices so alien to the precepts of Islam, and this is very clearly pointed out by the Mufti in his *Fetva*.

Seditious Leaflets.

There have scarcely been so many seditious leaflets published lately, but what they lack in quantity they make up for in quality. Two especially violent and flowery effusions have just come out with reference to the executions of the murderers of British officers and civilians, who are addressed as the holiest of innocent martyrs. It is characteristic of the Nationalist mentality and method that no allusion has ever been made in their publications to the atrocious and unspeakable brutality exhibited in the doing to death of unarmed and quite unoffending Britons, but the most bloodthirsty ruffian convicted of participation in these crimes is extolled as a patriot and a hero.

Your readers may be interested in one of the two leaflets just alluded to. First, there is the usual threat and abuse of the English:—

Do not rejoice in what you have won. Your victory is not of God, but of the Devil. Be sure that your illuminations and decorations are black in the sight of the Egyptians, because of your despotism, and that the flags you hoist over your houses and buildings will not be waved by our sad and silent Egyptian breeze, but only by the hand of oppression. Make yourselves ready, and do not demobilise your defeated armies, you malicious ones, for every soul is mobilised against you.

It then goes on:—

And as for you, O Martyrs! Go into the mercy of your Lord. Sleep in the shadow of His Paradise, and entreat Him to hasten the punishment of the infidels. . . . You were buried in our hearts before you were joined to the grave. Live a long second life—for your first one was short and wretched! There, in the everlasting Paradise, where rivers flow, you will wear bracelets of gold and raiment of pure silk. You will claim our complete independence (!) Rest in peace. You have striven for your Egyptian country and glorious will be your reward.

What can be the state of mind of a writer who can pen such an elegy to the most vulgar assassins, and what of the perverted intelligence of those who can read and enjoy such an upside-down presentation of murder and its punishment?

Journalistic Developments.

The Extremists have lately purchased a Cairo newspaper named the *Efkiar*, after having failed in an attempt to resuscitate the famous *Moayyad*. Another change in the journalistic world is the sale of the *Ahaly*, a Moslem Alexandria sheet, to the Oriental Publicity Society, which already controls the *Bourse Egyptienne* and the *Egyptian Mail* and several other local organs. Yet another development is the formation of an Egyptian Journalists' Association, which is said to have just submitted the following requests to the Premier, as a start:—(1) Suppression of all censorship on newspapers, now that there is no longer any need for controlling military information, for which reason censorship was established; (2) Suppression of censorship in letters and telegrams sent to papers; (3) Suppression of the Press Law; (4) Suppression of the law which refers journalistic offences to the Assize Courts; (5) Not to deal with crimes of opinion according to existing laws, but to adopt the laws in use in enlightened and constitutional countries. Lastly, that journalists be allowed to travel on Egyptian Railways at half rates, that their telephone subscriptions be reduced by half, and that the postage on newspapers be reduced. This is a good beginning, and augurs well for the future activities of the Association, which will evidently never fail to obtain favours for want of asking.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Locust Destruction.

Figures recently published show the amount spent last year in fighting the pest, viz., £3,842. A small locust tax is still levied. Receipts included a balance from the preceding year of £20,737 and the locust tax brought £4,923. A balance of £25,686 was carried forward to the Locust Fund for the present year. The almost complete silence maintained in Blue Book reports regarding locust work is to be regretted, as the narrative of operations, which in the early years gave full details, would still be useful as well as interesting. The species which clings to Cyprus still breeds in such numbers as to render an annual campaign necessary, and spraying with an insecticide is now relied on as the principal method of destruction. Cyprus is always threatened with invasions of fresh swarms from Syria and Asia Minor. In the former some damage has been done, in addition to the devastating scourge of the war; but few, if any, batches have migrated to the island from that region. From Asia Minor there has apparently been no information. It is fortunate that island expenditure can be kept as low as it is, and that alien swarms have not appeared in any formidable quantities of late years.

Quarantine Precautions.

Quarantine precautions are still observed against the danger of plague and cholera in Asia Minor, against plague in Egypt, and against plague and typhus in Greece. All third-class passengers arriving must undergo medical inspection, with disinfection of clothing and effects, at Larnaca, Limassol, or Famagusta. No alarm is felt as regards any of the countries named, but the Government is strict in all matters of quarantine, and has in this the full approbation of the people. As regards dogs, no importation is at present allowed. Any dog landed from a ship must be at once replaced on board or destroyed, as the Commissioner of the District may direct.

Summer Visitors.

Summer visitors are dropping in as the limited means of access to the island permit, and more are expected, especially from Egypt. Steam communication is still deplorably bad. Travelling in the island, while still unsatisfactory, has improved.

DEPARTURE OF THE SUDANESE MISSION.

The members of the special mission from the Sudan, which came to London to present a loyal address to the King, concluded their visit on August 4, when they left Victoria by the Continental boat-train. Sir Robert Synge (representing Lord Curzon), Sir Edgar Bernard, and a number of the officials who had been attached to the deputation during its stay, were at the station to bid farewell to the visitors. The head of the mission, speaking for himself and his colleagues, expressed the intense delight of the whole party at the reception they had had in England and the kindness shown them throughout their stay.

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BELGRADE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, July 28.

The Ministerial Crisis.

There is not much to record from Belgrade this week; the Ministerial crisis has passed over, although there are vague rumours that the matter is only patched up temporarily. It is earnestly to be hoped that these rumours are not true, for the young United Kingdom needs the co-operation of all its best brains in the difficult task of settling down under the new conditions.

The Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes have been for so long separated that they have almost forgotten each other's little idiosyncrasies, like brothers who have been parted for many years. Fundamentally they are the same, but Austrian policy for centuries, and more particularly for the last hundred years has laboured to alienate the three branches of the Yugoslav people, and this policy has been so far successful that the Serbs and the Croats know as little of each other in fact as though an ocean, and not a river, divided them, for it is a fact that the Serbs have been in more intimate contact with the Greeks, and even with the Turks, than they have with their brothers across the river. History has reacted on the Serbian temperament as well as on that of the Austrian branches of the race, and oppression and the constant pressure of enemies have developed their sturdy independence and impatience of interference, while the Croats and the Slovenes have become accustomed, in spite of themselves, to the methods of the Hapsburg tradition. Fortunately, both sides are showing a good deal of common sense, and realisation of the difficulties of a new kind which the young kingdom has to face, and it really looks as though parish pump politics will be suppressed in the wider sphere which is now open to them. The smaller parties, which were so active, or at all events so noisy, in the old kingdom of Serbia, are melting away, if they have not already disappeared, and fusing with the larger; so that there is crystallising out a division into two parties of approximately equal strength, which is always a healthy sign.

Making Good the War Damages.

Signs of the war are being slowly obliterated; gradually buildings are being reconstructed, though a long time must elapse before all signs of the bombardment of Belgrade can be washed away. The special units, such as reinforcement regiments, are being disbanded; veterans of the Salonika front over the age of 38 have been released on indefinite leave, and Belgrade is full of demobilised officers in mufti. The sappers have completed their task of erecting temporary bridges along the railway lines, where the Austrians did an immense amount of mischief on their retreat. The through service to Salonika is announced to begin on August 1, which will make a great deal of difference, especially to the commercial world. There is a daily train service to Vienna, and telegraphic and telephonic connection is organised between Belgrade, Zagreb, and Serajevo.

An evil legacy of the war is the looting and stealing which is not yet stamped out on the railway in Croatia. There is a gruesome story that recently a party of thieves found a very heavy box in an unguarded truck, which they at once took away, thinking that the contents of so weighty a package must be of great value. But, when they had removed it to a safe distance from the line and opened it, to their horror they found the body of a senior and distinguished officer, which was being sent to Belgrade for burial. The authorities are taking strong steps to stamp this scandal out, and a corps of special railway gendarmerie has been organised; two of these will accompany every train, like the Guardia Civil in Spain, and others will patrol the lines; they have already justified their existence by reducing the amount of thieving, and by arresting a gang of armed desperadoes dressed up in military uniform.

A Disturbance at Novi Sad.

There have recently been some minor disturbances at Novi Sad, which has for years been a centre of Serbian intellectual culture. The minority of enemy subjects who remained there lay very low at first, fearing reprisals for the behaviour of their own troops during the occupation. Perhaps they judged others by their own standards, but when they saw the rather contemptuous, good-natured tolerance of the victorious Serbs, they raised their heads a little. Their refusal to remove portraits of the Hapsburg family from a theatre roused the anger of a party of Serbian students, who took offence at the public exhibition of these enemy symbols on the very eve of the visit of the Crown Prince, and proceeded in a party to remove them. For a moment there was a panic in the theatre; but the students quietly removed the offending pictures, and the performance proceeded. There is no doubt that enemy propaganda has seized this ebullition of youthful spirits to make a case and proclaim Serbian intransigence and intolerance, so it is advisable to let the true story be known.

The Climate and the Harvest.

Serbia is, unfortunately, imitating one of Great Britain's weakest features. It is every Englishman's privilege to grumble at his climate. Out here the local English residents have the privilege of grumbling at the Serbian climate. It is certainly first cousin to the English one. Not only did we have almost incessant rain all through April and May, leading to heavy flooding and great damage, but even in July there has been a succession of such heavy rain that the floods are growing again, and the crops have suffered accordingly. The plum harvest threatens to be a poor one, and corn has suffered from flooding along the river valleys, especially in the Morava. Serbs all complain that such a summer is an unheard of phenomenon, but this is probably a legitimate exaggeration, as Huxley said in the Canary Islands about the oldest inhabitant telling the usual lies about the perpetual sunshine.

Miscellaneous News Items.

Women in Government employment will receive the vote.

Agrarian reform is proceeding slowly; the peasants this year will get double the quantity of land to work that they had last year.

A Polish Consulate has been opened at Zagreb, to perform the usual Consular duties and promote friendly intercourse between the two friendly Slavonic States.

The new bank-notes, made in Zagreb and Prague, will be issued in August, when the krone will be recalled.

ALBANIA.

We have received from Miss Edith Durham, Hon. Sec., Anglo-Albanian Society, the following information:—Ever since the beginning of this year terrible accounts have been reaching the Society of the ill-treatment of the Albanians of those districts of the North which are in Serbian occupation. Miss Durham has received "from a reliable source" the news that at Ipek a Bey was wounded three times, and spoiled of 1,800 pounds Turk and 21 cases containing clothing. Another Bey's house was pillaged, and an Ipek merchant was assassinated. The villages of Plava, Gusinje, and Vunthai, states Miss Durham, have been razed and pillaged, and many victims burnt alive. Thirty villages of Drenitza have been reduced to cinders; and the tale of pillaging and razing is true of many villages in the neighbourhood of Ipek and of the Rugova district. Miss Durham concludes by asking whether the Albanians are to be left alone to be extirpated.

Owing to the withdrawal of British troops from Transcaucasia, serious fighting has broken out between the Armenians on the one hand and the Tartars and Kurds on the other. Turkish officers are assisting the Tartars. Individual British have been fired upon, and it is reported that casualties have been caused. British representatives are endeavouring to arrange a cessation of hostilities.

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TWO LETTERS FROM TIFLIS.

(From a Correspondent.)

The following is a translation from a letter received from Tiflis, dated February 28, 1919, from a prominent landowner in the Elisavetpol Government. The writer, a former officer in the Imperial Guard, the son of a well-known Russian general, is by birth an Armenian, and the only Christian landowner in the district, where for years he has lived on most friendly terms with his Tatar neighbours. He writes:—

"First of all, I will give you the sad news that I am totally ruined, that my beloved Geok-Tapa does not exist any longer. Exactly a year ago organised bands of robbers and scoundrels made a sudden attack on the property, and put it to fire and sword. I was just lucky enough to effect my escape, with my wife, brother-in-law, and ——. It is hard indeed to tell you of our anxieties and suffering before we succeeded in reaching Baku. We were unable then to get to Tiflis, as they were murdering Armenians in the trains.

"All buildings on the place have been razed and everything movable carried away. The house itself and some outbuildings were burnt down, and the rest smashed up and utterly destroyed; in a word, Geok-Tapa has been converted into a desert. The entire vineyard and the beautiful park have been hacked down. Thirty thousand *vedra* of good wine have been destroyed, the fruit of three harvests, as, owing to the prohibition on wine, I had not been able to send any away.

"You may well ask what was the cause of all this disorder, especially when you know the friendly terms on which I lived with my Tatar neighbours and my popularity in the district. Alas, the cause is those accursed Germans and the German-Turkish policy in the Caucasus, with the object of exterminating the Armenians as a people that has determinedly been true to Russia and to our noble Allies.

"We all hoped that the English would advance from Baghdad and reach the Caucasus in time to keep order. But, alas, this was not to be, and the Pan-Turkish movement was free to work its wicked will, and the Armenian massacres began. I was the first to suffer, as the most prominent representative of my race, and then all Armenian villages in the lower part of the Elisavetpol and Baku Governments were destroyed, where the Armenians were in a distinct minority. In our district of Aresh alone, out of thirty thousand Armenians hardly a thousand have escaped massacre, and the villages are entirely destroyed. There is a fine result of the famous Revolution, with its talk of freedom and self-determination!

"At last the conquering English came, and all respectable elements in the population turned their glances hopefully towards them, in the expectation that they would restore order and organise our existence. Unfortunately, this was no light task. The wild Asiatic tribes, the Georgians and men of Azerbaijan, accustomed to the doctrine of force and submission, had tasted the sweets of licence, and would not surrender their position easily. Your command at Tiflis and Baku has the task of curbing the elements of force and carrying out a great policy to prevent collision between the numerous tribes with their highly-diversified population. Especially violent are the Georgians, whose arrogance has exceeded all moderation. They invited the Germans, but in their stead there arrived the English. Naturally they are disgusted, and cannot conceal their hatred of your compatriots.

"I have recently been busy in collecting materials and working out my losses, which, they say, the English will make the Turks pay for. My losses exceed two and a half million roubles, at 1914 values. If I do get any compensation, I could settle in some other district, as I could not bear to return to the Tatars. But this would only be possible in the event of a strong British occupation, for I have no confidence in the early restoration of a strong government in Russia. . . . In a word, all our hopes rest on England. So come hurrying to Tiflis to help in the good work."

The following extracts are from a letter dated May 5, 1919, written by a Russian in Tiflis. The writer is a member of the scientific staff of the Caucasus Museum at Tiflis:—

". . . . Life in Russia in general, and in particular in Georgia, has become almost intolerable. During the years of war we did not feel great deprivations, but after the revolution things became so bad that you could scarcely believe it unless you saw it with your own eyes. It is enough to say that for the last two years we have been living in such conditions that every day we have been obliged to worry about to-morrow's dinner; we are literally hungry. The price of all products has risen from one to two hundred per cent. compared with pre-war prices, but earnings only three times, and the value of the rouble has fallen so that it has almost lost purchasing power. That is one side of the picture. Besides that, we are isolated from Russia for more than two years, and have no knowledge of what is going on there. We only know one thing, and that is that if Russia is ever restored it will not be for a long time. So there is nothing left to do but to try to work and live in Georgia. Here the local attitude towards Russians, after the declaration of the independence of Georgia, is very bad; the Russian language is proscribed, and even scientific works have to be written in Georgian. So you will understand how all better-class Russians are gradually leaving the country whenever they get the chance. . . ."

There is at present on exhibition at the Leeds City Art Gallery a symbolic picture, entitled "The Dawn of Yugoslavia," painted by Miss Emily Ford. After being shown in Leeds, the painting is to come to London, when the Serbian Legation will decide as to its future.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Military Headquarters, Constantinople. July 29.

Major Waring asked the Secretary of State for War for what purpose he maintained a military headquarters at Constantinople; whether this was an independent Army Command and of how many troops did it consist; and whether the expenses connected with this force were defrayed by ourselves or the enemy?

Mr. Churchill: A military headquarters is maintained at Constantinople for the command and administration of the British Army of the Black Sea, which forms part of the Allied Army of Occupation required to enforce the terms of the Armistice. An independent Command is necessitated by the fact that the British force is scattered in detachments from the Dardanelles to the Caspian Sea, and Egypt and Baghdad are too far away to maintain effective control and communication with forces dispersed over such a wide area. The total strength on June 28 was 84,000, made up of 37,000 British and 47,000 native troops, including 20,000 Indians. The expenses of the force are defrayed by the British Government. I am at present unable to say whether the Peace Treaty with Turkey will provide for any of these expenses being recovered from the enemy Government, as in the case of the Peace Treaties with Germany and Austria.

Greek Activities in Asia Minor.

Major Glyn asked the Prime Minister whether the Government had any further information in regard to Greek activity in administering certain portions of Asia Minor; whether British shipping and trading interests were receiving fair treatment; and what steps the Government had taken, and were taking, to re-establish the British prestige in Asia Minor, Cyprus, and Syria?

Mr. Harmsworth: Decisions as to the scope and the sphere of Greek activity in Asia Minor lie with the Allied Conference at Paris. Information has reached the Conference to the effect that the Greeks have taken over control of the shipping and Customs at Smyrna, but the Allied Powers have not recognised this action, and inquiries are being made of the Greek Government at Athens. I need not say that his Majesty's Government will take all necessary measures to secure fair treatment for British shipping and trading interests. In regard to the last part of the question, information received from all sources is far from confirming the impression that British prestige stands in any need of re-establishment.

Elections in Bessarabia. Aug. 5.

Sir S. Hoare asked whether the Roumanian Government proposed to hold in Bessarabia elections for the Roumanian Chamber; if so, whether the Allies had yet determined the future of Bessarabia; and, if the Allies had not yet determined it, whether they would arrange with the Roumanian Government to abandon their intention to hold the elections.

Mr. Cecil Harmsworth: It is understood that the elections for the whole of Roumania and Bessarabia will be held in the early autumn. It is probable that by that time the Peace Conference will have decided as to the future status of the province, and there is no reason to suppose that the Roumanian Government will not loyally respect the decision of the Conference.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the Official Report.

Cyprus Mission. Demobilisation: Constantinople Troops. (July 29.)

India: Punjab Rebellion (Courts Martial).—Rowlatt Legislation.—Army Officer Prisoners (Pay).—London School of Tropical Medicine (Treatment of Officers).—Government of India Bill (Select Committee).—Discharged British Officers (Employment). Italy: Pro-German Propaganda. Fiume. Cyprus. India: North-West Frontier Expedition (Cholera).—Ali Masjid Camp (Water Supply).—Army Medical Arrangements. (July 30.)

Cyprus. Egypt (Lord Milner's Commission). Procession of Indian Troops. Troops at Salonika (Dysentery). Band Boys (Service in India). Sir Rabindranath Tagore. (July 31.)

Montenegro. Egypt (Milner Commission). Demobilisation: Troops in India. Asia Minor (Massacres). Military Command. Aidin. Demobilisation: Royal Army Medical Corps, Egypt.—Troops in India. (Aug. 4.)

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Sultan Mehmed VI.

The Constantinople correspondent of the *Morning Post* has written in the issue of July 26 a report of a very interesting interview with Sultan Mehmed Vahed-ed-din. A few notes on the Sultan's career are informing:—

Mehmed VI. on ascending the Throne last year immediately showed that he was made of different stuff from his brother. During the reign of Abdul Hamid he had been shut up with his brother in a place on the Bosphorus, and even after the accession of his brother he did not become heir-apparent until his cousin, older than he, Prince Youssouf Izzedin, elder brother of the present Prince *heritier*, committed suicide or was killed—no one will know which. He was then brought from retirement, and during the war for eight months was attached to the German General Headquarters, though his sympathies were entirely against Germany and always pro-British, and he was always and ever an opponent of the Committee of Union and Progress.

On reaching the Throne he immediately took his grandfather as his example. He had his Coronation robe made, stitch by stitch, according to the model of that of Mahmud. He used Mahmud's sword for the ceremony, girding on the sword. He adopted Mahmud's National Anthem, written for him by the younger Donizetti. He appealed to the public sympathy to get rid of the Committee of Union and Progress in the same way that Mahmud in a rougher age appealed to the public to get rid of the Janissaries, the power behind the Throne. Always suspected by the Committee of Union and Progress of being a spy of Abdul Hamid, there was no love lost between the new Sultan and the Committee.

Arab Sentiment in Palestine.

The issue of July 26 of *Palestine* comments on the recent gun-running between Palestine and Egypt. Of the Arab political attitude it says:—

Arab political sentiment is not easy to analyse. Of the great masses, whether Feliahin or townsmen, it may be said that they have no political understanding or tradition, but are liable to be worked upon by the Effendi, particularly when an appeal is made to their religious passions. Among the upper classes there are numerous parties, and it is perhaps not unjust to say that there is more party and more of personality than patriotism about them. The American Commission has been in Palestine trying to sound the Arab mind; the only subject upon which there seems to be agreement among the Arabs is distaste for French rule. Even the Christian Arabs share this with the Moslems, which is a little surprising after the great efforts the French religious missions have made. For the rest there are those who want Palestine to be attached to the Hedjaz, those who want it to be attached to Syria, those who want Pan-Arab Federation, those who want independence, those who want English rule, those who want American rule, those who want Turkish rule. There has been a great deal of anti-British agitation and even anti-British conspiracy; agents travel between Damascus, Ammam, Jerusalem and Egypt. During the Egyptian troubles, efforts were made to bring about an outbreak in Palestine, and there is a certain amount of loose talk of the same kind now in progress.

However, it has no fears for the future, and a strong line, it says, will set all straight.

As a military or a political problem all this boils down to very little. The Arab is effervescent, and he has profound respect for the accomplished fact. When the British Government and the British Administration in Palestine make it quite plain that they are going to carry out the policy of a Jewish Palestine, and that they mean to stand no nonsense, these political emotions will subside and disappear. All but a very small handful of Arabs will bow to reality, and that small handful which is disinclined to bow will constitute no severe task for the administration. All this is quite well understood by those in charge in Palestine, and it fortifies the argument, strong on so many other grounds, for an early, precise, and emphatic announcement of policy by the Conference and the British Government. If the question of the political settlement of Damascus were disposed of quickly, that would also help to sweep away illusions. Damascus is bound to be a source of trouble and intrigue so long as its political destiny remains undetermined, and that in spite of the Emir Feisal himself. The Emir is a statesman, and is no party to the bickerings and the manœuvres of the Effendis, but he is not, and cannot be, fully master in his own house until it is known for certain whether that house is really his. He cannot organise a State and an Administration, put down disorderly persons and instil prudent principles into his subjects until his own authority is placed on a solid basis.

The Balkans.

The *New Statesman* of July 26 contained a well-informed and impartial article on "The Settlement in the Balkans." That universal panacea, self-determination, is inapplicable in the Balkans, and, the writer says, "the only solution is to be found in a spirit of broad tolerance and compromise."

There must be mutual give and take. That is the first and the hardest principle to apply in our Balkan policy. Whenever rational compromise is proposed we are met by the objection that Bulgaria has been defeated in the war, and that any settlement which gives her what she is entitled to treats her as though she were a victor. That, if justice is to be done, cannot be avoided, for it is the fact that Bulgaria, though she entered the war on the wrong side, entered it with certain just territorial claims. But if there is to be any settlement of the Balkans, all this talk about the rewards of victory and the punishment of defeat must be ruled out as irrelevant. The only tests are: Is the proposed settlement just? and, Will it last?

No settlement will last which does not give Bulgaria two things: union with the Bulgars in Macedonia; and, secondly, a good port on the Ægean. One hesitates to embark on the ethnical problems of the Balkan Peninsula, complicated as they are by a policy of systematic massacre, pursued by each of the three dominant races in the Balkans, whenever a chance has offered. If Balkan politics stink in the nostrils of decent people, it is because of the mass of disgusting literature that Serbs and Bulgars and Greeks have put out, each accusing the others of nameless atrocities. It is impossible to distinguish between the degrees of culpability. The charge brought by the inter-Allied Commission against the Bulgarian army of occupation, that it deliberately pursued a policy of extermination of other nations than its own is probably true. But it is true also of Greeks and Serbs. The wise man will dismiss this campaign of atrocity mongering, and, regarding all three races as equally guilty, will set himself the practical task of removing the causes which have produced this mass of horrible literature.

The statements are made that Serbia can easily afford to grant Bulgaria's just claims in Southern Macedonia and equally easily Greece can afford to give Bulgaria a good port on the Ægean. Of Roumania the writer says:—

Roumania will acquire, at the expense of Austria, a great new territory in Transylvania, and friendship with Bulgaria is cheap at the price of territorial concession in the Dobrudja, paid as they will be in a currency which just now is heavily inflated. The argument that a settlement such as we have outlined gives Bulgaria in defeat everything that she could hope to gain by victory does not influence us at all. Here in the Balkans there is a chance of doing what was difficult, almost impossible to do, in the case of Germany, namely, to obliterate the memories of the war, and to think only of a settlement that would have been just if the war had never taken place. Will Serbia, whose military exploits have been so inspiring an epic, consummate them by a display of statesmanship and generosity to the defeated? Will Greece revive Venizelos' old ideals of Balkan unity, and thereby strengthen her claim to succeed to her old glories at Constantinople? It is for the Powers in conference to work for these humane ends.

Articles to Note.

"The Turks, Cardinal Newman, and the Council of Ten," by the Very Rev. Canon William Barry, D.D., and "The Fortunes of Egypt," by Dr. A. J. Butler, in the *Nineteenth Century* (August).

"Eastern Nights—and Flights," Chapters V. and VI., by "Contact" (Alan Bott); "Two Sepoys": I., Prataprao, by C. A. Kincaid, C.V.O.; II., Abdul, by W. C. S.; and "The Armenians," by Edmund Candler, in *Blackwood* (August).

"The Case for the Rowlatt Act in India," by Ernest D. Lee, in the *Fortnightly Review* (August).

INDIA'S PEACE CONTINGENT.

On August 2 London gave a great welcome to the Indian troops who should have been present to take part in the Victory March of July 19, but could not arrive in time. The contingent, which consisted of 1,800 British and native troops, marched from Waterloo to Buckingham Palace, where the Parade was addressed by his Majesty. He expressed the thanks of the Empire for the services in the war of the Indian Army, and afterwards conferred decorations, including a V.C., on several officers and men. Great cheering greeted the procession, for the meaning was plain of the legends on the blue banners carried by native officers—"France," "Palestine," "East Africa," "Egypt," "Mesopotamia," and "Caucasus." All the fighting troops of Hindustan were included in the column, which thus worthily represented the very gallant troops who have fought so loyally for their King-Emperor. On their return from Buckingham Palace to Waterloo Station the troops were again cheered by great crowds, and they must have recognised the occasion as a truly memorable one.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

A correspondent in Egypt sends me the following pathetic pleasantry, which may throw some light on the methods which have prevailed during the recent outburst:—"A little incident of Egyptian prison administration is typical, and might form the *piéce de résistance* of a comic opera. During the recent troubles, the rioters who were captured in a certain town were tried by court-martial, and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. The senior officer of the court thought the ringleader deserved a bigger punishment than he had power to inflict, so he called for a higher court, which after inevitable delays, met on a certain day. The high officers who were to act as judges arrived, the police officials came, the witnesses were brought, the interpreter came, and last, but not least, the escort came. The court sat down, and with due solemnity told the interpreter to tell the escort to bring the prisoner in. 'Oh,' said the interpreter, 'there isn't any prisoner.' 'Why?' said the court, majestically. 'Because he escaped from jail eight days ago,' replied the interpreter. What the court then said will not be recorded, as the censor of morals and language will not pass it."

***

Most Englishmen are full of pride in their Empire, but they are not so full of knowledge concerning our overseas possessions. Doubtless we all have improved ourselves, geographically-speaking, during the war; but we are far from perfect yet. It is only two days ago that I betted with a well-informed Welshman that he could not tell me in which continent Cyprus was to be found, and he backed a loser! This reminds me of a story of a friend of mine who, inquiring for rates of insurance, wrote to two firms asking whether Cyprus was covered by European insurance, and received answers both in the affirmative and the negative! Now, I do not dare to suggest that any one of my readers does not know the precise continental situation of Cyprus, but if they choose to start a little gamble of their own on the matter, it's an exciting probability that there'll be some money lost by somebody.

***

Quite seriously (it's so very jolly to be serious sometimes), the ignorance of this country about Cyprus is absolutely unjustifiable. Is not Cyprus a British possession, and should we not know the elementary facts concerning it? I warrant that there are not many questions on the island which children in Greek schools could not answer, but what of children in our own educative centres? *Apropos* of this subject, a school inspector tells a story which is a most refreshing exception to the general rule. He was touring round the semi-barbaric parts of the North of Scotland, and at one of the schools asked the question: Where is Cyprus, and what is it? He was amazed to hear a budding Caledonian sage reel forth the correct answer, including the number of the population, the exports, the natural scenery, and so forth. This is a quite true story, but one which could not be told of many schools in the British Isles. It is an example which should be emulated by all those who are early informed of the greatness of Britain and of her possessions.

***

Although Peace with Turkey has not yet been signed, the Turk appears to have quite a number of friends in this country. But there can be no doubt that he has lost not only the friendship but even that half-amused liking which many Englishmen felt for him in the old days before the war. And this is due not so much to the war itself, or to his methods of fighting us—for, on the whole, the opinion of our actual fighting men seems to be not unfavourable to him—but to the things that he did under cover of the war, so to say. The worst of these things was his treatment of his own subjects, the Armenians, the Nestorians, the Chaldeans, even the Arabs and the Syrians. The unrestrained brutality of his methods of doing away with the Armenians certainly cost him the goodwill of a number of Britons who, during their captivity in his hands, had the opportunity of seeing something of the horrors that were perpetrated on the upper Euphrates. Some time ago I talked with some of the Englishmen who were made prisoners at Kut, and while they had no complaints to make regarding the treatment meted out to them personally, they spoke with the utmost indignation of what they had seen of the treatment of Armenians. And this week another Englishman, an ex-prisoner, went over the same ground in the same way. He concluded: "I used to hold a brief for the Turk in the old days, but now——. Well, he has got to go."

CORSAIR.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

RAHMI BEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—As you are no doubt aware, a number of Turkish officials of the old regime have recently been transported to Malta for trial. Amongst these is the late Vali of Smyrna, Rahmi Bey.

I have just received a letter dated the 7th inst. from a correspondent in Smyrna, and he asks me to make known, if possible, the feeling of British and French residents in Smyrna towards the late Vali. The writer has been out in Turkey since the early sixties, and Rahmi Bey has been the Governor of Smyrna for quite a number of years. Though the writer does not know this gentleman personally, he expresses the firm conviction that all British and French residents owe very much to him, and they are to be considered highly fortunate that this man was Governor in their district during the war. They all know how Rahmi Bey was urged by the German generals to deport all British and French residents from Smyrna. This was done repeatedly. Rahmi Bey just as regularly refused to obey their instructions, and thereby saved many of our friends the horrors of internment in some camp in the wilds of Asia Minor.

I understand that a petition in favour of Rahmi Bey has been signed by all who have benefited through his kindly action. I have no doubt this petition will have been forwarded to the right quarter, but the wish of the British Smyrna residents is, that as much publicity as is possible should be given to the facts in the hope that these points in Rahmi Bey's favour will be taken account of at the trial.—I am, etc.,

GRATITUDE.

July 31, 1919.

"GREAT BRITAIN AND THE NEAR EAST."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Major Ormsby-Gore's suggestion for the formation of a new department to deal with British interests in the Near East is, indeed, an admirable one. I have no intention of inflicting a long letter on the subject upon you, for I could add nothing of value to Major Ormsby-Gore's arguments. But an illustration of the evils that exist under the present system may not be out of place. Our Consul at Busreh is appointed by the Foreign Office, but the Consul-General at Baghdad is appointed by the Indian Government. Yet, I understand, Busreh is subordinate to Baghdad. The Consuls and Consular-Agents up the Persian Gulf are—or were—all appointed from India.—I am, etc.,

August 2, 1919. JIGSAW.

[Other letters on this subject are unavoidably held over owing to pressure on our space.—ED.]

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

The following are recommended by the Civil Service Commissioners to the Secretary of State for India for acceptance as selected candidates for the Indian Civil Service, subject to their being found eligible in point of health, and on the result of any other inquiries he may desire to make. The names are given in order of merit:—1, Nethersole, N. H. B.; 2, Peddie, J.; 3, Stanford, J. K.; 4, Ryan, C. F. M. N.; 5, Donaldson, J. C.; 6, Pinnell, L. G.; 7, Cooke, G. H.; 8, Douglas, R. O.; 9, MacEwen, A. R.; 10, Waugh, H. R.; 11, Dunlop, W. N. U.; 12, Courtney, W. E. L.; 13, Lacey, W. G.; 14, Pawsey, C. R.; 15, Hands, A. S.; 16, Porter, N.T.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"ALBANIA, PAST AND PRESENT."*

Apart from Mr. Wadham Peacock's well-known study, the number of books which can be said to give a comprehensive account of the Albanian question is small, and we are, therefore, grateful to M. Chekrezi, himself an Albanian, for covering the whole ground in this work. We need not discuss his historical section, which, barring some perhaps inevitable prejudice against the Greeks, appears to be fair and impartial; we note, by the way, that he makes the interesting point that the existence of Albanian Moslems is due to many of his countrymen deliberately preferring freedom to religion. As Albanian Christians they would have been persecuted by the Turk; as converts to Islam they were free.

There will be no disposition to quarrel with his account, half-humorous, half-tragic, of the events which led up to the brief and inglorious reign of Prince Wilhelm of Wied; more to the point is his statement of the future claims of Albania, whose status and territory have not yet been decided by the Peace negotiators or procrastinators at Paris. M. Chekrezi first claims "the districts of Hoti and Gruda, the populations of which successfully withstood every attempt of King Nicholas of Montenegro to incorporate their territory in his realm," as "one of the simplest and most elementary acts of reparation"; he proceeds to a more important demand, based on the fact that "during the two years of Serbian domination the million Albanians of Kossova, Dibra, and Ochrida have made three sanguinary rebellions to free themselves of Serbian rule." He holds that there can be no friendly relations between Albania and Serbia while this continues. Thirdly, "on the Albanian-Greek frontier, a new delimitation must be made so as to include in Albania the district of Tchamouria, inhabited by Moslem Albanians, and the region of the Pindus Mountains, where the Roumanian-Wallachian population, as well as the Albanians of Konitsa, are clamouring for union with Albania." It may be noted that the Greek claim to Northern Epirus is also dismissed by the author as "delirious and absurd raving"; and he suggests "a plebiscite to put an end to the Greek wailings and yellings," always provided that the territory shall be first occupied by a neutral Power and that steps shall be taken to avoid any gerrymandering. The author has no fear of the result, for "the Albanians are neither barbarously Chauvinistic, like the Greeks, nor brutal like the Serbians and Bulgarians"; indeed, after this emphatic expression of the golden rule, one is not surprised to learn in the next sentence that "in Albania, tolerance, religious and political, is a recognised principle." The Pharisee also gave thanks that he was not as the Publican, but that was a very long time ago, and such things are simply not done in the Near East in these days.

There is no space in which to express an opinion on M. Chekrezi's claims; these citations are made merely to illustrate the rapid progress of peace and concord in the Balkans.

A. W. T.

THE SEPOY.†

There are few writers better qualified than Mr. Candler to deal with the different classes of the sepoy. He has an intimate knowledge of his subject, and his power of sympathetic observation alone gives high value to whatever he writes. Of familiar and unfamiliar things alike he deals most pleasantly. He can, for instance, add much to the already considerable public knowledge of such types as the Gurkha and the Sikh; and equally easily he can enlighten us on the subject of such little-known types as the Punjabi Mussulman and the Hazara. One very necessary point the author makes, and with great success—the differences in temperament of these various types. It is true, as he himself observes, that one must be a regimental officer really to understand the sepoy; nevertheless, he does contrive very skilfully to present the peculiar mentalities of particular types. In a large measure he achieves this by the use of interesting incident, by showing how, that is, certain sepoys in certain circumstances act in a certain manner. He could, in fact, have improved his book by the inclusion of more incidents, for those which he does give are extremely good. But for the information he has supplied, and the careful enthusiasm with which it is given, those interested in the sepoy should indeed be grateful to the author.

* "Albania, Past and Present." By Constantine A. Chekrezi. (Macmillan. £22s.)

† "The Sepoy." By Edmund Candler. (London: John Murray. 7s. 6d. net.)

ECHOES FROM THE WILDERNESS.*

It is something in these days to find a book of verse tastefully produced and lacking realistic vulgarity. Therefore we give praise to Mr. O'Connor for having written and published his book in a refined manner. But that must be the extent of our praise. For though some of this verse is invested with a cloak of Catholic mysticism, the echoes of Crashaw, Francis Thompson, and the rest of our religious poets are very faint. There is here none of their intense feeling, none of their heavenly flights, none of their rich visions. This picture, for instance, is not poetry:—

> The transports thread the valleys wide,
> Or climb the ridges stern and bare.
> Egyptians on tall camels ride,
> And azure tunics do they wear.

And here is a redundant echo of Swinburne, in which the passion is hard to find:—

> I would throw to magnificent doom
> White roses at her feet.
> Should she tread out the life of each bloom,
> What fate could be more sweet?

We should have thought that Mr. O'Connor's temperament and experiences would have produced something of ringing vibrancy, of coloured majesty, or of restrained ecstasy. But it is not so. He has not the "élan vital"; and when he says—

> I would that my verses had wings to each line!
> They then might be Angels, a fluttering throng,
> To sing of a saint in a heavenly song,

he utters a very common wish, which, however, is very uncommonly granted.

A SOLDIER-THEOSOPHIST.†

Here is a slight book composed of letters written by Lieut. G. H. Whyte, M.C., and edited by his wife. It is an unpretentious record of this officer's experiences in France, Salonika, Malta, Egypt, and Palestine. The things seen and described are neither new nor rare, but they are coloured with theosophic idealism. While this book does not alter our conviction that war experiences should be the subject rather of conversation than of writing, yet it is good to read in it of such things as the sunset on Mount Olympus, the beauty of the strait between Malta and Gozo, and the crocuses and the daffodils growing between the rocks beyond Jerusalem, where the author was killed. But it is certainly better privately to remember in the heart the sad and joyous things of war than publicly to learn them by heart.

THE LITERATURE OF PASSIVE RESISTANCE.

We have received for review a bundle of the leaflets issued in April and May by the well-known Mr. Gandhi in furtherance of the campaign of *satyagraha*, or passive resistance, by way of protest, which had such deplorable results in various parts of India. There is not much to be said about them at this time of day; Mr. Gandhi appears as a very unpractical visionary, who supposed that, having aroused the passions of the mob, he could control them by the stopcock of such leaflets as these, and there is nothing to show that he has been effectively disillusioned. An expert in the letting out of water, he has far too little knowledge of hydraulics to regulate its flow, and if there were the slightest prospect of his listening to advice, we should counsel him to impose on himself the discipline of silence in regard to matters which he does not understand.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Hygiene and Disease in Palestine in Modern and in Biblical Times," by E. W. G. Masterman, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H. (London: Palestine Exploration Fund. 2s. 9d.)

"Cecil Spring Rice: In Memoriam." By Sir Valentine Chirol. (London: John Murray. 6s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

"The Peculiar Major," by Keble Howard, is a war story published by Hutchinson, being concerned, among other things, with Turks and Palestine.

A story of English life in Burma, written by "Bokwallah," is published by Melrose, with the title "The Leopard's Leap."

* "A Singer in Palestine." By Armel O'Connor. (Ludlow, Shropshire: The Mary's Meadow Press. 2s. net.)

† "Glimpses of the Great War." (London: Theosophical Publishing House 3s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. August	1919. July		1337. Julkada.	5679. Ab.
8	26	Friday	11	12
9	27	Saturday.....	12	13
10	28	Sunday	13	14
11	29	Monday	14	15
12	30	Tuesday	15	16
13	31	Wednesday	16	17
14	August 1	Thursday	17	18

Lord Oranmore and Browne has left London for Ireland.

Mr. C. Salvago, of Alexandria, is now in London on a short visit.

General Sir Charles and Lady Townshend have left London for Norfolk.

M. L. Politis, Secretary to the Greek Legation, left London on August 3 for Paris.

Lt.-Col. Granville Baker, D.S.O., who recently visited Belgrade, is now back in London.

Dr. Pagonis, the Great Archmandrite of the Greek Church, left London on August 1 for Alexandria.

Brigadier-General R. H. Storrs, C.M.G., Governor of Jerusalem, is now in England on a short visit.

Brigadier-General G. F. Clayton, C.B., Chief Political Officer, E.E.F., is at present in this country, on leave.

Mr. H. Boutigny, proprietor of the *Egyptian Mail* and several other Egyptian newspapers, is now in London on a short business visit.

Ebrahim Khan Gharogozlou, who has been appointed Secretary to the Persian Legation, has arrived in London from Teheran.

At 10, Dorset Street, Marylebone, on July 22, the wife of Mr. W. Stanley Hollis, United States Consul-General, gave birth to a son.

The marriage was celebrated on July 30, at Bombay Cathedral, between Major R. S. Godkin, D.S.O., I.M.S., and Beatrice Seacome.

King George sent a congratulatory message to King Alexander of Greece on the occasion of the birthday of the latter on August 2.

Lieutenant P. S. Taylor, G.S.I., who has been spending a few weeks in England, on leave, is returning to Egypt on the 9th inst., accompanied by Mrs. Taylor.

The Archbishop of Trebizond concluded his visit to London on August 4, and left for Paris, where it is his intention to spend a week before returning to Trebizond.

Colonel Rossetti, who has been acting as liaison officer between the French, British, and Roumanian Military Headquarters, has arrived from the Continent.

The Bishop of Bombay, whose eyes were injured by glare in Kashmir a year ago, has improved under the treatment of specialists at home, and is to return to India in October next.

The marriage was celebrated on July 30, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, between Major Wm. C. Ross, of the Indian Medical Service, and Mary, daughter of Mrs. J. M. Hogge, 1, Fountain Road, Upper Norwood.

Dr. Masterman having resigned from the post of Honorary General Secretary for Palestine of the Palestine Exploration Fund, Dr. Percy D'Erf Wheeler will represent the interests of the Society in Palestine.

The marriage was celebrated on July 28, at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, by the Lord Bishop of London, assisted by Prebendary Leith Boyd, between Cedric Lindsay, only son of Mr. Brereton, C.I.E., late I.C.S., and Mrs. Brereton, and Leila Macdonald, second daughter of the late Edward Henry Horsey, M.D., M.P., Canada, and Mrs. Horsey, 55, Albert Hall Mansions.

The engagement is announced of Richard Godfrey, second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Westcott, North Gate, Regent's Park, London, to Dorrit, eldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Barber, Ramleh, Egypt.

Our Belgrade Correspondent informs us that Major Deroc, who commanded the Motor Transport of the Serbian Army at Salonika, and who has many English friends, has been decorated with the Legion of Honour.

In connection with the Palestine Exploration Fund, it is stated that Miss Frances E. Newton has consented to be the Local Honorary Secretary for Haifa-under-Mount Carmel; and that Colonel Pirie-Gordon has been elected a member of the General Committee of the Fund.

The American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem, which has been closed since the end of 1914 on account of the war, will reopen under the directorship of Prof. William H. Worrell, of Hartford, Conn. With him will be associated Prof. Albert T. Clay, of Yale University.

The marriage was celebrated on July 30, at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, between Lieut.-Colonel Walter Edward Wilson-Johnston, C.I.E., D.S.O., 36th Sikhs, and Edith Maud, daughter of the late Captain Francis Gilbert-Jones, R.N., and Mrs. Gilbert-Jones, of 55, Lime Grove, New Malden, Surrey.

The engagement is announced between Captain John Weir Russell, eldest son of S. Russell, retired I.C.S., and Mrs. Russell, of St. Heliers, Eastbourne, and Lucy, only daughter of the late Frederick Mead, of The Moorings, St. Albans, and of Mrs. Mead, New Century Club, Berkeley Square.

Miss Robina Annandale has received the King's unrestricted permission to wear the Cross of the Fifth Class of the Order of St. Sava conferred upon her by the King of the Serbs, the Croats, and the Slovenes, in recognition of her services while employed with the First British Field Ambulance for Serbia in 1915.

The Government of India have awarded the two State scholarships available in the current year for the scientific study of Sanskrit abroad and the similar scholarship which remained vacant in 1917 to Mr. S. Uniti Kumar Chatterjee (Bengal), Lala Mangal Deva Shastri (Punjab), and Mr. Ananta Prashad Banerjee Shastri (Bihar and Orissa).

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major J. R. Lloyd, Royal Army Medical Corps, third son of Lieutenant-Colonel J. Hayes Lloyd, late Indian Staff Corps, and Mrs. Lloyd, of Braeside, Palace Road, Streatham, and Elsie Beatrice, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Brandon, of Redfields, Church Crookham, Hants.

The marriage was celebrated on July 31, at St. Peter's Church, Harrogate, by the Rev. E. A. Chard, M.A., vicar of St. Mary's, between T. Ian Sutherland Mackay, I.A.R.O., attached 3rd Sappers and Miners, second son of the late Rev. G. Sutherland Mackay and Mrs. Mackay, Doune, Perthshire, and Rachel, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Chapman, The Oaks, Beech Grove, Harrogate.

The Serbian Red Cross Society in Great Britain are appealing for donations on behalf of their three funds—the Serbian Disabled Soldiers' Fund, to provide surgical aid, artificial limbs, and proper vocational training; for Serbia's Widows and Orphans, to provide necessaries for the destitute; and to provide Roadside Dispensaries. Contributions with which to carry on these funds are urgently needed, and should be sent to the secretary, Mr. Frank Hastings, 9, Ennismore Gardens, S.W.7.

A correspondent in Switzerland sends us the following notes:—

Queen Olga Constantinovna of the Hellenes has arrived in Lucerne. She is upon a visit to ex-King Constantine and ex-Queen Sophie of the Hellenes.

The Marquess of Milford Haven and Lady Louise Mountbatten are visiting Prince and Princess Andrew of Greece in Lucerne.

Sefa Bey, Turkish Minister in Sofia, has been appointed Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Constantinople in place of Izzet Fuad Pasha, resigned.

Rechad Haliss Bey has been appointed Turkish Minister in Berne, Fuad Selim Bey having been recalled.

Rifaat Pasha, Turkish Ambassador in Berlin, and Hussein Hilmi Pasha, Turkish Ambassador in Vienna, have been recalled.

Noureddin Ferouk Bey, Secretary of the Turkish Legation at The Hague, has been appointed Turkish *Chargé d'Affaires* at Madrid in the place of Ibrahim Zia Bey. Madame Noureddin Ferouk Bey is the sister of Tewfik Bey Kibruzli, A.D.C. to General Nazim Pasha (who was Generalissimo during the Balkan War), who was assassinated with the General by Enver Pasha on the *coup d'état* at Constantinople in January, 1913.

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Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—

Among the British officials who are taking a well-earned leave is Mr. W. Williams, Acting Director of Public Works, whose service in Cyprus dates back to 1878. His earliest work was as surveyor with the R.E. on military roads. During the first years civil works were under the charge of military officers. Mr. Williams became a Divisional in 1898, and First Divisional Engineer in 1903; and has for several periods acted as Director of Public Works. Those who remember the Indian and Colonial Exhibition of 1886 in London will recollect some of the excellent water-colour landscapes which were due to him, and also the interesting model of the locust war operations, for which he gave valuable aid.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Signor Menzinger has been appointed Civil Governor of Tripoli.

M. Abel, Deputy for the War Department, has been appointed Governor-General of Algeria, in place of M. Jonnart, who recently resigned.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. O'Brien has taken over charge as Deputy Commissioner, Umballa, Punjab, from Mr. B. B. Whitehead, I.C.S.

Mr. L. Robertson, I.C.S., has been nominated as an additional member of the Bombay Legislative Council, in place of the Hon. Mr. G. G. Keatinge.

Mr. F. St. J. Gebbie is nominated as an Additional Member of the Bombay Legislative Council, in the place of Mr. F. G. Pratt, I.C.S., resigned.

Mr. Justice Abdur Rahim has been appointed to act as Chief Justice of the Madras High Court. Messrs. Krishnan, L. C. Moore, and J. C. Burn will act as judges.

Mr. M. C. Raja, Secretary of the Adi Dravisjana Sabha, has been nominated a member of the Madras Legislative Council, the first member of the Panchama ("depressed community") to be appointed to any Legislative Council.

The King has appointed General Sir Herbert Charles Onslow Plumer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., and General Sir Edmund Henry Hynman Allenby, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., to be Field-Marshals. These promotions are dated July 31, 1919.

The question of making preliminary arrangements for the census of 1921 is under the consideration of the Madras Government. It is understood that Mr. G. T. Boas, I.C.S., who is now on leave, will on return be appointed as Provincial Census Superintendent.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—

Mehmet Halid Bey has been appointed Judge of the District Court at Famagusta.

Mehmet Izzet Effendi has been appointed Judge of the District Court, Papho.

Mr. M. E. Jelajian, of the Land Registry, is retiring from the service, after long and very able work in that department.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on August 2, at Westwood, Carshalton, Surrey, of Percival Attamont, only surviving son of the late John Dennis Browne, of Mount Browne, Co. Mayo, and Captain (retired) Bombay Staff Corps, aged seventy-eight.

Colonel Edward C. Stanton, late Royal Engineers, died on July 28 at Merton Park, Wimbledon, ac the age of sixty-two. He served in the Afghan War of 1878-80, when he received the medal. He served also in the Sikkim Expedition of 1888, when he was a recipient of the medal with clasp.

Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Harvey, late Royal Engineers, who has died in his eightieth year, had a distinguished career. In 1872, after the Looshai Expedition, he was mentioned in despatches, and received the thanks of the Indian Government. He won other honours in Indian punitive wars, and was with Roberts in the Afghan War of 1879-80.

News from India states that Commander W. R. B. Douglas, Deputy Conservator of the Port of Madras, was drowned in a yachting accident outside that port. In the New Year's Honours List of 1917 his name appeared among the C.I.E.'s, and a month later he was selected as Marine Liaison Officer to the Government of India. He remained in Delhi till November, 1917, and then went to Kidderpore Docks, Calcutta, as Senior Marine Transport Officer. In February of the following year he was appointed Captain Superintendent of Kidderpore as a temporary measure, and on relief was placed in command of the R.I.M.S. Northbrook. On May 29 this year he was made Deputy Conservator of the Port of Madras.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The monsoon is now practically normal over the major portion of India.

Serbia's provisional Chamber of Representatives has adjourned until the Government crisis is ended.

A rising is reported in the Tirana district of Albania, and all the roads in that region are stated to be closed.

Turkhan Pasha has, for health reasons, relinquished the Presidency of the Albanian Delegation at the Peace Conference.

When Serbia's provisional Chamber of Representatives met on August 4 the President, M. Pavlovitch, reported the resignation of the Cabinet.

Direct railway communication between Belgrade and the Serbian interior has now been re-established, and the direct route to Salonika is open.

Bands operating in the mountains of Montenegro, according to a Serbian statement, continue to receive reinforcements which have been armed and equipped abroad.

A formal protest has been made by the British Committee of the Indian National Congress against the employment of Indian troops as an army of occupation in Mesopotamia.

Talaat Pasha, the fugitive ex-Grand Vizier of Turkey, and the ex-Sheikh-ul-Islam are reported by the Berlin *National Zeitung* to have been seen at a Berlin railway station.

The court-martial on the first batch of those implicated in the disturbances in Malta on June 7 and 8 has just concluded. Out of 31 accused persons three were acquitted. The sentences on the remainder have not yet been promulgated.

The King received at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday Sheikh Abdullah bin Isa el Khalifah and Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah, son and grandson of the ruling Chief of Bahrein, Sheikh Sir Isa bin Ali el Khalifah. The visitors were presented by Colonel Sir James Dunlop-Smith, Political Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary for India. The visitors presented to his Majesty a sword, which has been in their family for generations, and which they offered as a memento of the recent victory of the Allies. The weapon was encased in a modern gold scabbard studded with pearls. His Majesty received his visitors most cordially, and presented them with a signed portrait of himself in a handsome silver frame.

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THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:

1, DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C. 2.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1919.

CENTRIFUGAL FORCES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The new nations which owe their existence to the war are beginning to find out, what so many individuals discover in everyday life, that the things worth having must be worked for. They have sacrificed much, it is true, in order to achieve national unity, only to learn that it is even harder to live up to an ideal than to die for it. So long as they were fighting for political union a single goal was in sight, and their line of action lay straight ahead; it is when this goal has been reached, and no other that can make an undivided appeal to the nation has been evolved, that the centrifugal force of individuality comes into play. Every nation is passing through the same experience; the unity that the war commanded is being shattered under the stress of peace conditions. In the case of the new countries the phenomenon is the more serious, as the disruptive tendency threatens to undo in part what the war and the long years of preparation brought into being. It is easy, however, to overestimate the danger, for its timely recognition should suffice to place the peoples concerned on their guard. Perhaps the most interesting experiment in national unity is provided by Yugoslavia, where the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes have to arrive at a *modus vivendi* which will satisfy the different characteristics of the three peoples. From the Cabinet crisis that has arisen in Belgrade it may be inferred that the process of finding a workable resultant between the military vigour of the Serbs and the political experience of the Croats and Slovenes is already in operation. Fortunately everything points to complete success, provided that no single unit strives to assert itself at the expense of the others. As far as any outside observer can judge, the admitted intellectual superiority of the Croats and Slovenes—the outcome of environment—is combined with a spirit of unquestioning loyalty, and the frankest recognition that the Serbs, in the achievement of national unity, have borne the heat and burden of the day. The latter, therefore, have no need to fear ultimate supersession in the new kingdom, if they recognise that their own particular contribution to the common stock—their vitality—will still be required as an essential part of the administration when in regard to political education and intellectuality they have caught up the other elements of the Yugoslav State. Conditions in regard to Roumanian unity are somewhat similar to those prevailing in Yugoslavia, with possibly this difference—that the Transylvanians may prove less tolerant than the Croats and Slovenes of the political backwardness of their compatriots. The Arab world presents a different problem. Here the doctrine of nationality was sown with a lavish hand, but the seed, as might, perhaps, have been expected in Arabia, fell upon a rock, and as soon as it was sprung up it withered away, because it lacked moisture. The earlier visions of a united Arab Empire have deserted even the most optimistic, and all that is left is the hope that no artificial lines of cleavage will be super-imposed upon the obstacles that already prevent any wide union of the Arabs.

The surest way of counteracting the centrifugal forces that are apt to jeopardise the existence of the young States is to avoid the least strain upon the principle of nationality. A wholehearted union of two, three, or four territories is far better than the incorporation at the outset into one State of six or more that do not all see entirely eye to eye with one another. The solidarity of the former body can safely be relied upon sooner or later to attract the lesser body or bodies to itself, whereas the premature inclusion of discordant elements will inevitably retard the development of the State, if it does not actually wreck its existence. If the wisdom of this course could have been appreciated in South-Eastern Europe, the Paris Conference would have found the path leading to the Near Eastern settlement much smoother. Sooner or later the rough-and-ready methods that have done duty in the past for determining the national aspirations of various Balkan communities will have to be abandoned. The League of Nations will offer, it is to be hoped, a tribunal always accessible to distressed nationalities, and no country will be able to practise injustice in perpetuity, even if the Paris Conference, through ignorance, has authorised it. On this principle the only sound solution of the Macedonian problem is to grant some measure of autonomy to the debatable territory, until it has had time to learn its own mind and to appreciate the precise significance of incorporation in one or other of its big neighbours. To prevent autonomous Macedonia during this period of probation from becoming the unhappy hunting-ground of rival propagandists, it will have to be placed under a foreign Governor, who will embody the guarantee of the League of Nations that the Macedonians are to be left to work out their own salvation. Any alternative to such a course must inevitably lead to permanent intrigue and unrest in the Balkans. For whether Macedonia be given wholly to Bulgaria or be split up between Serbia and Greece, the Government in power will be so eager to consolidate its authority in the territory that the result, as well as the process, is likely to be distasteful to the population. The disappointment felt by all the three neighbouring States will soon be compensated for by the removal of a bone of contention, if not a *casus belli*, between them.

CYPRUS.

A variety of circumstances has contributed to keep Cyprus prominently in the public eye since the Armistice. Although its future is not the concern of the Paris Conference, the possibility of the fate of the island being linked in some way or another with the Peace settlement in the Near East gained wide acceptance, with the result that several attempts have been made at a premature disclosure of the British Government's intentions with regard to this particular possession of the Crown. We have now Mr. Bonar Law's authority for the statement that the Government has not yet made up its mind on the subject, and that in any case the future of Cyprus will not be settled definitively before it has been referred to the House of Commons. It is only possible to reconcile this announcement with the confident assertions previously made in many quarters by supposing that with the lapse of time caused by the protracted negotiations in Paris the British Government or influential members of it have had occasion to modify their opinions regarding Cyprus. There would be nothing strange in such a course. No argument can be adduced for the retention of Cyprus by Great Britain or for its surrender to Greece which cannot be countered more or less satisfactorily. The contention that it was a simple question of justice in view of the preponderance of Greeks on the island fell to the ground after the Greek occupation of Smyrna and the incidents attending the advance of Greek troops inland. No assurances on the part of the Greek islanders can convince the British authorities that there will be no danger of bloodshed if Cyprus is handed over to Greece. A few Turkish hotheads in Smyrna caused the whole series of regrettable incidents that have followed the occupation.

The future of Cyprus, we may take it for granted, now depends on a number of factors which can hardly be known in their entirety to anyone outside the Inner Cabinet. One of these may well be the desirability of not adding to Greece's difficulties by giving her juris-

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diction over more territory than she can at present administer. It may be conceded that in the abstract the union of Cyprus with Greece is desired by both the Greeks of the island and those of Greece proper; but it does not necessarily follow that details of an administration could be elaborated that would satisfy both parties. When Greece has gained further experience in regard to Smyrna she may be in a better position to combine union with autonomy in the case of other territories as well. Certain it is that the Greek delegates from Cyprus who have now been many months in England, have made many friends in this country, and have created a good impression by the correct, if energetic, way in which they have pleaded their cause. If they have to return to Cyprus with the question still unsettled or settled against them, no blame attaches to them. Those whom they represent have every reason to be satisfied with, and proud of, the way they have discharged their mission, and may rest assured that, if the question had been really arguable, the delegates' presentation of their case would have won the day. When they return to the island and submit their report the people of this country will hope to receive from the Greeks of Cyprus some such message as this: "You have given us a fair hearing, and in that you have 'played the game.' We are naturally disappointed, but we intend to show you that we can 'play the game' too." After all, they can remind one another that a decade or so is a brief span in the lives of the island, of Greece and of Great Britain.

EX-KING CONSTANTINE.

WILL HE RETURN TO GREECE?

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

In view of its obvious sincerity, THE NEAR EAST *publishes the following communication, without, however, accepting responsibility for the premises or the deductions of the writer.*

Your studied impartiality and your obvious concern for the welfare of the Balkan Peninsula as a whole prompt me to unburden myself on a matter which has been exercising my mind for some time. At first sight the mere suggestion that ex-King Constantine should ever return to Greece seems too fanciful to be entertained; but as things are in this topsy-turvy world, I am by no means satisfied that the possibility does not merit some consideration.

Let me clear the ground by saying that I write as a profound admirer of M. Venizelos, and that I am convinced that, although the world and Greece will one day have to get along without him, it is undoubtedly to the interests of both that he should continue to direct the destinies of Greece as long as possible. On the other hand, I should be sorry to hold a brief for ex-King Constantine. His record during the war, to my mind, carries with it its own condemnation, and, if I were a Greek and studied my own feelings only, I should have no desire to see him back on the throne. I am, however, not a Greek, and it need not evoke surprise that a Greek and a non-Greek view of things, or a Greek and a non-Greek estimate of a man, should differ. What has surprised me is the discovery—to which, if I am not mistaken, the pages of THE NEAR EAST have in some measure, perhaps unknowingly, brought confirmation—that so many Greeks still feel attached to the person of the ex-King. A foreigner is hardly in a position to analyse this attachment. It may be due in part to the personal popularity of Constantine, or to the unquestioning loyalty that so often hedges a throne, on the principle that "the King can do no wrong," or, again, to personal bias against the present regime. Possibly it will be urged that the expression "so many Greeks" begs the whole question. I admit that it does. My remarks are prompted by the supposition, based on such evidence as I have been able to collect, that parties in Greece are much more evenly divided than most outsiders seem to realise. The information may be wrong. It may be all to the good if it is; in any case I believe that no harm will be done by the ventilation of a subject which must have presented itself to many minds both inside and outside Greece.

My premise is that the situation in Greece is far from satisfactory. If anybody in particular is to blame, it is the Paris Conference for the unconscionable delay in settling the conditions of peace in the Near East. Not a single Government of the Allied Great Powers has been able to view with complacency the indefinite absence of its actual Head, and it is no reflection on Greece that the prolonged stay of her Prime Minister in Paris—where his presence was, no doubt, absolutely essential from the Greek point of view—should have had an injurious effect on the situation in Greece. M. Venizelos has not yet returned to Athens, and it is impossible to say whether, as is hoped in so many quarters, his presence will be sufficient to set right everything that is at present at all wrong. If it should be, well and good. The alternative—and this brings me to my main point—is not pleasant to contemplate.

I cannot believe that it would be in the interests of Greece, or of the Balkans or of the Allies, that M. Venizelos should on his return be forced into the political wilderness. If such a thing were to happen, it would be, as I have already said, largely the fault of the Allies, who have detained him for such a long time in Paris. His Government has been deprived to a great extent of his wise direction; it has not been possible to bring his personal influence to bear upon numbers of "Constantinists," who would possibly have accepted the logic of events, if some consideration had not prevented them from associating themselves with the Venizelists. One need not attempt to inquire what form such considerations may have taken, for they may be anything from the labour unrest to a purely personal matter. Politics, it must be remembered, are practised with some determination in Greece, and possibilities loom large when fortune keeps your chief rival out of the country for months on end. If on the top of all this some disappointment is in store for Greece in regard to the Peace Terms, the position of M. Venizelos might be made quite difficult.

The problem seemingly resolves itself into one of numbers. If the Venizelist party occupies an unchallengeable position, there is no need for actual anxiety. On the other hand M. Venizelos is too good a patriot and too shrewd a statesman to wish to perpetuate a state of affairs that deprives the country of the support and intellect of a considerable section of the community. Can he by sheer force of character and by the success of his administration heal the breach that now divides the country into two camps?

Here is the crux of the situation, and my object in writing to you is to suggest that as we can hardly expect M. Venizelos to make the first move, the British and French Governments ought to inquire whether he requires their help in the matter. After two years he will be able to form an opinion as to his chances of bridging the gulf between his followers and the "Constantinists," or of carrying on the government of the country permanently without the latter. If he is confident, there is no need for heroic measures. If, on the other hand, M. Venizelos believes that the existing

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN

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division among Greeks is prejudicial to the future interests of the country, he may be glad of a solution, which could only be brought about by the Powers which removed Constantine from Greece. The attitude of Great Britain and France in such a matter would be quite straightforward. While the war was on they decided that King Constantine had it in his power to be a dangerous enemy, and they caused him to be removed. The war is over, and the source from which the King derived his inspiration and worse has been to all intents and purposes eliminated. His future (they might go on to argue) is mainly the concern of Greece, and if a sufficient number of people in that country decide that, all things considered, they would prefer bygones to be bygones, and to have King Constantine back, the two Powers must be content to insist upon such safeguards as will protect their interests or the interests of those on whose behalf they are entitled to act.

The chief difficulty would, of course, be the personal antagonism between ex-King Constantine and M. Venizelos. Could the two Powers trust him, as they could M. Venizelos, to "play the game" and honourably to bury the hatchet? Are the Venizelists satisfied that their treatment of the Constantinists has been so scrupulously correct that only the fate of the ex-monarch stands between their complete reconciliation and future co-operation for the good of their country? These and other questions would have to be considered. The sole object to be kept in view would be the maximum benefit for Greece, and that is a question which the Greeks must decide for themselves.

It may be, of course, that the existing state of affairs rests on a more settled foundation than is apparent, that the country accepts the situation and does not view the division into two camps so tragically as the foreigner may, and that even a disappointment in its Peace expectations, such as the withholding of the Thrace littoral, will not affect M. Venizelos's hold upon his countrymen. If so, no harm will have been done by taking stock of the position, facing the facts, and letting the strength of the existing position, and its superiority over all possible alternatives, be known to the whole world.

During 1918-19 595 persons sought advice, as against 426 in the year previous, at the Burma Pasteur Institute, while the number of persons bitten by animals of proved taint who submitted to full course of treatment fell from 183 in the previous year to 105 in the year under review. There were no deaths during the year from hydrophobia amongst those who submitted to treatment, whilst at least four deaths from this cause are reported to have occurred amongst thirty-four individuals who declined to undergo treatment.

TURKISH PRISONS.

A "Report on Conditions in Turkish Prisons" (Cmd. Paper 260), issued last week, gives a vivid and painful picture of conditions in those buildings as the Allies found them. "All hope abandon ye who enter here" might, indeed, have been inscribed over the entrance to any of these places of horror, for as one of the English officers who inspected them wrote: "To condemn a man to a long term of imprisonment here is to condemn him to a lingering death." How could it be otherwise when we read also: "No clothing is issued; facilities for washing are given once every three to four months, and the floors are cleaned about as often. The nominal food ration is 6 ozs. of inferior bread daily and 3 ozs. of bulgur, a native soup of coarse wheatmeal. The prison officials, however, often leave the prisoners without either the bread or soup for a day or more at a time"?

Here are some extracts from another report:—

"The squalor and filth of these dens, the indescribable stench arising from them, the gloom even at midday, relieved by tiny windows high up near the ceiling, and the total lack of ventilation, all these features formed a scene which I am not likely to forget. Of the miserable creatures lying or sitting about on the ground and floors, subsequent medical examination showed that between 80 and 90 per cent. were suffering from the mange (scabies). Quite a number have become consumptive through starvation and malnutrition, and many forms of illness, chiefly typhus and syphilis, were raging among them. There was not even a pretence of their being given any medical attention.

"Their diet, which consisted of a very coarse and indigestible bread, is augmented once daily by a cupful of so-called soup, so repulsive in taste and smell that even the prisoners in their ravenous hunger often turned away from it in disgust. I smelt it, and the stench was overpowering; to taste it was impossible.

"The sanitary arrangements, or rather the lack thereof, are best left to the imagination. The authorities seem to have no concern as to sending the sick prisoners at this place to any hospital. Lying behind the door of one of these noisome dens I saw a man in a peculiar attitude, and it only required a second glance to see that he was dying, probably from typhus. In a dark corner in the same room were four forms; two of these were just able to move, while the others showed no signs of life. It is not difficult to conjecture their condition."

What makes the Report still more painful is the fact that many of the victims were awaiting trial, and that some of them had been over two years in that state. The misery is a legacy of the past, and the Report bears testimony to the "energy and goodwill shown by the present Grand Vizier, Damad Ferid Pasha.—"An amnesty decree was passed on the 26th March, under which all those not yet tried and all those condemned for offences other than murder have been released, with the exception of those accused of participation in the deportations and massacres of Christians, and also war profiteers. Consequently the Constantinople central prisons, which contained over 450 prisoners a week ago, to-day [April 6, 1919] have only 107 inmates, and the Galata Serai prison, which had 67 inmates, now contains only 17 prisoners; moreover, although detailed reports have not yet reached me from the provinces, I have reason to believe that the same measures of liberation are being taken there."

The reports of the Inter-Allied Medical Mission, which are signed by Drs. F. G. Clemow, W. Hérrison Laparre and Zeri, are perhaps the most satisfactory items; because they show how much progress has been made under the instructions and supervision of the Allies. But in spite of improvements, it is obvious that much still remains to be done.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Reports I have heard to the effect that the Government was about to take steps to guarantee British exporters in trade with countries who neither have, nor are in a position to create, sufficient credits in this country are confirmed by a statement in *The Times* from its Parliamentary correspondent, who says:—"The Government have come to an important decision affecting our trading relations with the new States which have been set up on the Continent of Europe and with parts of Russia. They have decided to set aside £25,000,000 as a guarantee to British exporters against loss in their trading operations with these lands, which at the moment have neither a satisfactory currency nor enough goods to exchange for British exports to them."

***

I assume that the scope of the Government's guarantee will be found to be much wider than is indicated in this announcement, and that it will cover trade with the Near East as a whole. Anything short of that would be unsatisfactory, while were the guarantee confined to the regions mentioned, Turkey—where the exchange question is particularly difficult—would be omitted altogether, and the importance of Turkey as a market for British goods needs no emphasis. As a matter of fact, the question of the establishment of Turkish credits in this country has figured most prominently in the representations made regarding the effect of the exchange difficulties on trade with the Near East.

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The reasons why this guarantee was absolutely essential if the openings for British trade in the Near East are to be taken full advantage of may be briefly stated. The calls on British manufacturers in all parts of the world are immense, and at this time, of all times, they are not willing to tie their money up indefinitely in the development of trade where they consider, in view of the exchange rates, that an undue element of risk is attached. The guarantee gives them the certainty that if they need payment before they could receive it in normal circumstances, they will be able to get it. In all probability the Government will never be called upon under the scheme, but it gives just that sense of security that was needed, and the result will be that trade with the Near East will now go rapidly ahead provided merchants do their part.

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I would urge British firms interested in trade with Greece to become members of the British Chamber of Commerce for Greece, which, founded at Athens just over a year ago, is now in a position to give them all the advice and assistance they require in regard to trade matters. In view of the Chamber's recent establishment a few particulars concerning it may not be out of place. It consists of two sections: the All-British section and British Club—which embraces British firms and institutions trading in Greece and British firms in the United Kingdom—and the Greek section, which consists of the principal Greek firms who are associate members of the Chamber. Associate membership does not include the right to use the British Club, and associate members are not eligible to serve on the committee. The subscription for British firms is £1 per annum, which entitles members or their representatives when travelling in Greece to the use of the British Club and Chamber of Commerce without further charge. It goes without saying that representatives of British firms will find it a great convenience to be able to use the reading and social rooms of the club when in Athens, and to be able to receive their clients under comfortable conditions.

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Of the ways in which the Chamber of Commerce will pursue its objects of furthering British commercial and other interests, it may be mentioned that all possible information will be supplied to British manufacturers regarding the requirements of the various markets in Greece, local conditions, tariffs, etc., so as to enable them to market their goods with the greatest facility. It will further supply information regarding the commercial standing of Greek firms, will put Greek consumers in touch with the markets of supply, and British firms in touch with suitable people in Greece to handle their lines. A general interest will be taken in all matters affecting British commercial, shipping, and manufacturing interests, and all questions and conditions affecting British trade will be reported on. Finally, assistance will be given to Greek merchants in placing their orders in the United Kingdom. The Chamber, I would point out, is anxious to form a library of catalogues of British manufacturers and exporters, which will be available for reference by Greek merchants, and will welcome and display all catalogues which British firms may care to forward.

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I note with interest that Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland has accepted the invitation of the Federation of British Industries to become a member of its overseas committee. Sir Arthur accomplished sterling work as head of the Department of Overseas Trade, and it is very satisfactory to learn that he will thus be continuing his efforts on behalf of the trade of the country.

***

I may point out that of the belligerent States in the Near East Bulgaria is in a specially satisfactory position at the present time. In the spring there was some doubt whether the harvest would be the expected success on account of weather conditions; as a matter of fact, it has come well up to expectations, and Bulgaria is so fortunate as to be able to export as much of her produce as before the war.

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The Sudan has suffered from high prices no less than other regions, and this has led to an interesting development there in the formation at Khartoum of the Sudan Co-operative Society, Ltd., which will aim at promoting through co-operation the welfare of its members. All pensioners, salaried employees, and persons engaged in professional work in the Sudan are eligible for membership—in other words, those sections of the community which invariably suffer most from high prices. The progress of the society will be watched with interest in this country.

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The report of the East Indian Coal Company, which has just been issued, shows a further marked increase in earnings in the half-year ended April 30. The net profits amounted to £16,800, as against £10,400 for the corresponding period of the previous year, and the final dividend of 12 per cent. makes the return for the twelve months 21 per cent., as against 17 per cent. for 1917-18. The influenza epidemic affected the output for the first half of the year, but there was a striking increase in the second half, and the figures for the year were 736,900 tons, as against 698,100 tons.

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Up to the present the Indian Currency Commission, the president of which is Sir H. Babington Smith, has taken evidence on fifteen days. Sir Lionel Abrahams, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for India, and Mr. Gubbay, a member of the committee, have been the official witnesses, while evidence has also been given by Sir William Meyer and Sir David Barbour. The Exchange Banks Association have been represented by Mr. Preston, of the Chartered Bank, and Mr. Chalmers, of the National Bank of India, while Sir B. Cokayne, Governor of the Bank of England, and Mr. F. T. Rowlatt, Governor of the National Bank of Egypt, have also been examined. Among the other witnesses have been Mr. J. M. Keynes, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, a member of Mr. Chamberlain's Commission of 1913-14: Sir Edward Rosling, on behalf of the Ceylon Association; Mr. F. I. Kent, of the Federal Reserve Board of the United States; and Mr. M. de P. Webb. The committee has now adjourned for a brief interval pending the arrival of further witnesses from India.

COMMENTATOR.

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Constantinople Business Letter

Rise in Turkish Paper.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, July 12.

On Monday, July 7, Major Kennard, Trade Commissioner for the Levant of the Federation of British Industries, addressed a well-attended meeting at the British Chamber of Commerce. After giving a short account of the origin and development of the F.B.I., Major Kennard went on to describe the preparations which British manufacturers had been making, even during the war, for the purpose of pushing British commerce overseas the moment hostilities ceased, and he asserted that not only could British manufacturers supply everything their old customers had been in the habit of buying from them in the past, but could also supply them with those goods which Germany and Austria formerly supplied. After touching upon the Athens Exhibition and the co-operation between the British Government and the F.B.I., Major Kennard expressed his opinion that the majority of trades required a middleman, and admitted that, in the past, British manufacturers had so far neglected the Near Eastern market that there had been serious danger of losing it altogether. With regard to business and national interests he insisted upon the necessity of combining the two, and pointed out that such a combination was not only possible but profitable.

In reply to questions, Major Kennard made the important statement that the Marconi Company are taking active steps towards getting wireless stations erected as quickly as possible in various parts of the Near East, which, of course, would help considerably to relieve the present congestion of telegraphic communications.

French Aeroplane Post.

On July 9 the French, in order to facilitate the civil postal service between Constantinople and France, inaugurated a bi-weekly postal service by aeroplane between Constantinople and Bucharest, whence the Orient Express takes the mails direct to Paris. A rapid censorship has been specially devised, and letters get through to Paris in six days. Later on, when the aeroplane service is extended direct to Agram, letters will get to Paris in four days. The weight of letters is limited to 50 grammes and there is an extra charge of one franc per letter. Moreover, it is hoped that this is only the beginning of a network of aerial postal services embracing the Balkans and Western Asia.

While congratulating the French upon their energy and enterprise, we may be perhaps permitted to ask what *we* are doing to facilitate the postal communications between Constantinople and England. Letters take at least fifteen days at present, and that is a severe handicap in business. We have the planes and we have the men. If the French find it worth while, they doubtless have reasons which are not far to seek.

The Strike of Bank Employees.

On June 10 the management of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, acting in the name of all the banks whose employees are on strike, with the exception of the Banca Commerciale Italiana, which preferred to reserve its liberty of action, informed a delegation of the Bank Employees' Federation that according to a communication received from Paris, the banks in question cannot recognise the Federation. On the 12th the employees of the Imperial Ottoman Bank returned to their posts, but the other strikers are still out, although they also will probably return to work very soon. The leader of the strike, who had been arrested, has not yet been released, and has been twice interrogated. However just the claims of the employees may be, we cannot help feeling that they made a big mistake in striking without giving the managers time to get a reply from headquarters. And although the strike leaders strenuously deny all Bolshevist ideas, the fact remains that the strike bears a good deal of resemblance to the "lightning" methods of the syndicalists. But the little Constantinople bank clerk is not the sort of man to be able to carry through schemes of that kind, and the strikers will be well advised to get back to work and study the first half of the old maxim "Suaviter in modo, fortiter in re," before they strike again.

The Customs.

The Entente Powers have made certain representations to the Turkish Government with a view to the restoration of the pre-war customs tariff of 8 per cent. and 12 per cent., but so far the matter has not yet been settled, as the Turks are too hard up for money to give way if they can possibly help it.

July 20.

The outstanding event of the past week has been the sudden and rapid rise in the value of Turkish paper money. In a few days the English £1 Treasury note dropped from 380 to 328 piastres. Other foreign paper money has dropped in like proportion. The chief reason for this sudden change seems to be the ratification by the Germans of the Peace Treaty, which contains clauses whereby the German Government will be obliged to fulfil its financial engagements to the letter. According to these clauses, the German Government is obliged to remit to the Allies as soon as each issue expires, the value in gold of the Treasury Bonds at the Public Debt, deposited as security for the various emissions of paper money since 1914. This does not mean that the Turkish paper will be redeemed necessarily for Turkish gold. The Allies are obliged to think of reinforcing their own reserves of gold first. In all probability the Turkish paper will be redeemed with French francs at the rate of 22.725 to the £ Turkish, and sterling at the rate of 110 piastres. Thus, Turkey becomes a debtor to the Entente, and the question arises as to how she will pay. Here two points occur:—Is it certain that all the paper falling due at a certain date will actually be presented for redemption once the Entente Powers have assumed payment? And is the 154 millions in circulation more or less than is necessary for the needs of the population? It is quite certain that the 51 millions of gold and silver money in circulation before the war will not reappear for some time, as there will for a long time be a premium on gold in every country in the world. In any case, the heavy difference in the prices of everything would render it impossible for all the gold and silver money formerly in circulation to suffice for present-day needs. Probably if only half the money now in circulation were withdrawn there would be a crisis, and it is considered that a simple declaration on the part of the responsible Powers that the paper will be redeemed in francs and sterling will be sufficient to calm the public. Meanwhile the main thing is to restore as quickly as possible the shattered industries of the country, so that there may be a more favourable adjustment of the balance of trade.

Foolish Methods of Business.

Last week I came across an almost incredible instance of carelessness on the part of a British firm of crockery manufacturers. They sent their price list to a firm of commission agents, and informed the agents that the terms of business were cash with order. The agent collected orders for about £1,000 and got cheques for that amount. To the agents' astonishment and annoyance, they received a reply from the manufacturers returning the cheques, and stating that they could not deliver until next year! Why could they not have said so at first? Comment is needless.

The Customs Tariff.

In my last letter I mentioned that the Allied Powers had approached the Turkish Government with regard to the re-establishment of the pre-war tariff of 12 per cent. ad valorem. It appears that the matter has been dropped for the time being. The present system is that of payment of dues according to weight, except in the case of a few articles, which pay in most cases 25 per cent. on the value. It is rather interesting to learn that in most cases the system is all to the advantage of the importer, for the rates were arranged during the war to suit the convenience of the Germans, and low-priced German stuff had to be lightly taxed under the payment by weight system. The consequence is that now that prices are very much higher the actual percentage ad valorem works out to a much lower figure than that arranged with the Ottoman Government before the war, when the tariffs were last revised. The Government prefers the present system because it leaves less room for speculation.

INDIAN FLOSS FOR LIFEBELTS.

During the war the proper provision of life-belts and other life-saving appliances on ships became of vital importance owing to the submarine menace. One of the most widely used appliances was a life-jacket stuffed with "kapok" or floss. This floss has very great buoyancy, a jacket containing 24 oz. of the fibre being capable of supporting an adult in the water.

According to the existing official regulations the only kapok that may be used for this purpose is Java kapok, and consists of the long hairs surrounding the seeds of a tree which occurs abundantly in the Dutch East Indies.

A similar material is, however, obtainable from India, but from a different tree, and this Indian floss cannot under the existing regulations be used for life-jackets. The results of trials made at the Imperial Institute, details of which are given in the current number of the "Bulletin" of the Imperial Institute, have shown that the Indian floss can fully satisfy all the requirements as regards buoyancy and freedom from water-logging. It is, therefore, suggested that the use of Indian kapok should be officially permitted for life-jackets. Inquiries made by the Imperial Institute showed that kapok, equal in quality to that used in the trials, is available in India in large quantities.

The India Committee of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce has been in correspondence with the Delhi Piece Goods Association respecting a few changes recently made in the printed text of the piece goods contract agreed upon three years ago—changes which were unauthorised so far as the Manchester Chamber were concerned. On examination the modifications proved not to be very important, and the India Committee of the Chamber have signified their assent.

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BRITISH TRADE WITH SERBIA

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Belgrade, July 28.

Gratification at the interest shown by Great Britain in their affairs is felt by the Serbians, especially among that large proportion of the nation who spent three years of exile in Macedonia, and learnt to know the British Army. The *Trgovinski Glasnik*, the leading commercial newspaper in Belgrade, has given prominence to an interview which their commercial representative in London, Mr. Chedomil Miyatovich, the distinguished historian, recently had with the Minister of Commerce (*sic.*) in London. The latter stated: "I authorise you formally to inform your Legation and everybody in Serbia that the English Government and all the English people is filled with sympathy for the Serbian people, and we are determined to show our sympathy in a practical way. We are considering the importance of the Yugoslav market, and are now working out a plan for the development of commercial relations between your country and ours. You may tell everybody freely that the English Government will do its full share in this task."

The Economic Mission.

The Economic Mission which has been studying every side of Serbian commerce and industry for the past five months, has nearly completed its task, and its report is awaited with considerable interest by both sides, for all Serbs feel that much depends upon their future relations with Great Britain, which can only remain firm and friendly if commercial intercourse is encouraged to develop freely. At the same time, British manufacturers and merchants must not wait for the report, but must set to work at once, and vigorously too, for competition is already in the field, which cannot remain open indefinitely, and they must be prepared to adapt themselves and their customs to a certain extent to the wishes and ideas of a people who are as conservative as themselves. The Serbs have been nursed on German methods, and to-day expect their new friends to maintain the good side of those methods. The first thing to do is to send out goods to be sold on the spot; it is no good merely sending catalogues, more particularly if they are in English, which not one Serb in a thousand can understand, with prices and measurements in the English system, which not one Serb in a million can understand; nor is it any use quoting them prices f.o.b. British ports. All that is waste of time. Serbs, like many other peoples, especially east of Vienna, do not like buying from catalogues, but like to see and handle the goods, or at least samples. This is apart from all question of credit and finance, for the Serbs realise as well as anybody else how the present exchange is stifling commerce, and how no credit can be given under prevailing conditions.

Competition.

Meanwhile competition is developing. The Americans are busy, the early arrival of a large shipment of American clothes of all kinds is announced, and the Ministry of Food and Reconstruction have stated that these will be sold under control to ensure the lowest possible prices, for the people are in need. French, Swiss, and even Italian competitors are at work, and Czecho-slovaks as well, and it will not be long before the enemy are at work, although there is less to be feared from this quarter, for the Serbs have long memories, to say nothing of the material difficulties that enemy competition will labour under.

The Serbian papers announce that the Ministry of Food and Reconstruction is negotiating a commercial treaty with Greece, Roumania, and Great Britain. The object of the treaty with Great Britain is to assure the indemnification against war losses by British subjects in Serbia and the recovery of pre-war debts, and the protection of Serbia's interests within the British sphere of influence.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The traffic returns of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended July 10 amounted to £E9,474, making the total for the year £E47,851. The figures for the corresponding period of 1918 were £E6,655 and £E72,939.

ADEN SHIPPING CONDITIONS

In a recent American consular report it is pointed out that shipments may now be made direct from Aden to the United States, or vice versa. The Clan, Ellerman, and Bucknall joint service has recently restored its American and Indian line of direct steamers between the United States and India. The service is intended to be fortnightly, and the steamers both ways will generally call at Aden if cargo is offered. Since the beginning of the year Aden has been receiving an efficient shipping service to the United States by British and Italian steamers with trans-shipment of cargo in Europe. A greater share than usual of the shipments invoiced at this consulate have gone by Italian steamers via Italy. The year opened with freights still very high, the rate for skins being a little more than £20 (depending upon exchange) per measurement ton to New York. The last direct steamer to the United States, which called at Aden during the present month, took cargo at the rate of about £7 8s. (converting the rupee at its present high exchange rate) per ton of 50 cubic feet.

Importance of Aden.

As Aden is the principal collecting and distributing point for trade in the Red Sea district, its shipping connections with Red Sea ports and places which are not ports of call for large and main line steamers are also important. There has been an improvement in this respect, and there is now very little delay in getting shipments between Aden and these subordinate or smaller Red Sea ports and places. There is as yet only a fortnightly service between Jibouti and Aden, but it is probable that in the near future the normal weekly service will be reopened, unless there should be a further fall in rates.

The demand for space between Aden and Bombay on the one end and between Aden and Egypt on the other is also being well met, and the rates have also been reduced. The rate from Bombay to Aden at the beginning of the year was £4 12s. per measurement ton; it is now £3 2s. 6d. The rate from Aden to Suez at the beginning of the year was £4 16s. per measurement ton; it is now £2 19s.

The service of the Compania Trasatlantica (Spanish) between Spain and the Philippine Islands, the steamers of which called often at Aden, has not yet been restored, but an occasional small steamer of Philippine registry, flying the American flag, calls in at Aden to or from Spain and the Philippines.

The Aden Port Trust benefits considerably from the return to normal shipping conditions and the way will probably soon be open to several improvements in the port shipping facilities. While there was no considerable reduction in the number of ships calling at Aden during the war, an increasing number were operated by the Government, and did not pay the harbour and other dues paid by ships operated under private ownership. The Port Trust revenue accordingly decreased considerably, and only the absolutely necessary upkeep of the port facilities could be carried on.

SERBIAN RAILWAYS RUNNING.

Reuter's Belgrade correspondent states that the Serbian Press Bureau has issued the following statement:—"Direct railway communication between Belgrade and the interior, which had been broken off since the departure of the enemy, was re-established on Sunday. The first train to Nish left Belgrade at 7.0 a.m., and the first train from Nish arrived here at night. The direct route between Belgrade, Nish, Salonika and Athens is now open."

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ADEN'S TRADE IN 1917-18.

Decreased Imports and Exports.

The Report on the Trade and Navigation of Aden for 1917-18 shows that there was a decrease in the total trade of the port for the year of £1,920,746. Foreign trade decreased from £7,079,026 to £5,400,612—merchandise by £1,395,007 and treasure by £283,337. Indian trade decreased from £2,833,537 to £2,600,924 — merchandise by £146,905 and treasure by £85,708. Land trade decreased from £139,724 to £130,005. Government Stores and Government treasure amounted to (approximately) £409,071, as against £140,123 the year before, showing an increase of £268,948. These figures cannot be considered as even approximately correct, and are far below the actuals. Although the number of packages handled is furnished, the value and other details are lacking.

The principal decreases in the general trade were in coal, cotton piece-goods, chemicals, dates, drugs and medicines, hides and skins raw, gums and resins, grain and pulse, ivory unmanufactured, metals, motor cars and parts, pearls, provisions, paper and pasteboard, sugar, soap, shells, tea and treasure. The chief increases are in respect of coffee, cotton twist and yarn, dyeing and tanning materials, jute bags, wax, articles per post, salt, seeds, spices and tobacco. The last four items, it may be noted, decreased in quantity, but increased in value.

Imports.

The sea-borne trade amounted to £8,001,536, as compared with £9,912,563 the previous year, a decrease of £1,911,027, or 19.28 per cent. Imports of foreign merchandise amounted to £1,921,441, as against £2,550,673, a decrease of £629,232, or 24.66 per cent. Imports of Indian merchandise decreased from £2,309,933 to £2,143,317, or by £166,616, or 7.21 per cent. Exports of foreign merchandise amounted to £3,117,127, as against £3,882,972, showing a decrease of £765,845, or 19.72 per cent. Exports of Indian merchandise increased from £292,337, to £312,046, or by £19,711, or 6.70 per cent. Imports of foreign treasure decreased in gold by £17,164 and in silver by £83,597. Exports of foreign treasure decreased in gold by £6,831 and in silver by £175,763. Imports of Indian treasure decreased in gold by £400, but increased in silver by £89. Exports of Indian treasure decreased in gold by £101,280, but increased in silver by £15,885.

Exports.

The total value of the export sea-borne trade of the port, exclusive of treasure, amounted to £3,429,175, as compared with £4,175,309 the year before, showing a decrease of £746,134. Treasure decreased by £267,991, in gold by £108,111, and in silver by £159,880. The total sea-borne trade, excluding treasure, amounted to £7,493,933.

The relative positions of the countries compared with the previous year are the same, but every group exhibits a decrease, and the share of the United States of America again decreased considerably.

The British Empire's total was £4,323,590, of which India's share was £2,456,750.

There was a great decrease in imports from and exports to the United Kingdom, and British Somaliland; imports from India and exports to Suakin. There was a large increase in exports to Egypt. Europe's total decreased from £193,280 to £121,440, chiefly in trade with Italy and France. The total for Africa decreased from £2,014,800 to £1,941,110, due principally to exports to Massowah, and the import and export trade with independent Somali ports. Trade with Jibouti decreased in imports but increased in exports. Asia's total decreased from £1,094,760 to £929,100, chiefly in imports from Turkey, imports and exports from Japan and the Red Sea ports and Arabian Gulf ports, and imports from Persia. As regards the United States of America, there was again a large decrease in imports of grey piece-goods, soap, etc., and in exports of coffee and skins, raw particularly.

Sudan imports in May amounted to £E416,316 and the exports to £E143,175.

According to *Misr*, the King of the Hejaz has instructed his Cairo agent to purchase agricultural lands for him in Egypt.

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CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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Engineering Notes.

American Factories in Greece.

Commenting on the machinery requirements of Greece, a leading technical contemporary states that Greece offers a good market for tractors of the light type, and also for British threshing machinery. Seeders are wanted in big quantities, and harvesting machinery of a specially light type. Makers of oil engines of all grades should also find the market very profitable. It asserts that several of the best-known British firms are on the spot, an example to be copied; and referring to the fact that the Germans sedulously overran the country with their travellers before the war, and will doubtless do so again, remarks that it has to be noted that there is a rumour of certain American houses commencing manufacture in Greece itself. This, with another previous rumour that American engineering firms are contemplating the establishment of engineering factories for the construction and repairing of agricultural machinery in Poland, and in one or two Scandinavian places for the same purpose, give an idea of the earnestness with which Americans work in carrying out their schemes for the capture of European markets.

Frozen and Chilled Meat.

Concluding the previous notes on British refrigerating plants for ships in the Eastern Mediterranean and farther East, an efficient and simple system may be mentioned. For the importation of frozen and chilled meat the size and type of the refrigerating machines depend on the quantity of meat to be carried, dimensions of holds of ships, length of voyage, etc. For maintaining the holds at 15 degrees F. for frozen meat, or 30 degrees for chilled meat, the brine system has proved the most advantageous. The brine, cooled by the machine in the engine room, is circulated by a small pump through iron pipes which are fixed on the underside of the deck over the hold or insulated space. The presence of the cold brine pipes at the top of each hold sets up a constant circulation of air; for as the air in contact with the pipes becomes colder, and consequently heavier, it descends, and is replaced by less cold air, which is cooled in turn. The pipes also have the effect of producing very dry cold air, any moisture in the air being condensed upon them, but not to such an extent as to impair their cooling efficiency. The large quantity of cold brine in the holds acts as a storage of "cold," thus maintaining the holds at a low temperature for a considerable period after the machine is stopped. In most cases it is, therefore, necessary to run the machine for only a few hours daily. For the importation of butter, some kinds of fruits, etc., where the goods require to be rapidly chilled when placed in the insulated holds of the ship, air coolers and fans are substituted by which the moisture abstracted from the goods during the process of chilling is rapidly drawn off. The air coolers consist of coils of pipes through which the carbonic anhydride is circulated, the air passing over these pipes being thus cooled and passing around the goods in the insulated holds.

Serbia's Mineral Wealth.

The article which recently appeared in the *Board of Trade Journal* under the title "Devastated Serbia," apart from its industrial bearing, makes really pathetic reading. Serbia, pre-eminently an agricultural country, is now gathering strength to "start afresh" after her experiences of modern vandalism which she bore with such fortitude. Fortunately, the bulk of her regions is excellent for grain production, fruit growing, and cattle rearing; and the soil scientifically cultivated could be made to render some tenfold what it supplied during the pre-war period. Co-operative systems of farming with collective peasant ownership were largely developed in Serbia before the other Balkan States thought of such systems; and had she been free from the tyranny of Austria she might have been another Switzerland in South-Eastern Europe. Apart from her great agricultural potentialities, Serbia has mineral wealth of immense value, which with a peaceful future assured may soon turn the country into a desirable field for European enterprise and investment.

Mineral Wealth.—It is the opinion of many independent mining experts, who in the course of years have visited various districts of Serbia, that beneath her rich soil treasures of great wealth are waiting to be unearthed. Silver, copper, lead, antimony, gold, iron, coal, and other known minerals are reported to have been found in the mountainous regions of South Serbia, and this has often been verified by consular reports from Uskub, Monastir and Salonika. But, of course, the absolute insecurity, the lack of roads, railways, and communications, and the well-known methods of the Turkish Government did not encourage those holding concessions to make any serious attempts at exploitation. Serbia is especially rich in copper, but before the recent Austro-German invasion only two mining companies were actually working. One of these was the French Companie des Mines de Bor. The company has extensive works, and since 1906 large quantities of copper have been produced. The refined metal averaged 99.62 per cent. of copper, and yielded from 24 to 30 gr. of gold and from 96 to 120 gr. of silver per ton. The output rose from 1,220 tons in the first year of working to 7,600 tons in the year 1912-13. It was stated that a profit amounting to three-fifths of the share capital was made annually in the last two years before the war. The company's principal mine is that of Cuka-Dulkan. A railway from the mines to the Danube port of Radujevatz was planned when the war broke out. The works and plant were badly wrecked by the Serbians in their retreat. Bor owes its rise to the excellent quality of its ores, which have a very large copper content. The ores separated by hand contain 6 per cent. of copper, and in deposits are very similar to those of Butte in Montana.

Copper.—Pyrites.—Antimony. Another important Serbian copper mine is that of Majdanpek, the history of which is closely interwoven with the political history of Serbia. From 1848 to 1903 the mines were worked spasmodically, the output being unimportant; but in the last-named year they were reopened on modern lines, and in 1904 the copper output of Serbia, which in 1901 amounted to 59 tons, increased to 1,164 tons. The mines of Majdanpek are of no great value so far as their copper yield is concerned. They are chiefly noted for their iron ore and pyrites. In West Serbia, in the Polye district, and near Rebelj and Wisch there are also copper ore deposits. In 1903, 3,820 tons of copper ore were mined at Wisch, out of which 151 tons of black copper were produced. There are many other copper, iron and pyrites mines in the country which have not yet been properly opened.

Antimony is found in various parts of Serbia, notably in the Podrinje Hills in the west, near Kostajnik, as well as in the mines of Zajald, which have been exploited by a French company since 1898. The antimony contents of the ore is 54 to 63 per cent. In 1910 the output of antimony was 326 tons, of a value of 1,888,000 francs. It will be obvious, therefore, that the potentialities of Serbia's mineral resources are as important as her agricultural potentialities.

AMERICAN MOTORS FOR CYPRUS.

Our Cyprus correspondent writes:—Although the state of the main roads is by no means what it should be between the district towns and up to Troodos, the public is invited to buy motors. An agent of the Ford Motor Company, of New York, advertises cars at moderate prices, the latest touring five-seater model being offered at £220, delivered in Cyprus. This affords another instance of American enterprise in the Near East.

RESOURCES OF SERBIA.

Mr. Dobra Zebitch, Serbian Consul for Belgium, Mr. Boguljub D. Jevtic, Secretary to the Serbian Legation, and Mr. R. P. C. Yseboot, visited Cardiff recently, and were entertained at luncheon on July 25 by the Lord Mayor, Mr. A. C. Kirk. Replying to the toast of "The King of Serbia," proposed by the Lord Mayor, Mr. Zebitch pointed out the great possibilities of trade between Serbia and the United Kingdom, and laid stress on the immense undeveloped resources of his country, which had been increased about three times in area and population since the fateful year 1914. About a third of the area was covered with timber, and the whole country contained minerals of all descriptions, which were almost completely undeveloped.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended July 19 amounted to £7,322.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

London Produce Report.

Currants.

The market position is rather difficult at present. In the three months up to the end of July prices have risen from 65s. to 85s. The crop of currants being small—120,000 tons is the estimate—and Central Europe now being free to import, prices may be driven to a much higher level. In view of this contingency, the Food Controller is contemplating the resumption of the control of currants as well as of other dried fruit, in regard to which much the same factors hold good. Stocks here are large, but the distribution for the last six months has been enormous, because manufacturers, grocers, and confectioners have had to lay in stock for the simple reason that for the last two years very few currants have been imported into the country.

Sultanas.

A limited supply is available, and prohibitive prices prevail. The Smyrna sultana crop is estimated at only 20,000 tons, and it may prove less, judging by some reports, and the prospects as to supplies are very poor, because there will be a large demand from Holland and the Scandinavian countries as well as from Central Europe.

Coffee.

Imports in June amounted to 103,000 cwt., as against 175,000 cwt. in May, making the total imports for the half-year 686,000 cwt. Stocks in hand are in the neighbourhood of a million cwt. The demand has been good, and the market has favoured importers. Transactions for East Indian have taken place at 142s. 6d., 147s. 6d., and 143s., and for Costa Rica in the neighbourhood of 150s. The futures market has been fairly steady. Quotations for Brazilian for December delivery have been about 5s. less than the prices for coffee required within a few weeks. It is expected that good prices will be realised at this month's sales.

Sugar.

There has been a strong demand for raw sugar both for export and manufacture, particularly the latter, and prices have shown an advancing tendency. The market for refined has been steady. Molasses and all forms of treacle have been in strong request. Gluten feed and honey have also been in demand.

Seeds.

The demand for linseed has been greater than the supply, and the price has reached 55s. per cwt. Sales have been transacted for September between 48s. and 55s. Offerings of rape-seed have been practically limited to Indian varieties. Latest transactions have included Guzerat, 4s.; fine Toria, 49s.; bold Ferozepur, 47s. to 47s. 3d.; and brown Cawnpore, 39s. The cotton-seed market has been fairly active.

Oilcakes, etc.

Oils are making remarkable prices. Olive oil has been done at £145 per ton, a price which has also been reached by the finest American cotton-seed oil. Linseed oil has made £125 per ton, and soya bean oil £90. Linseed oil has been quoted at £115 for September and £112 for October. The great demand for margarine is apparently the underlying cause for the run on seed oils.

Linseed cake has realised 510s. per ton, soya bean cake 490s., coconut cake 390s., and ground nut cake, which is very scarce, 440s.

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Sudan Produce.

The following further particulars are taken from the C.E.B. report for May:—

Dura.

White Nile Province.—Dura has been very scanty in these markets, and has had to be rationed at most places; but there has been no actual lack. On May 7 the fixed price of the local ardeb of 384 rottles of Feterina dura was raised from P.T.192 to P.T.228 in the hope of attracting more dura to the markets. This represents, per ardeb of 300 rottles, an increase of 28 P.T. above last month's price. Five hundred tons of dura imported by Government are expected shortly, and should relieve the situation. In the Blue Nile Province 510 tons of Kantara dura arrived at Medani at the beginning of the month, and is stored in the Morada. This resulted in more dura being brought into Moradas. In the Sennar Province plenty of dura is coming in.

Wheat.

Haifa Province.—The wheat crop in the Southern Districts is disappointing.

Sesame.

Kordofan Province.—99 ardebs of sesame were sold in El Obeid market during the month, at an average price of £E4,800 per ardeb of 330 rottles.

Livestock.

Red Sea Province.—23 cattle and 7,499 sheep were exported during the month. Grazing, on the whole, is considerably better than last year. Some rain fell in Khor Anuit District during the latter half of the month. In the Sennar Province 44 head of cattle were imported, via Kurmuk, from Abyssinia.

NEW COMPANIES.

British-Palestinian Trading.

The British-Palestinian Trading Company, Ltd., was registered on July 18 as a private company, with a capital of £40,000 in £1 shares. The objects are to carry on in England, Palestine, and elsewhere the business of manufacturers, importers, and exporters of woollens, cottons, silks, clothing, boots, furniture, crockery, household fittings and utensils, etc. Subscribers (one share each):—E. Shock, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4, accountant; A. C. Ixer, 8, Ravensbourne Crescent, Manwood Road, Brockley, S.E.4. Subscribers to appoint the first directors.

Algiers Coaling.

Algiers Coaling Company, Limited. was registered on July 11 as a private company with a capital of £100 in £1 shares. Objects as indicated by the title. Registered Office, 66, Mark Lane, E.C.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

Carolina Tea of Ceylon.—Interim dividend of 3 per cent., less tax, on ordinary shares for half-year, payable August 9.

Transfer books of the Doom Dooma Tea Company are closed until August 21. Warrants for dividend will be posted on August 20, and will be payable on August 21.

Nestor Gianaclis.—The Bank of Athens announces that Coupon No. 16, due August 1, will be paid on presentation at the London offices of the bank, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended July 24 were:—Cattle markets, £388; general markets, £480; total, £868; total for year, £34,083. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918 ended July 25 were:—Cattle markets, £319; general markets, £452; total, £771; total for year, £30,025.

Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin.—The one hundred and twenty-third half-yearly ordinary general meeting will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2, on September 30 at noon.

The British India trade returns for June show that the imports have decreased by £1,740,000 and that the exports have increased by £60,000 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Certain events in the market during the past week have caused an unsettled feeling to prevail, and business shows a falling off. The holiday season of the year is in full swing, and owing to the stoppages in Lancashire towns production is very irregular. Violent fluctuations have occurred in American cotton quotations in New York and Liverpool. After a rise in values as a result of the unfavourable Government report there has been a slump, and at the time of writing the course of values is very uncertain. Most advices relating to the Egyptian growth are rather more favourable, but the crop is still late. The yield for the past season is given as 4,826,000 cantars, against 6,315,800 cantars in the previous year. Prices advanced on control coming to an end, but since then ups and downs have been experienced. The spot rate for fully good fair Sakellaridis has been put up from 27.09d. to 31d. per lb. Egyptian yarns are distinctly dearer on the week, and although the undercurrent of demand remains healthy, business has been checked. Producers are in a very strong position, and can afford to be independent. In cloth for Egypt a fair amount of inquiry has been dealt with, but trading has been less active. Healthy clearances, however, are reported in Cairo, and there is nothing to complain about as to the way in which remittances are being received from the other side. The outlets of the Levant are still in need of goods. India has not given very much support. Fewer orders have been booked for China. Not much has been heard of activity for South America. It has been difficult to secure concessions in price from manufacturers. American yarns for home use have been more irregular in quotation, and it has been possible to purchase at rather lower figures than a week ago, but trade has been limited. Export yarns continue in encouraging request. Bigger supplies are wanted by the Levant, but delivery difficulties are not easily overcome. A substantial business continues to be done for Holland.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated July 31:—

Rain throughout, except in N.W. Frontier Province, where precipitation was local. Very heavy falls Punjab and Gujarat.

Bombay Cotton Market irregular, owing to speculation. Fully good Broach, August delivery, reached 669; reacted 619, closed 648. Piece goods market firm, prices advancing. Calcutta Jute Market firm, with prices advanced. Hessians firmer, with good demand. Sackings quite firm, though little doing.

New sugar company floated for white sugar from Darbhanga cane, by Begg, Sutherland and Company, Cawnpore. Capital, 25 lakhs.

George Robey, Esq. C.B.E. writes:—"I hasten to tell you how much I enjoyed smoking your 'De Reszke' Cigarettes. I shall smoke them in future as I think they are excellent in every way."

R. Kennerley Rumford, Esq. writes:—"Many thanks for the 'De Reszke' Cigarettes. They are most excellent."

Frank Reynolds, Esq., R.I. writes:—"I think your 'De Reszke' Cigarettes very good indeed."

Robert Donald, Esq. writes:—"I consider the 'De Reszke' are the best American cigarettes on the market."

THE price of the best cigarette is such a trifle more than that of the mediocre kind, that it is surely worth paying the difference to obtain the extra satisfaction "De Reszkes" give.

"De Reszke" Cigarettes

Sold at all Tobacconists, Stores and Military Canteens.

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ROUMANIA'S OILFIELDS.

The *Moniteur du Petrole Roumain* contains some interesting information as to the Roumanian petrol industry. The Germans, it states, put 432 soundings in a state of production out of a total of 962 existing on July 1, 1916, or a proportion of 45 per cent., and had succeeded in raising the yield to 75 per cent., which proves that they had concentrated their efforts on the richest bores. Since the departure of the enemy the number of wells has been increased to 508, and the number of borings has been reduced from 220 to 119, owing to lack of material. These figures show the great productive force of the petrol deposits of Roumania, which, although neglected during the past three or four years, have been able to maintain the production at a satisfactory level during 1918-19.

The gross production of petrol in 1917 was about 520,000 tons, or 35 per cent. of the normal, and in 1918 1,200,000 tons. In the first five months of 1919 it was 473,000 tons, or an average monthly output of 94,600 tons, or 63 per cent. of the pre-war volume. The production was interrupted by strikes and export difficulties, but the latter problem will be solved by the putting into working order of the Baico-Constantza pipe line and the improvement of shipping facilities via the Danube.

WAR MEDALS.

The following announcement has been made by the Board of Trade:—

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to signify his pleasure that the British War Medal, which has been granted to his Majesty's Forces, be granted also to the British, Dominion, Colonial, and Indian Mercantile Marine. In the United Kingdom the medal, in silver, will be given to those who can supply such evidence as may be approved by the Board of Trade of having served at sea for not less than six months between August 4, 1914, and November 11, 1918, inclusive; and those entitled to receive it will include licensed pilots, fishermen, and crews of pilotage and lighthouse authorities' vessels, and of post office cable ships.

His Majesty the King has also been graciously pleased to signify his pleasure that a Mercantile Marine War Medal be granted to the persons specified in the previous paragraph, who are qualified for the British War Medal, and who, in addition, can supply such evidence as may be approved by the authorities referred to in that paragraph of having served at sea on at least one voyage through a danger zone. For this purpose a voyage through a danger zone means:—(a) A voyage on a ship which entered or cleared a United Kingdom port, or a French port, or a Mediterranean port. (b) Such other voyages in other parts of the world as shall be specified in a further notice.

The medal will be in bronze, and the riband will be green and red arranged vertically, with a narrow white line between them. The authorities referred to in the first two paragraphs will determine whether any applicant is disqualified for the medals by reason of misconduct during the war.

Officers, men and women referred to in this announcement who, whilst serving at sea, were captured by the enemy or lost their lives through enemy action, or were precluded by disablement through enemy action from further service at sea, before being able to complete their qualifying service for one or both of the medals, will be deemed to have qualified. The medals earned by deceased officers, men, and women, will be issued to their legatees or next-of-kin entitled to receive them.

An important company is reported to have been formed for the exploitation of Egyptian films.

Mr. David Hugh Lindsay, of Elmstone House, Barham, near Canterbury, late general traffic manager of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Co., left estate valued at £20,074.

It has been decided to hold an International Tea Congress and Exhibition at Batavia, Java, in May, 1921, with the object of studying the scientific, economical, technical and commercial questions concerning the tea cultivation and industry.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
ALBERT MIRABAUD.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER: 25, Pall Mall.
MARSEILLES: 41-43, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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INDIA AND GOLD PRICES.

In the House of Commons on August 6 Mr. Stewart asked the Secretary for India whether his attention had been called to the fact that a higher price in sterling was now obtainable in America for sales of gold than was obtainable in this country; whether India was contemplating putting up the price she was prepared to pay for imported gold and, if so, by how much; and whether the present Currency Committee could be empowered to extend its inquiries to consider the problem of currency as a whole instead of approaching the question from a purely local point of view?

Mr. Montagu replied: I am not fully informed as to sales of gold for sterling in America. The second part of the question asks for a statement on a matter on which action, if taken at all, would necessarily be taken without previous announcement. The Chairman of the Indian Currency Committee informs me that in his opinion and that of his colleagues the terms of reference as they stand give all the scope necessary for conducting the inquiry and for making recommendations.

DISTRESS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agriculture Department, dated August 1:

Our telegram of July 25. Condition and prospects of standing crops generally reported favourable, and distress is generally decreasing. Village works have been closed in Kaira and Broach districts of Bombay Presidency. Numbers relieved:—Bengal: Relief works, 5,140; test works, 641; gratuitous relief, 20,838. Bihar and Orissa: Relief works, 2,259; test works, 3,418; gratuitous relief, 27,898. Feudatory States of Orissa: Test works, 6,833; gratuitous relief, 16,221. United Provinces: Test works, 2,881; gratuitous relief, 20,625. Rajputana figures not reported. Ajmer-Merwara: Test works, 175; gratuitous relief, 32. Central India: Relief works, 7,500; gratuitous relief, 10,536. Central Provinces: Relief works, 14,720; test works, 9,042; gratuitous relief, 45,142. Bombay: Relief works, 22,510; dependents, 13,426; village and test works figures not received; gratuitous relief, 87,799. Hyderabad report not received. Madras: Relief works, 38,017; test works, 2,007; gratuitous relief (incomplete figures), 37,611.

GOVERNMENT'S ANGLO-PERSIAN INTERESTS.

In the House of Commons on August 6 Mr. Lambert asked the First Lord of the Admiralty what amount the Government invested in the Anglo-Persian Oilfield, and what was the market value of that investment to-day.

Mr. Long stated that the Government held Ordinary shares two millions, Participating Preference shares 1,000, Debenture stock £199,000. It was not possible to give any accurate estimate of the present value of the investment, as there was no Stock Exchange quotation for the ordinary shares. It was, however, undeniable that their value had considerably appreciated, and could not be judged merely by the dividend at present paid.

Commander Bellairs: Is this matter still under the direction of the First Lord of the Admiralty? Seeing that it is a financial venture of the British Government, ought it not to be under the Treasury?

Mr. Long said that was a matter of opinion. This was under the control of the directors of the company concerned, the Admiralty sending one representative. So far as he knew, the suggestion that it was under the direction of the First Lord of the Admiralty had no foundation.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Doom Dooma.

The report of the Doom Dooma Tea Company for 1918 states that the profit is £44,833; adding transfer fees, interest, etc., and the amount brought forward, £47,897, there remains £92,870. The directors recommend a final dividend of 7½ per cent. (making 12½ per cent. for the year), less tax, £11,756; income-tax at 5s. 9d., £4,744; bonus of 2½ per cent., less tax, amounting to £3,919; income-tax at 5s. 9d., £1,581; to carry to the fund for permanent buildings, coolies, etc., £5,000; to be carried forward, £20,057.

Bank of Bombay.

The Bank of Bombay's working for the half-year ended June 30 shows that the total profit was Rs.19,33,898, which has been applied as follows:—To dividend at 15 per cent. per annum free from income-tax, Rs.7,50,000; bonus at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum free from income-tax, Rs.2.00.000; transferred to reserve fund, Rs.5.00.000; transferred to pension fund, Rs.50,000; carried forward, Rs.4,33.898; total, Rs.19,33,898.

Bank of Bengal.

The Bank of Bengal for the half-year ended June 30 has an approximate profit of Rs.28.51,065, including about Rs.5,60,167 brought forward from the previous year. This sum has been disposed of as follows:—A dividend of 14 per cent. per annum free of income-tax, Rs.14,00,000; bonus to shareholders at 3 per cent. per annum free of income-tax, Rs.3,00.000; transferred to reserve fund, Rs.5.00.000; transferred to gratuity and pension fund, Rs.1.00,000; carried to next half-year, Rs.5,51,065.

Bogawantalawa Tea.

The report of the Bogawantalawa District Tea Company for the year ended March 31, 1919, states that the profit amounted to £25,057, add interest and balance from last year, making £36,223. The directors recommend a final dividend of 12 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares, making 15 per cent. for the year, £8,400; transfer to reserve, £2,500, carrying forward £12,751.

British Indian Tea.

The report of the British Indian Tea Company for 1918 states that the profit amounts to £24,301, less sundry adjustments, £4,921, net profit being £19,380; £14,232 was brought forward, less excess profits duty, 1917, £5,942, giving £27,670. Deducting preference dividend, interim dividend on ordinary shares, the transfer to working capital account of £2,000, to staff provident fund £200, there is left £22,821. The directors propose a final dividend of 9 per cent. (less income-tax) on the ordinary shares, making 12 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward £17,347, subject to provision for excess profits duty, estimated at about £6,800.

Attaree.

The report of the Rungajaun Tea Company for 1918 states that, including a profit of £17,638, there is a balance available of £22,351, from which falls to be deducted income-tax, £2,803, transferred to reserve for renewals £3,000, leaving £16,547. An interim dividend of 7½ per cent. was paid on January 25 last, and the directors recommend a final dividend of 12½ per cent., less tax, making 20 per cent. for the year, absorbing £13,349, carrying forward £3,198.

Dooars Tea.

The report of the Dooars Tea Company for 1918 states that the profit is £42,295, to which must be added balance from 1917, after deduction of £1,000 for war donations. The divisible balance is £70,338, of which the preference dividend absorbs £5,250. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 27½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, of which 5 per cent. was paid on January 1 last. This will leave to be carried forward £7,338, and to this will be added the amount of £9,837 recovered in 1919 under the excess profits duty Act, in respect of 1917, plus an estimated sum of £20,000 recoverable on account of 1918.

Bengal Dooars Railway.

The interim report of the Bengal Dooars Railway Company for the half-year ended March 31 states that the approximate net earnings for the six months ended March 31 were £32,069, which, together with £28,860 brought forward and £5,070 from interest and profit on exchange, makes an available total of £65,999. From this must be deducted £2,922 for interest on reserve account, £7,200 for six months' dividend on the preference stock, and £308 for Indian supertax, leaving a balance of £55,569. The Board has declared an interim dividend of 3½ per cent. on the ordinary stock on account of the year ending September 30, subject to English income-tax (less relief from Indian income-tax), which will amount to £14,000, leaving £41,569 to be carried forward.

Shahdara-Saharanpur Light Railway.

The report of the Shahdara (Delhi)-Saharanpur Light Railway, Ltd., for the half-year ended March 31, states that the earnings of the railway for the half-year were: coaching, Rs. 1,96,205; goods, Rs. 1,74,232; sundries, Rs. 1,790; making a total of Rs. 3,72,227; as compared with coaching, Rs. 1,85,035; goods, Rs. 2,15,199; sundries, Rs. 1,211; a total of Rs. 4,01,445 in the corresponding period of 1917-18. The enhancement of the third-class fares accounts for the increase in the coaching earnings, while the restrictions of bookings imposed by the adjoining railways and the controllers of civil supplies are responsible for the deficit in goods earnings. The working expenses of the line were Rs. 2,08,916 or 56.13 per cent. of the gross earnings. The net revenue for the half-year was Rs. 1,67,594, which includes Rs. 4,283 interest accrued on the surplus funds of the company. The board of directors record with deep regret the death of Sir W. A. Ironside, a member of the board. Mr. W. O. Grazebrook retires by rotation from the directorate but, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. The interest on debentures at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum amounting to Rs. 60,104 and the London agency charges Rs. 2,0004 and income-tax Rs. 3,824 having been provided for, the balance remaining is Rs. 2,49,418. The directors recommend payment of a dividend (free of income-tax) of Rs. 3-8-0 per share equal to 7 per cent. per annum, which will absorb Rs. 52,500, and that the net balance of Rs. 1,96,918 be carried forward, provision having been made for the Government's moiety of surplus profits and the managing agents' commission.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

The weaker tendency has continued again during the earlier part of the week, but during the last twenty-four hours prices here and there have shown a slight tendency to harden.

In Bank shares National Banks have fallen slightly to 21¼.

In Land shares Union Foncières have picked up ½ to 3¾. Sudan Plantations have been exceptionally good, rising at one time to about 8½, but close to-night at 8 3-16, and Aboukirs have also been a firmer market, closing to-night at 25s., a rise of 6d.

Amongst Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are again a little easier at 11 15-16, and Salt and Sodas have continued to be offered, closing at £3.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptians, although at one time marking as high as 5 11-16, have again come on offer, and close at 5 7-16. On the other hand, Roumanian Consolidateds have picked up to 21s. 3d.

A very useful book on British, colonial, and foreign income-tax, weights, measures, stamp duties, and coinage has been issued by the National Bank of South Africa, Ltd. Where possible, the matter has been illustrated with photographs, and many superficially puzzling facts and methods have been made clear. The work is of great value, and will be widely appreciated. It is to be regretted that the book is intended for complimentary circulation only, and is not available for the general public.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to May 31, 1919. (New Style, January 14 to June 13, 1919) :—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Apr.	1919	4,488,610	4,694,156
Do. do. do.	1918	2,598,712	1,462,000
Estimated receipts for 5 months (Law of Control)		12,041,666	4,458,333
Actual do. do	1919	18,792·857	17,959,384
" " "	1918	15,313,057	12,084,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 4 months	1919	+ 6,751,201	+ 13,501,051
	1918	+ 3,271,391	+ 7,625,666

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

EGYPT.—ALBERT J. HALFON.—P.O. Box No. 1182.—ALEXANDRIA, British Agent, in touch for twenty years with the best clients of Egypt. Complete and unique organisation (also for visiting the provinces). Highest references. Would like to secure serious REPRESENTATIONS. Correspondence invited.

ROUMANIA.—S. N. Iancovici, Bucharest, Str. Academiei 6, desires to obtain English agencies. English correspondence. First-class references.

MESOPOTAMIA.—Advertiser, just returned after holding Chief Engineering Staff Appointment for three years, would be pleased to advise firms as to possibilities of future trading opportunities.—Apply Box H 1, THE NEAR EAST, London, E.C.2.

ENGLISHMAN (40), with wide commercial and general experience, knowledge of local industries, in PERSIA, INDIA, MESOPOTAMIA, owing to health desires change employment, similar capacity, or Travelling Representative, Persia preferable.—Box E. G., THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price July 30	Price Aug. 6
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	—	—
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	82	82
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	84⅜	84
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	72	72
Greek 5%, 1881	73½	73½
Do. 5%, 1884	73½	73½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	57	57⅛
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	54	54
Do. 5% 1890	71	71
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	65	65
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	66	66
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	64	64
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	82	82
Do. 5% Currant	95	95
Montenegro 5% Loan	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	82½	82½
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	—	—
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	6⅛	6⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17½	17½
Bank of Athens	72/6	72/6
Bank of British West Africa	7x	7x
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½
British Trade Corporation	11	11
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	—
Imperial Bank of Persia	9¹¹/₁₆	9¹¹/₁₆
Ionian Bank, Limited	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	7	7
London County and Westminster	163x	163x
National Bank of Egypt	21½	21½
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	7½	7½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	—	—
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	—	—
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	68½	68½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	56	56
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	24/6	25/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	14½	14½
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	2/9	2/9
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	15/-	15/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	15/6	15/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅜	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	24/6	24/6
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅞	2⅞
Sudan Plantations	7⅞	8⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	3⅜	3½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	12⅛	11¹⁵/₁₆
Egyptian Markets Ord.	23/6	23/6
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	3⅛	3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
Do. Do. Prefs.	4⅜	4⅜
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	97	97
Chinese 4½% 1898	80	80
Do. 5% 1896	91	91
Argentine 5% 1890	—	—
Do. 5% 1907	87½	87½
OIL.		
Anglo-Egyptian B	5¹⁵/₁₆	5⅛
Anglo-Persian	27/3	27/3
Anglo-Roumanian	12/3	12/3
Roumanian	20/9	21/3
Trajan (Roumanian)	12/-	12/-

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Jy. 30	Aug. 6
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	62⅜	61⅜
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	58	59
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Go. Debs. 1959		—	—
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		—	72
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		—	—
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		77	77
Eastern		—	8½
Mercantile of India A.		—	—
National of India		52	52
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		6/-	6/3
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		—	—
Burma Corp.		8½	8⅝
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		—	8/10½
Champion Reef Gold		4/6	4/6
Mysore Gold Mining		2⅛	2⅛
Nundydroog		—	17/1½
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		16/-	16/-
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		—	—
Do. do. do.		—	—
OIL.			
Assam Oil		1¹⁵/₁₆	1¹⁵/₁₆
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		—	—
Brit. Burmah		2½	2⅜
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		13⅜	14⅛
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		—	—
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		—	—

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES

Continued—

RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	—	—
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	—	134½
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	—	60½
Bengal-Nagpur Guar. 3½%	—	—
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	106	105⅝
Burma Railways	110½	110½
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13⅜	—
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	—	—
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	—	127
Madras and S. Mahratta	102½	—
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	—	—
Nizam's Guaranteed State	75½	—
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	—	10
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	—	—
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	—	—
Do. Deferred	—	555
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	70½xd	70½xd
Bengal United Tea Ord.	18⅞	18⅝
British Indian Tea Ord.	8½xd	8½x
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17½	17½
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	—	10/6
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	6⅞	6½
Consolidated Estates	5½	5⅝
Darjeeling Co.	17/-	17/-
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	55/-	55/-
Dooars Tea Ord.	73/-	68/-
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	—	—
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	54/-	—
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	—	27/9
Hewagam Rubber Co.	—	—
Jhanzie Tea Association	10	10
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	—	22½
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	—	19/3
Lanka Plantations Ord.	—	—
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	—	53/6x
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	—	43/9xd
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	—	14
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	—	28

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	July 3 Rs.	July 10 Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	70	70
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	92	92
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	304	302
Bank of Bengal	1925	1935
Bank of Bombay	1960	2110
Bank of Madras	1350	1377
Bank of India	130	128
Tata Industrial Bank	62½	67
COAL.		
Baraboni	15⅞	18½
Bengal	890x	900x
Burrakur	49½	51½
East India	40½	40
Equitable	49	50¾
Pench Valley	370x	370x
Raneegunge	69	72½
Standard	50½	57
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	145	210
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	1625	1605
Bouresh	335	335
Buckingham	1300	1400
Carnatic	650	675
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	485	537
Central India	2690 / 1345	2677 / 1338½
Elgin	125	125
Gold Mohur	1000	1100
Khatau Makanji	3500	3700
Muir	120	120
New Ring	180	180
Phœnix	480	460
Svadeshi	2400	2412
JUTE.		
Alliance	680	745
Barnagore	168x	170
Budge Budge	560	625
Clive	254	254
Dalhousie	468	505
Delta	585	538xd
Fort Gloster	730x	840
Gourepore	950	1005
Howrah	40⅜	44½
Kamarhetty	852	919
Kanknarrah	766	804
Khardah	375	375
Kinnison	835	900
National	40?x	402x
Samnuggur	£25	£25
Standard	580x	629½
Titaghur	£27	£27
Union	744x	780
Victoria	£26	£26
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	83⅛	92½
Bengal Timber Trading	425	433
Burn and Co.	327	327
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	200	200
Cawnpore Woollen	100	150
Champaran Sugar	160	160
Howrah Oil Mills	61	48½
India General St'm.	165x	167x
Indian Iron and Steel	110 / 77	110 / 81
Marshall Sons and Co.	20½	18⅜
Titaghur Paper	100	380x

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 432.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Some colour is lent to the rumours—to which we referred last week—regarding a settlement of the Adriatic problem, by an announcement made in the *Popolo Romano* on the subject. According to the Roman paper, Signor Tittoni has secured sympathetic consideration for the Italian claims, and a settlement outlined by the journal is assured of cordial acceptance by the American delegation; and "consequently it should receive the adhesion of the Powers signatory to the London agreement." While unable to follow the *Popolo's* logic, we shall cordially welcome the prospect of any settlement that is likely to be of a lasting character. If the *Popolo* is correctly informed, Zara and Sebenico are to be free cities; Fiume is also to be a free city; the port of Fiume, together with Susak, is to be internationalised, as is the Fiume-San Pietro Railway; and Albanian liberty and independence will be assured. All this is satisfactory; but when we are told that Italy is to receive in Asia Minor "the triangle Aidin-Konia-Adalia" we find it not strictly in accordance with those principles of justice to which gratified reference is made in regard to Albania. It is true that Italy would thus "enjoy possession of the rich valley of the Meander," but what becomes of self-determination and the question of nationalities? Such questions may be tiresome, but if they are ignored now, it is almost certain that as a consequence trouble will arise in the future.

Under the arrangement referred to Italy, says the *Popolo*, would be quite content to give up the Dodecanese, which is admittedly "completely Greek," and Smyrna, which would be "a centre of infection" for her. The wisdom of these views will be questioned by very few people outside Italy, and their expression will have been hailed with extreme satisfaction in Greece. Indeed, relations between Italy and Greece show marked signs of improvement, and one Athens paper has even gone so far as to appeal to Italy to head a federation of the Balkan peoples. Such a federation should undoubtedly tend towards European peace; and Italy, we suspect, is to-day not in the mood to exclaim, "*Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.*" But we fear that a Balkan federation, to be enduring, must be the work of the Balkan nations themselves, brought about by the consciousness of common interests, and designed for the common benefit.

A section of the French Press continues to discuss the alleged intrigues of Great Britain in Syria, and there are symptoms that the uneasiness may soon spread so as to embrace the whole of the Levant. Where there is so much smoke there must almost certainly be some fire; but with every desire to avoid injuring French susceptibilities, we would suggest that the fire probably lies in quite a different direction from that in which our critics locate it. If French prestige in Syria is not now what it was before the war, that is in no way due to British influence—to say nothing of "intrigue." There can be no doubt that it suffered greatly as a result of the unfortunate incidents which led up to the discovery in the French Consulate at Beyrout of documents connected with what was known as the Arab Movement. That discovery cost many leading Syrians their lives, and by no amount of ingenuity could the resultant loss of popularity to the French be put down to British action. We will not refer to other incidents that are doubtless as well known in Paris as they are in London, Beyrout, or Damascus. But we are at one with the *Figaro* in thinking that frank speech is the best possible way of avoiding misunderstanding between our Allies and ourselves; and as the frank speaking could in this case be better done by the French Press than by the British, we trust that the French public may speedily be made acquainted with the facts of the case, whatever they may be. Vague talk of "intrigues" can do nothing but harm.

The omission of Lieut.-Gen. Sir George Milne's name from the list of honours and rewards that was published last week has given rise to much dissatisfaction amongst those who served under him with the Salonika force. That force was, indeed, always regarded by the public as a rather unimportant "side show," and the treatment meted out to it officially almost seemed to justify this opinion. In point of fact it was, of course, utterly unjustified. From the highest to the lowest every member of the force deserved as well of his country—and of his countrymen, which is not quite the same thing, be it noted—as did their fellows in any other theatre of the war; and it is very natural that they should be sensitive regarding the lack of recognition that has unfortunately been their lot. If little or nothing was done at Salonika at a time when much was expected, that was no fault of theirs. As one correspondent in writing to *The Times* puts it: "For three and a-half years the B.S.F. formed the backbone and the cement of the somewhat heterogeneous force known as the Allied Army of the Middle East, and Sir George Milne (although actually subordinate to a succession of French Generalissimos) was the keystone of the whole (and at times shaky) edifice."

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In the circumstances it is not altogether unnatural that members of the British Salonika Force should feel that the omission of General Milne's name from the list referred to is only the latest in a series of unmerited slights, designed to show that their work was lightly esteemed. There can be little doubt, however, that the omission was due to quite other considerations, the fact being that General Milne was at the instant destined for further useful work, and that the Government probably decided to hold over the question of reward for the present. He has now been appointed by the Allied Supreme Council to command all Allied troops in Western Asia Minor "and to restore order in the Smyrna district." It is also reported that he will be charged with the delimitation of the line separating the Allied and Turkish zones. This is employment of a kind that few men would covet, but General Milne's experience at Salonika and his relations with the Greek Army will doubtless stand him in good stead. Nevertheless, if he succeeds in giving something like satisfaction to the parties concerned, he will indeed deserve exceptionally well of this country, whose interest it undoubtedly is to see the Near East settled.

Malta, like some other islands, is beginning to be interested in the subject which in our own Press to-day appears under the heading, "The Road to Ruin." At a meeting of the Council of Government, held on August 7, the Lieutenant-Governor took a gloomy view of the island's financial situation, and predicted a deficit of over £280,000. He held out some hope that the Imperial Government might come to the rescue; but he also indicated that an income tax might be called for, and spoke of the raising of a loan or the sale of Government property as alternative measures. Bread subsidies are to be continued, and the salaries of certain classes of civil servants are to be raised, but these are small mercies, and the island as a whole cannot feel very cheerful. Moreover, it has to pay for the recent disturbances, the local Government being called on to give compensation for damage done to property; while sentences ranging from three months' to seven years' imprisonment have been passed on the rioters who were arrested.

The Supreme Council at Paris has been discussing the question of the withdrawal of the British troops from Armenia; a withdrawal which, it is understood, our own Government had decided should take place on August 15. Should that decision be carried out, as seems likely at the time of writing, the Armenians will be left in a position of no little peril; for the "Young" Turks, the Tartar Government of Azerbaijan, and a considerable force of Arabs are said to be ready to combine to attack them; and, terribly weakened as they have been by massacre and disease, they are by no means in the best condition to defend themselves. America and Italy have both declared themselves unable to send troops to Armenia at present, and no other Power shows any readiness to step into the breach. It looks, therefore, as if Great Britain will have to choose between leaving her troops on the spot until she can replace them by others, and leaving the Armenians to face their peril alone. As there can be very little real doubt regarding America's eventual acceptance of the mandate of Armenia, it is to be hoped that she will take over this responsibility from Great Britain as quickly as possible.

Last Friday the remains of Pope Bey and of the seven British soldiers who were murdered in the Deirut train outrage were conveyed to Cairo, and there buried, with suitable honours, in the military cemetery. "An Egyptian crowd," we are told by *The Times* Cairo correspondent, "lined the route in complete silence." That is what we should expect of the Egyptian, who is an inveterate sightseer, but who, to do him justice, retains much of the Ancient Egyptians' respect for the dead. It is much to be hoped that the silent watchers gave some thought to the fate of their countrymen—or some of them—who were responsible for the death of those eight Englishmen, and that they resolved then and there to leave "Nationalists," the "Zaghlulites," and the Turco-German propagandists of all sorts to their own devices in the future. Happily these rogues are reported to be falling out among themselves; so that honest men—among whom we would include the Fellah—have a chance of coming into their own. On the other hand, the strike fever is threatening Egypt with a bad attack; the trams have ceased running, and agitators, native and imported, are endeavouring to bring about a general strike.

Peace with Afghanistan was signed last Friday, August 8. The terms are severe—but not too severe. The Ameer loses the privilege of importing arms and munitions of war through India; he is to receive no subsidy, and the arrears of the late Ameer's subsidy are confiscated; the Afghans accept the Indo-Afghan frontier accepted by the late Ameer; and they agree to accept such boundary as a British Commission, to be appointed, shall lay down for the undemarcated portion of the West Khyber. The head of the Boundary Commission has already been appointed, and the Commission will begin its work very shortly. The British Government has, in the Peace Terms, expressed its willingness to receive another Afghan Mission after six months—if "the Afghans prove their sincerity by acts and conduct" in the meantime—to discuss the re-establishment of the old friendship on a satisfactory basis. The position of the new Ameer and his advisers cannot be a very enviable one these days, but they have only themselves to thank; and having gambled and lost, they must expect to pay.

The conclusion of a definite peace with Afghanistan came as a pleasant surprise to a public habituated to the delays and disappointments associated with the progress of negotiations at Paris, though, of course, no comparison can fairly be drawn between the two cases. The issues at Rawal Pindi were really simple: India does not want Afghan territory, an indemnity could scarcely have been demanded with decency, and the needs of the moment are met by the provision of a definite frontier, and the imposition of punishment which is not vindictive, but is calculated to make a deep impression along the Border. The internal equilibrium of Afghanistan is so unstable just now that it would probably have been waste of time to negotiate on other matters on which the Treaty is silent: things may possibly settle themselves during the next six months, but the prospect must remain uncertain until the position is stabilised in the country lying further to the north.

We note with particular satisfaction that the demarcation of the remaining portion of the frontier is to be affected in a workmanlike way. Instead of another of those joint Commissions which have proved so unsatisfactory in the past, the line is to be laid down by a British Commission, with permission to an Afghan officer to watch the proceedings, and we may be confident that the operation will be carried out efficiently under Mr. J. L. Maffey, C.I.E., the Viceroy's Private Secretary, who has already been nominated as head of the Commission for this purpose. Private Secretaries vary so greatly in attainments and capacities that it may be well to recall the fact that Mr. Maffey has had long experience on the Frontier, where he was known, and feared, before Lord Chelmsford carried him off to Simla; he took part in the recent negotiations at Rawal Pindi, and in this undertaking he will be quite at home.

Last week's proceedings in connection with the Indian Reform Bill indicate that woman's suffrage is still a live issue, despite the recommendation of the Southborough Commission to postpone the question to a somewhat uncertain future. The members of the Parliamentary Committee can scarcely have failed to be impressed by the eloquent pleading of Mrs. Naidu, while Mr. Montagu's attitude towards a deputation of Indian ladies certainly gave the impression that in him they have a powerful friend at court, and such influences are likely to be more effective than the prac-

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tical considerations urged by some of the official witnesses. The facts of the situation are, we take it, that at the present time the proportion of Indian women who want the vote is very small indeed, but those who feel the want are desperately in earnest, and, like their sisters in some other countries, they will probably give trouble if their demand is not granted.

In such circumstances there is something to be said for the view put forward by Mr. Malcolm Hogg, but rejected by his colleagues on the Southborough Commission, that while there is no general demand, there is no strong opposition, and that it would be better to start the new constitution without a sex-bar which, it is reasonably certain, would have to be removed later on. Let qualified women vote if they wish to, under the same conditions as men, but do not trouble to make special arrangements to enable them to vote in privacy; probably very few of them would vote at the outset, and in any case it may be better to let them vote than to risk an agitation of irrepressible suffragettes. The next few years of Indian politics are bound to be very confused, while electorates are finding their feet, and parties are being gradually sorted out; a feminist movement would add seriously to the confusion, and the question may fairly be asked whether in the circumstances resistance is worth while.

Little attention has so far been paid in this country to the remarkable despatch in which the Government of India give a formal and reasoned contradiction to statements of fact made publicly by Sir Sankaran Nair while holding the portfolio of Education. We commented recently on this gentleman's monumental ignorance of the history of his native land, and we have now the official assurance that in regard to quite recent events his authority has been lent to statements which his colleagues "cannot but regard as seriously inaccurate and calculated to produce an unfortunate impression if uncorrected." Sir Sankaran has, of course, resigned his seat on the Council, and we may take it that the incident is closed, but in the interests of the rising generation we trust that his successor will be endowed with a more effective grasp of facts.

Students of Oriental learning have welcomed the recent announcement of arrangements for close co-operation between our own Royal Asiatic Society and the corresponding bodies in France, Italy, and the United States. The field for research is so vast and the labourers in it so few, that the most thorough organisation is essential, if that labour is to be employed to the best advantage. At the same time a body of opinion is growing up which holds that external organisation will not suffice, and that the Asiatic Society might profitably take up the question of setting its own house in order. Both in England and in India people are beginning to ask whether any single Committee, however gifted, can continue to be responsible for the promotion of knowledge in regard to all the numerous and diversified civilisations—and barbarisms—which have flourished in Asia, and whether the existing unity of control might not be supplemented by a certain measure of specialisation of parts.

In giving currency to such questionings as these, we have no idea of passing an adverse judgment on the past activities of the Society, which, considering the scantiness of its resources, has done a wonderful amount of good work. Our suggestion is that the out-turn of such work could be increased both in quantity and in value, if arrangements were made to bring into closer association the scholars, and also the recruits, interested in particular sections of the area of research. Moslem India, for instance, has little in common with the Hittites, or the Accadians, or the earlier dynasties of China, and the grouping of working members according to their interests could scarcely fail to stimulate activity in every section in turn. The distinctive badge of the Society is the Banyan, each branch of which takes root as a tree, while remaining united to the parent stem, and that is the line of development which is indicated in the near future.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 28.

Irrigation Controversy.

The principal topics of local interest this week have, naturally, been the telegraphic summaries of question and answer in the House of Commons on the comparative claims of Sudan and Egyptian irrigation, and also speeches like that of the chairman of the New Egyptian Company.

To take the first-mentioned. It would indeed be a very complete fool who attempted to rush into the controversy between Sir William Willcocks and the P.W.D., of which the prudent ones are fighting very shy. It is on the subject of this dispute that the question of executing the schemes put forward by the Sudan Syndicate seems to hinge. These schemes appear to have gained the approval of the Egyptian and the British Governments, but in a recently published booklet entitled *Nile Projects*, Sir W. Willcocks—and Mr. John Wells behind him—claim that their alternative, or counter-scheme, for utilising the waters of the Gebel or Albert Nile in the Sudd region would give the Sudan all the water she needs without depriving Egypt of a cubic metre. On the contrary, the supply for Egypt would also be greatly increased, and all would be done for a comparatively small outlay (some six or seven millions) and, what is a capital point, would be done quickly. In the twentieth century time is of more value than it ever was before, and in the case of Nile water one may well say *bis dat qui cito dat*.

In *Nile Projects* Sir W. Willcocks again insists on his charges of concealment of pertinent facts against the P.W.D., several of which charges he declares have not only not been refuted, but have not even been examined by the Commission which was set up to judge between him and his opponents. In this pamphlet are two appendices of lectures delivered in November, 1918, and February, 1919, before the Sultanieh Society of Geography, and no reply, as far as the public knows, has ever been made to the facts thus published, and the statements thus made.

Possibly the other side have a complete reply to the persistent attacks of the distinguished engineer to whom Egypt owes so much; but, if so, has it not been overmuch delayed? Challenging accusations like these, made by a man like Sir W. Willcocks, cannot be left unanswered, at a time like the present, without creating an unpleasant impression, at least, amongst Egyptians. The whole matter is, however, essentially one for experts to handle; but even for this reason, if for no other, it seems a pity not to place the ignorant public in possession of more facts in the case than have

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yet been adduced to combat the serious allegations defiantly made in *Nile Projects*.

If this business has aroused considerable interest in Egypt amongst those directly or indirectly concerned in the old quarrel and also in the future distribution of the water supply between Egypt and the Sudan, it has also caused great satisfaction to hundreds of thousands who have probably never heard of Sir W. Willcocks' and Sir Murdoch MacDonald's differences, and who care nothing for Nile water. For the last two or three months Egypt might almost have been erased from the map of the East, so little notice was taken in the world's Press of what was happening in this country. The reappearance in the field of an Egyptian question has, therefore, been hailed with universal pleasure.

The Administration of Egypt.

To turn to the remarks of the chairman at the meeting of the New Egyptian Company. They are replete with what Americans would call "horse sense." Mr. Baumann is a plain speaker, and most of us will agree with him when he says that we must either make up our minds to govern Egypt ourselves as it ought to be governed, or else give it over to the Egyptians to govern as it ought not to be governed. Mr. Baumann did not exactly say this, but it is what his words amounted to.

The advisory system has been allowed a fair trial, and the general opinion of the wise men is that it has not been an unqualified success. No successful system of government indeed, except perhaps individual autocracy, has ever been evolved without the theory and practice of personal responsibility. This is not the place to indulge in essay writing, but the war has taught many lessons in Egypt and elsewhere, out of which we may profit in peace. And one of these is that the man who has authority to advise a measure ought also to have authority to put it into execution and responsibility for the result, whether he be a Minister, an Adviser, or an Inspector. This principle has not been adhered to hitherto in Egypt, but now that Great Britain has proclaimed her Protectorate, an endeavour will presumably be made to establish the elementary basis for an effective constitutional Government.

The Syrian Question.

Such information as reaches Cairo from Syria and Palestine goes to indicate a very fixed determination on the part of the inhabitants to decline as far as they are able the mandate of any but an Anglo-Saxon Power. This appears to have resulted clearly from the experiences of the American Commission, who are said to have reported that the only districts distinctly in favour of a French mandate were Beyrout, part of the Lebanon, and a strip of coast north and south of Beyrout. There was marked unanimity amongst Moslems and Christians of all denomination against a Zionist Palestine, and a strong feeling that Palestine should enjoy the protection of the Mandatory Power, which will eventually watch over Syria and Mesopotamia. This at least is the accepted version in Cairo in the best-informed Syrian circles, and while I do not vouch for its absolute correctness it may probably be accepted as very nearly accurate.

INDIAN CHURCH AID ASSOCIATION.

The Official Organ of the Indian Episcopate.

IN the present critical condition of India and under the shadow of changes which will materially lessen the proportion of Englishmen in the Indian Services, it is imperatively necessary to strengthen the loyal Anglo-Indian elements, upon whom will now devolve the task of maintaining the White Man's reputation for integrity. Ladies and gentlemen, therefore, who have served or resided in India in any capacity are invited to join this Association, the primary object of which is to help the Indian Bishops to carry on religious and educational work among these classes, upon whom so much depends.

For further particulars apply to
H. P. K. SKIPTON, Secretary, I.C.A.A.,
Church House, Westminster, S.W.1.

FRENCH POLICY IN SYRIA.

(From Our Aleppo Correspondent.)

That the recent accusations which have appeared in certain sections of the French Press of British intrigue in Syria are the work of German propaganda is as certain as it is that they are groundless. The wily and unrepentant Hun is just as busy in his endeavours to create flaws in the union which five years of comradeship have cemented, as he was during the war. Having cast such covetous eyes himself on Syria and the Near East he cannot imagine that France and Britain are not ready to fly at each other's throats in a rough and tumble over such a rich prize. Moreover, the Near East is about the only theatre in which our interests are likely to clash, hence the adroit suggestion that perfidious Albion is up to its old tricks in trying to wrest from France one of the few new colonies which are her due reward for her heroic defence in the Western theatre. In other words, the dog in the manger wants to rob his poorer kennel companion in order to add to his already well-heaped trencher. As a matter of fact, this golden prize is rather like the stinging nettle. You must grasp it firmly or it will sting you, and the dangers which beset the picker of this prize are so many that the Great Powers, in a sudden fit of politeness, are each pressing the delicacy upon their neighbours. No, between France and Britain there never has been and never will be any misunderstanding—much less quarrel—over the question of Syria. France has claimed a mandate for the whole of Syria, and if the population had demanded her control, France's claim would have been pre-eminent, if only by reason of the work she has already done in Beyrout, Tripoli, and the Lebanon. Indeed, both to the fighting troops and the occupied enemy territory administration officials it was a foregone conclusion that the French would ultimately "take over"—the burning question was "when" would French troops relieve our advanced troops and permit them to withdraw to Palestine. The Russian thousands which rumour passed through England in the early stages of the war were not more numerous than the divisions which rumour embarked at Marseilles for the relief of our troops in Northern Syria. Far from intriguing, our commanders and liaison officers were indefatigable in furthering the French cause in the eyes of the Arab. Not a public dinner passed in Aleppo—and there were many—without reference being made to the stubborn courage of the French and their great victories in the West without which our successes in the Near East would have not been possible.

M. Georges Picot, the French Haut Commissaire, would be the first to acknowledge that the late Sir Mark Sykes and the late General Sir Harry Macandrew gave him every possible assistance in furthering the French cause. For some reason or another the French never attracted the Arab outside the Lebanon, and even there their popularity was endangered by a parsimonious policy in assisting the starving population of the Lebanon range. So parsimonious was it that at one meeting a local magnate is reported to have offered to double, on his own account, the munificent gift of the great French nation. It was not until the end of December that French troops in any numbers began to put in an appearance in Syria. To the disappointment of all, and to the consternation of many, the French adopted the somewhat dangerous: "See what you've-got-to-stick policy" of occupying the vilayet of Adana with the "Legion d'Orient," recruited almost entirely from Armenians. The writer was in Adana with the late Sir Mark Sykes on the arrival of these Armenian troops. Adana had been the site of a big Armenian massacre in previous years, and the Turk immediately jumped to the conclusion—or pretended to—that the Armenian would now get his own back, and murder him in his bed. Indeed, for a few days it was a case of skating over very thin ice, and needed only one Armenian soldier to misbehave himself in the bazaar to have brought about a very considerable conflagration. So ominous did the cracklings become that it was thought necessary ultimately to replace these

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troops with a brigade of an Indian division, and to withdraw them to Mersina. There is no doubt that the employment of these Armenian troops damaged the French cause in the eyes of the Arabs. While employed as piquets guarding the railway from Adana to Aleppo there were unfortunate reports of their having held up train-loads of demobilised Arabs to extortion before allowing the train to proceed. There were even regrettable incidents of passengers having been wounded by sentries; wayfarers, whether Arab or Turk, being set upon, robbed and killed by the hot-heads in the Armenian convoys, which were being repatriated by the French. These incidents came to be associated in the Arab mind with the French, chiefly because all demands for inquiries and justice had to be put through the French *Officier de Liaison*, and invariably resulted in—nothing.

It was during his second visit to Aleppo that M. Picot, at a big meeting of the Arab Club, was prevailed upon to enunciate what the French Government, should they receive the mandate, were prepared to do for the new Arab Empire. Unfortunately, he omitted to allow them any outlet to the sea, and it was not until his attention had been drawn to this fact by Shereef Nasir, in a neat Arab simile, that he announced that France would be prepared to grant them a free port either at Beyrout, Tripoli, or Alexandretta. Had the French then, or preferably earlier, sent regular troops from France to replace ours, and had they selected experienced officers to replace the British officers who were assisting the newly-formed Arab Government to find its feet, all would have been well for them. Instead, the Arab saw only British troops and British administration, and has somewhat naturally voted for the sample in the window in preference to the unknown goods in the back of the shop.

BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 19.

Last Saturday M. Henri, who is at present representing France in Bulgaria, officially notified the Bulgarian Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Bulgarian Peace Delegates were invited to arrive at Enghien on the 25th inst. The following five statesmen are Bulgaria's delegates: M. Teodor Theodoroff, leader of the Narodniak (Old Conservative) party, Premier and Foreign Minister, President of the Delegation; M. Alexander Stambolisky, leader of the Agrarian party, and Minister of Public Works; M. Yanko Sakizoff, leader of the Moderate Socialists, and Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour; Professor Venelin Ganeff, of the Radical-Democratic party, Minister of Justice; and M. Michail K. Saravoff, of the Tzankovist, or Progressive Liberal party. A staff of 25 councillors, secretaries and technical assistants accompanies the Delegation. The party leaves to-morrow, by way of Rustchuk, Giurgevo and Bucharest, and thence by special train for Paris and Enghien.

Whether the individualities of these delegates will have any perceptible effect upon the course of events in Paris remains to be seen, but readers of The Near East may be interested to know something of their past record. M. Theodoroff, the head of the delegation, was born in 1859; he was educated first at Nicolaieff (Russia), and afterwards at Odessa and Paris, where he studied law. Since 1886 he has devoted himself to politics, and has been at various times President of the Chamber, Minister of Justice and Finance, Vice-President of the National party, and head of the Delegation for the Peace negotiations with Turkey. In October, 1918, he became Minister for Foreign Affairs in the newly-formed Cabinet, and at the end of November Prime Minister.

M. Alex. Stambolisky is, perhaps, the most striking person in the Cabinet. Born twenty years after M. Theodoroff, at Slavoritza, he spent some of his youth in Germany studying agriculture and political economy, and on returning to Bulgaria was active in agrarian journalism. He first became a deputy in 1908, and in 1911 was elected deputy for the Great Sobranje at Tirnova, when, in the name of the Agrarian parliamentary group, he protested vehemently against King Ferdinand's presence there. In 1915 he was arrested and sentenced by court-martial to imprisonment for life on account of an interview with Tsar Ferdinand, September 4, 1915, when he declared himself strongly and vigorously against entering the war on the side of the Central Powers. For three years he was kept in close confinement, and was then released on the intercession of M. Malinoff. Invited to the Palace on the same day, he stoutly maintained his former opinion, and the following day left for the front. He was shortly afterwards declared an outlaw as an enemy of King Ferdinand, and had to go into hiding until amnestied by the Chamber last January. He consistently opposed the action of Bulgaria in lending herself to the intrigues of Germany and her allies.

M. Sakizoff was born at Shumla in 1861, and was educated there and in Russia. Afterwards he pursued his higher studies in Germany, London and Paris. Returning to Bulgaria in 1884, he founded the Socialist review, *Den*, and later, together with Blagoeff, founded the Bulgarian Social-Democratic Party. He took an active part in bringing about the fall of Stambuloff. Since then he has been almost always a member of the Chamber.

Professor Venelin Ganeff was born in 1880 at Rustchuk, and was educated there, and at Leipzig and Geneva. In 1908 he was appointed a professor at Sofia University. He has been a member of the Radical-Democratic party since its foundation in 1904, and joined the Cabinet in May this year.

M. M. K. Saravoff was born at Tirnovo in 1854. After graduating at Zagreb, he studied at Munich and Paris. He has been at various times Minister of Public Instruction; of Finance, Minister Plenipotentiary at Constantinople, delegate on various political missions, and Director of the Statistical Bureau. He was responsible for the first census of the Bulgarian population. Being opposed to M. Radoslavoff's policy, he held aloof from office from 1914 to 1918.

MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Normal Conditions. Malta, Aug. 2.

With the enervating sirocco blowing day after day, with families removed to the country, affairs in our military hothouse are only of the most ordinary and humdrum nature, and, with the exceptions of the vicinity of the Law Courts and the stuffy Marina, somnolence reigns. As regards the recent flash in the pan of the local riots, matters have again approached the normal, except for a few examples of unrest in anti-English and pro-Italian quarters. It has been noted that not a few have refused to hoist the Union Jack! This feeling, it should be said, is not the general spirit by any means. Business has had an extra spurt this week, as the Navy of all ranks have drawn their increased pay, and this has been spent, to the manifest advantage of the local tradesmen.

Schemes of Reform.

As with other small nations, Malta is clamouring for a reform in the constitution. The Island has been doing this for years. All kinds of suggestions are put forth, many fantastic, and even more foolish. Perhaps the best suggestion is that which has emanated from the Chamber of Advocates, namely, a bicameral system. It is thought that there is no public body in Malta more competent to deal with this ticklish question than the Chamber. At present the scheme as drafted by the above body has not been made public, but on its issue it will be dealt with fully in these notes. It is hoped by the intelligent section of the Island that some reasonable *modus operandi* be arrived at, as, for some considerable time past now, the legislative deadlock has been little more than a farce, and this, unfortunately, all to the disadvantage of the Island and its inhabitants.

Shortage of Food.

The Island is still feeling the food pinch; prices are still high, and, as regards some commodities, there is a greater scarcity than there was in actual war time. Many reasons are assigned to account for this, but probably the most important is that the merchants are "holding back," waiting for a fall in the markets generally. Still, the Government are doing their best to ease matters down, and to this end they have imported 1,009 bags of sugar and 150 bullocks, by the British ss. Norman Prince.

The Marina.

The Marina is assuming something of its old activity; the sailings are on the increase, and this at a rapid rate. The most notable arrivals have been the ss. Corby and the Italian ss. Primo Raffael, whilst the Norman Prince has left for Alexandria. A notable change is very marked. One after another the varied craft, which have figured so largely in the past war as sloops, trawlers, etc., are leaving Malta for good. The severance is felt by many, as in a way they had become part of the life of the harbour.

Island Prospects.

The presence of a fleet and a strongly maintained garrison have not proved altogether a blessing to Malta, for it

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has stifled all attempts at the establishment of local industries, with the result that the Island is dependent absolutely on the Navy, Military, and Dockyard. Owing to demobilisation, which is proceeding steadily, the pinch is being felt rather keenly, whilst the outlook for the future is distinctly sombre. To grapple with this question is one of the most ticklish points confronting our local Government. A pamphlet has just been issued in Italian explaining the provisions which are being taken by the Government to relieve the working and lower classes of the Island. This, in itself, constitutes a very pointed hint as to the state of unrest which is smouldering in the ranks of the poorer section of the community, which, on the least puff, may develop into a serious conflagration of riot. It is to be hoped that an adequate and satisfactory solution will be arrived at.

Constitutional Reform.

A little more light has been thrown on the proposed constitutional reform in the publishing of the draft schemes proposed by the National Assembly along with that issuing from the Chamber of Advocates. There is much that is controversial in both schemes, and the pros and cons form materials for abundant club and café chatter. The main objection, and one which is looked on as a source of weakness, is that the bicameral system is excluded. This is a patent flaw if Malta is to have a system of self-government. It is freely stated that in future the Island is to have a civilian and not a military Governor. This would go a long way towards satisfying the aspirations of the nation. It cannot be gainsaid that the country would be best served if it acted on the suggestions of the Advocate Party, for it is in this body that enlightenment and reason are to be found. Nationalists are often too rabid in asking, or, rather, demanding reform, and Malta is no exception.

Cassar Torregiani.

The name of Cassar Torregiani will be remembered in connection with the recent riots, and the fact that Antonio Cassar Torregiani Esq., O.B.E., has resigned his position as Officer-in-Charge of Flour Control is an echo of the above.

Sailings.

There has been quite an influx of steamers from the East Mediterranean, and amongst them were H.M.S. Sedulous, Kipper and Fraserbough, whilst H.M.S. Heroic, which has done such excellent work as Fleet Messenger, has left for England to pay off.

JERUSALEM NOTES.

The Arab Conference.

The following were the chief resolutions passed by the great Arab Conference held in Damascus recently, when they discussed the future of the country. (These points are to be laid before the Inter-Allied Commission for Peace.)

1. United Syria to consist of Syria and Palestine. The boundary to be from the Taurus Mountains to Al Arish.
2. United Syria to be absolutely independent; if that be impossible at present, America to have the mandate; if she refuses, Great Britain to have the mandate. France to have no right in Syria or in Palestine.
3. The period of mandatory to be twenty years.
4. The country to be a Constitutional Monarchy, with Emir Faisal as first Sultan of United Syria.
5. The country to be divided into small States; these to govern themselves, and be under the supreme command of the Sultan.
6. Religion to be separate from the State, and the rights of the minority to be safeguarded.
7. The influx of the Zionists into Palestine to be prevented, but the Jews of Palestine who were in the country before the war to enjoy the same rights and privileges as others.

Journal.

Up to a month ago no publication was allowed in Palestine except the Army paper, the *Palestine News*. This, not being required any further by the Army, was sold. The Arabic and the English editions were bought by a French society, and are still being published by them in Cairo. The Hebrew edition was bought by the Zionist Commission and was transferred to Jerusalem, where it is now issued. An Arabic weekly magazine, both literary and social, is being published in Jerusalem, and another Arabic weekly newspaper will soon appear in Jerusalem. The Zionist Commission is undertaking to publish very shortly the *Daily Palestine Mail* in the Hebrew language, with weekly editions in Arabic and English. Many more have applied for permission to publish journals, but for various reasons their applications have not been granted.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Peace Festivities.

Peace festivities have outrivalled any celebration previously held on the island. In some towns salutes were fired in the early morning. The ringing of church bells was followed by parades of military police, and marches through the streets with bands playing. On the coast, regattas were held, and in the evening there were fireworks and illuminations; the municipalities, banks, clubs, and many private persons doing all they could to make the display worthy of the occasion. At Limassol, which boasts of electric lighting, the pier and quay were brightly lit up, and a dinner was given to 700 of the poor.

Greeks and Turks.

There has been no ill-feeling during the rejoicings, although many are of opinion that trouble would arise between Turks and Greeks if the island were abandoned by Great Britain and our garrison removed. There has been much less talk of "union with Greece," and interest has flagged considerably among the natives. The delay in appointing a new High Commissioner, and the absence of so many of the higher officials, are the chief causes of any gossip on the subject. Many town politicians and orators are absent, and the weather, so far very hot, has not been conducive to meetings and political discussion. Moreover, no news was received by the last mail from the Deputation in London, which is rather ominous.

As regards the Turkish communities, they do not demonstrate or make any fuss over rumours. But while treating matters calmly, they have always submitted strongly and carefully-worded protests against Greek claims and action. The Greeks have had many panics at various times, when rumours have got about that the island was to be given back to Turkey. There have been several such occasions. Thus, in 1902, e.g., there was such a commotion that the Government put out a notice in English, Turkish, and Greek, as follows:—

His Excellency the High Commissioner directs it to be notified for general information that he has received instructions from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, with reference to various telegrams sent from Cyprus to the Secretary of State, to announce publicly that His Majesty's Government have no intention whatever of handing over Cyprus to any country.—*By His Excellency's Command.*

Miscellania.

All camps and bungalows on Mt. Troodos are full. Hotel prices have risen, as was to be expected. The mail steamer is always crowded. On the last trip from Port Said there were over 170 passengers from Egypt, and many more are expected. The Royal Scots have left Famagusta for Egypt.

CHESS.

With the opening at Hastings on July 11 of the Victory Chess Tournament international chess has come into its own again after a lengthy interregnum. The Victory Tournament takes the place of the British Championship, which remains in suspension until next year, since it would have been impossible to hold the two competitions at the meeting of the British Chess Federation, and it was desired on this occasion to secure the participation of the leading Allied and neutral masters who would not have been eligible for the British Championship. Of the twelve players in the tournament the chief personality is, of course, the Cuban chess prodigy, Señor Capablanca, who has been called "a second Morphy," and is regarded as beyond question the best player in the world to-day. M. Kostitch, the Serbian champion, who distinguished himself by playing through two tournaments in America without losing a game, but afterwards, in a match with Capablanca, failed to obtain a point, is the most formidable of the Cuban's opponents, who include two Dutch representatives, M. Marchand and Dr. Olland; a Mexican, Mr. Conde; and some of the leading British amateurs, notable among them Mr. F. D. Yates, the British champion, Sir G. A. Thomas, and Mr. R. P. Mitchell. It is a matter for regret that the leading British exponent, Mr. H. E. Atkins, seven times champion, was unable to compete on medical advice.

The play, so far as it has gone, confirms expectations. Capablanca and Kostitch have both won their games without apparent difficulty, and it would not be surprising were the result of the tournament to depend on the individual encounter of these masters. A draw between them is not impossible, though it may be unlikely. At any rate, it can be said that Kostitch, provided he escapes bad luck against his other opponents, has quite a good chance of tieing with the great Cuban. At the time of writing three rounds have been completed, and only the two masters have obtained full points.

The Civil Service Commissioners give notice that an Open Competitive Examination for the Indian Civil Service will be held in London beginning on August 2, 1920. No person will be admitted to examination from whom the Secretary of the Civil Service Commission has not received, on or before June 1, an application, in the candidate's own handwriting, on a prescribed form, which may be obtained from the Secretary at once.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

At one time I used to wonder how many readers of THE NEAR EAST paid any attention to the Calendar of the Week that heads the Personal and General pages; or, to be more truthful, I used to suspect that nobody ever glanced at it! My scepticism has been rebuked and chastened, however, for I learn that it is regarded as a very useful thing by several regular readers, and that when (owing, no doubt, to that evilly disposed printer, against whom I have such a grudge) an error crept into it, the editorial staff heard *all* about it from more than one direction. I am not surprised, for a friend has suggested to me that since uninitiated readers probably have a monthly sweepstake on the apparent race between the "Arabic" and "Jewish" calendar; and, of course, that *would* lend interest to a much duller and less useful feature. I only wish I could find out where the sweepstake takes place!

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But that is by the way! What turned my thoughts in this direction was a query regarding the meaning of the Arabic names of the months. Whether the information I have jotted down in a note-book is absolutely trustworthy I should hesitate to say; but at least it was given me by an educated Arab, a Government official and a Moslem. According to him, the present Arabic month Julka'ada, or, more correctly, Zu el Qa'ada, has preserved its name from pre-Mohammedan days, and it means the "sit-down" month; that is to say, it was the first of the three months in which the Arabs were forbidden to fight amongst themselves, and they had to "sit down" in peace together, so to say. The next month, Zu el Hejja, was, of course, the month of "Pilgrimage." The last of the trio, Moharrem (or Mu'hurrum), was the "not do" month, *i.e.*, the (last) month of not doing the forbidden things. My friend suggested that abstention from all manner of forbidden things was implied, and that it was what one would expect from anybody who had just made the Hajj. But whether he had any authority for the suggestion I know not.

***

About this time last year we had a hot spell of weather similar to that which we are now experiencing. I was in France at the time, and I remember well how, after the day's work, we used to have a bath and spend the rest of the evening in pyjamas, this being the coolest form of attire we could find. Now, this practice of wearing pyjamas out-of-doors has (I am told by those wicked ones who know) been practised even in this country; but a fresh example of it is provided by the news from Roumania. A certain nation recently sent to Turkish women in Roumanian villages a large consignment of pyjamas. These dainty habits were received with frenzied delight by the Turkish females, who promptly (but quite naturally) utilised the garments for outdoor use. How they looked I can but wistfully guess, but I daresay they compare very favourably with some sights which one does see (willy-nilly) in Western Europe. The Turkish woman has, at any rate, made up her mind (or had it made up for her) that the concealment of female charms is better for the world than their suggestion or exposure; and who will say she is wrong?

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"The moral effect of the aeroplane on the tribes of Afghanistan must have been tremendous. It will probably save India scores of rupees and shorten what might otherwise have been a long war." Thus General Seely, in his defence of the Royal Air Force, quoting someone else, as reported in *The Times*. I have heard before of the close fistedness of India's keeper of the Purse Strings, and if he has drilled the spending departments into such a frame of mind that they rejoice over £2 or £3 saved—well, the sooner that spirit is introduced nearer home the better. Of course, it is left to the imagination whether the someone else, "whose knowledge of India was unrivalled," talked of "scores of rupees," and whether General Seely did. At all events, *The Times* did; but what the aeroplane really saved India was *crores* of rupees—a slightly different matter.

CORSAIR.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in September, between Geoffrey Swinford Laird-Clowes, Egyptian Civil Service, only son of the late Sir William Laird-Clowes and of Lady Laird-Clowes, and Dulcie Evelyn, eldest daughter of George Glass Hooper, of 23, Kensington Court, W.8, and Bude, Cornwall, where the ceremony will take place.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Massacres of Armenians. August 12.

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH, answering Mr. Cairns, who asked him whether he had any knowledge of fresh massacres of Armenians by Turks and Tartars in Asia Minor and the Caucasus, said:—Recent disturbances in the Mosul area have resulted in the murder of a number of Christians, some of whom at least were probably Armenians. Massacres of Armenians in the Caucasus are reported, but have not so far been confirmed. There can, I am afraid, be no doubt that the present position of the Armenians is very far from satisfactory, and his Majesty's Government are anxious to see their future determined and a mandatory Power, if there is to be one, appointed at the earliest possible date.

Colonel YATE: Would it not be better to maintain the garrison in these territories until the difficulties have been settled?

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH: That is a question for the War Office.

Mr. THOMSON: Is it not a fact that the Allied representatives in Armenia have said that if the troops of occupation are withdrawn massacres of Christians on a large scale may be expected?

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH: The facts may be as stated, but I am not aware of that myself.

Mesopotamia, Egypt, and India.

Mr. CHURCHILL said: We have more than 100,000 men in Mesopotamia, of whom 20,000 are British. Nevertheless, there have been several risings, Kurdish and Arab risings, and every attempt to reduce this force is met by warnings and protest from the responsible officers on the spot. It is very easy to reduce the force to a point where disaster would occur. That would throw back fatally the whole process at once of the establishment of order and of demobilisation. It is a very serious thing to demand that a force shall be cut down below the limits of what those in the country consider is absolutely safe. It does seem, if we are ever to make our administration in Mesopotamia float in an economic sense, that we must contemplate military methods which will enable the country to be kept in good order without burdening it with the enormous charge of an Army of these dimensions. It never would pay if it had to support the expense of an establishment of that size, and the kind of inquiry on which we are now embarked is to see whether, by the use of armoured cars, by judicious arrangements of railways and aeroplanes, by Tanks of a very fast-moving kind, it is not possible to organise the kind of force which will maintain order in those wild regions without employing a large number of highly-paid British soldiers, as they will be in the future, and burdening the whole province with a charge under which it could never stand erect in an economic sense. We have more than 90,000 men in Egypt and Palestine. I am asking most urgently that they shall also be reduced to much less than half that figure by the adoption of methods similar to those which I have indicated as appropriate in regard to Mesopotamia. . . . Of the garrison in India Mr. Churchill said: We have at the same time on our hands the Army in India, and also the battalions and batteries which are forming to relieve the Army in India, and which are just beginning to go out. We have also behind them battalions and batteries forming to make the link cadres to feed the new battalions when they have gone out and taken their place as the permanent peace time garrison in India. All that is running at the same time. Until the end of the year, when we can bring home the troops from India, we shall be forced to maintain, as it were, a duplicate of the Indian garrison at home preparing to go out.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the Official Report.

INDIAN ARMY OFFICERS IN FRANCE (PAY). PEACE TREATY: Bulgaria. GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BILL. MILITARY HEADQUARTERS, CONSTANTINOPLE. INDIA: North-West Frontier (Medical Arrangements). (August 5.)

INDIA: Army Commission.—Punjab Commission.—Currency.—Patel Hindu Intercaste Marriage Bill.—Hospital Arrangements.—Government of India Bill.—Afghanistan (Negotiations). MOROCCO (SPANISH ZONE). EGYPT (HIGH COMMISSIONERS). Palestine (Pre-War Revenue). ALBANIA. DEMOBILISATION: Men Detained in India. INDIA: North-West Frontier (Medical Arrangements).—Rupee (Rate of Exchange). (August 6.)

DARDANELLES COMMISSION: Second Report (Publication). SMYRNA DISORDERS. DEMOBILISATION: Troops in India. INDIAN CURRENCY COMMITTEE (EVIDENCE). (August 7.)

INDIAN ARMY (BRITISH OFFICERS' PAY). (August 8.)

FORCES OF INDIA (AEROPLANES). DEMOBILISATION: Men in India. LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR G. MILNE. CHANAK CAMP, DARDANELLES. EX-KING OF MONTENEGRO. ALBANIA. (August 11.)

Indian Army officers will be interested to learn that the petition which has been prepared under arrangements made by the Comrades of the Great War with regard to the amelioration of the present scale of pensions is being extensively signed. As soon as it is complete it will be presented to the Secretary of State for India, to whom, in the meantime, a copy has been submitted, with the request that he will be so good as to receive a deputation in connection with the matter after the Recess. All communications on the subject should be addressed to the General Secretary, Comrades of the Great War, 8, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Future of Constantinople.

The *Morning Post* of August 7, in a leading article dealing with "The Future of Constantinople," takes up the view that England alone of the nations is suited to have the mandate for the present capital of the Turkish Empire. America, it says, has not the genius for the administration of an Asiatic country, and Greece does not yet command sufficient respect and popularity among the Turks:—

For it must be remembered that Constantinople cannot well be divided from Turkey. They who hold the city must rule the Empire. Both France and Italy are no doubt restrained by the consciousness of this fact from pressing claims which their resources could hardly support. Yet it is obvious that the Allied Powers require one of their members to do this necessary work of administering Constantinople and the Turkish Empire. Otherwise we shall be having the Bolsheviks using Constantinople as the centre and focus for their sinister plans in the Near East—plans which are closely related to German designs in those regions. Why should not England undertake it? We understand that our Government would fain pass the cup. They fear the burden of a new responsibility. They think the British Empire already overloaded, and they point to our recent great additions of territory in Asia Minor. But it seems to us that these additions are the best reason for adding to them. We had Egypt; we have now Palestine and Mesopotamia. Can we rest in those regions in peace if Constantinople is in alien and almost inevitably hostile hands? For if we do not accept it, let us be sure that it will pass under the influence of the Bolsheviks or the Germans. On the other hand, if we accept it, we simplify our problems in Egypt, in Palestine, in Mesopotamia, and in India. For in the immediate past Constantinople has been the radiating centre of trouble in all those regions. It is the key of the whole position. If we have not Constantinople we shall always find it difficult to hold most of the others. But if we govern Constantinople the rest become easy and obedient provinces.

There is another reason. We suppose that if we undertake this great work we shall be forced to undertake it as a mandatory of the other Powers—calling themselves, in our new phraseology, a League of Nations. That being so, let us be quite in the fashion and claim—as we may truthfully—the Turkish Empire, on the principle of self-determination. We have excellent authority for saying that the Turks desire England to intervene. They have suffered such terrible things from the Committee of Union and Progress and from the Germans, they see so little chance of re-establishing a solvent and acceptable native rule, that in despair they cry out for England. They have heard from Egypt and from India that England is easy, fair, generous, broad-minded, and tolerant; that she does not exploit and dragoon her subject races unmercifully, but grants them all reasonable franchises and liberties. Therefore the Turks desire to see England in Constantinople. Does anyone object? The Bolsheviks will object, naturally, but we do not value their objections. The Germans will object. But we pay no attention to them. Who else? The French are not likely to object, for they must desire a safe and friendly neighbour at the back of Syria. The Americans will not object, for they have ample experience of the fairness and hospitality of our rule in Asia. The Italians will not object, for they would prefer to see us there than certain other nations it might be invidious to mention. And the Greeks would not object for much the same reason. Therefore, upon the whole it is an acceptable solution—that England should occupy Constantinople and administer Turkey in Asia. It is a great responsibility, but in the past we have faced greater without flinching. We were then but a little group of islands; we have now a great Empire to assist in the work. And it is a work worth doing.

The C.U.P.

The Constantinople correspondent of *The Times* (August 7) has an informing article on "The Occult Power in Turkey." The writer is of opinion that the power of the Young Turks' Organisation is by no means at an end. He says:—

For it must be acknowledged and clearly borne in mind that, for all the crimes that have stained its record, the Party of Union and Progress is, for the thousands of those in whom it has implanted the once unknown love of country, the sole champion of rights which they have learnt to regard as sacred. For all the corruption and self-seeking of the bulk of its leaders, and however misguided their policy, there is no reason to believe that the patriotism they proclaim is other than a genuine feeling, or to doubt that this feeling, though so newly awakened, has become a passion with large numbers of the people—a passion that will not die out and may lead to unforeseen developments in the near future. The party no longer openly profess the religious unbelief in which they once exalted. That attitude was dropped when it was seen to be a serious obstacle to their political aims.

Their change of front in regard to religion is no less remarkable a proof of their astuteness than the way in which they have made political gain from the war:—

Incredible though it may seem, they have not only got themselves absolved from the blame of plunging the nation into a disastrous war, but have actually managed to glean fresh "kudos" out of the welter of humiliation in which their country lies. All the odium for the deplorable situation which has resulted from their acts they have cleverly succeeded in throwing on their political opponents, the group known as the Liberal Entente, to which belong the members of the present Cabinet. Many believe them when they accuse Damad Ferid Pasha and his colleagues of betraying the country by their tame submission to the harsh decisions of the representatives of the victorious Powers. The truth is that when the Armistice began few or none of the Turks realised the full gravity of their plight. The cataclysmal nature of the crisis in which their Empire was so deeply involved only began to dawn upon them after the ejectment of the Young Turks from power. And so, now more than ever, the latter pose as the sole true patriots, the sole possible saviours of the State. Aghast and bewildered by the succession of blows that are falling upon it, those Turks who still hope against hope once more look to them for guidance, not knowing where else to turn.

Egypt.

In the *Nineteenth Century* of July, Dr. A. J. Butler has an article on "The Fortunes of Egypt," in which he sketches his matter historically. What made certain, the writer says, the close connection of England and Egypt was the purchase of the Suez Canal shares from Ismail Pasha. Of this transaction he says:—

But it was French capital mainly and French engineering genius which had made the canal; and during Ismail's reign French and English influence were much on a balance, each Power having a Minister in the Khedive's Cabinet. Upon the fall of Nubar Pasha in 1879 the Governments of Britain and France acted together, and for the first time took the responsibility of dictating to the Khedive certain terms upon which it was made quite clear that the continuance of his rule depended. This was a new departure for British policy, and fraught with momentous consequences, for the principle involved was put to the test almost at once. Ismail had no intention whatever of sinking into a constitutional ruler. He had at command all the choicest phrases which adorned Western diplomacy. He could profess devotion to the interests of his people and chant the praises of justice and freedom in most moving terms.

Of Ismail's son, Tewfik Pasha, who was proclaimed Khedive of Egypt in 1879, the following picture is given:—

Tewfik Pasha was a man of very different character from his father. To say that he had a much finer moral sense than Ismail would be faint praise; Ismail had none. Tewfik was, in fact, a man for whom honour and conscience meant a great deal; with a high estimate of his duty as a ruler, he had the welfare of his people really at heart, not a mere phrase on his lips. But, while he had no taste for the picturesque iniquities of his father, the moral bondage and even fear of death under which his father had habitually kept him had not tended to endow him with a moral force equal to the measure of his responsibilities. These, however, were lightened when the British and French Governments together definitely assumed the control of the finances.

After giving the story of the interflowing of British and French influence, the writer refers to the British domination as being due to an irresistible purpose, working through the shortcomings of human intelligence for the good of the world.

For that, after all, must be the aim and the end, as it is the justification, of British rule in Egypt. Our dominion there is a great trust not merely for the peoples of the British Empire, not merely for the benefit of the ancient races settled there, but for the world. We have to see to it that Palestine and Syria, Mesopotamia, Armenia, and Arabia, now liberated by our arms, shall remain free from the barbarous oppression of the Turks, by whomsoever they may be governed. We have to see to it also that the work of progress and reform in Egypt, begun under difficult conditions, should, under the British Protectorate, be continued and extended, and that sound education, impartial justice, and freedom, religious and civil, be firmly established. The Capitulations must be annulled, so that the unjust immunities which they confer on Europeans resident in Egypt shall cease, and all persons and causes should receive equal, and no more than equal, justice under the law of the land. As between Muslims and Christians, there must also be equal treatment, and the two communities must be trained to work together in mutual respect and tolerance for the common weal, to the end that in time they may become capable of self-government, the Muslims meanwhile secure under the protection of the greatest Mohammedan Power in the world, and the Copts secure under the banner of St. George, their patron saint and ours.

Finally, in commenting upon the recent disturbances, he states:—

The task of training Egypt for self-government is not lightened by this ignorant and senseless outbreak. But one thing is more than ever clear—that Government must come before self-government. And it must be systematic government, British government, with real and full executive power entrusted to British officials directly responsible to a British central authority. The Protectorate now established must justify itself by sweeping away the crumbling fictions on which too much of our administration has hitherto rested. A really strong and just Government is the first necessity. With that, and with the goodwill of the people, progress, and ultimately self-government, may be achieved.

All persons visiting the new kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes must have their passports visé at the Yugoslav Legation or Consulate in the country of which they are subjects.

Sentences passed on the persons implicated in the disturbances on June 7 and 8 at Malta range from seven years' to three months' imprisonment. The Governor has remitted fourteen minor sentences.

According to a message received from the Yugoslav Legation, the Peace Conference has definitely recognised, as part of the kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, the territory of Prekomurie, and has given consent to Serbian troops occupying it.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE NEAR EAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The interesting article by Major the Hon. W. Ormsby Gore, M.P. (THE NEAR EAST, July 25), is opportune: for although uncertainty still prevails regarding the disposal of various territories, and although surprise may yet be in store, discussion is valuable, as helping to form opinion on which Government decision so much depends. Many persons have good reason to be anxious as to British policy in the Near East. Whatever decision may be arrived at, whatever "zones of influence" may be created, it is certain that British responsibilities throughout the East will be largely increased.

The principal contention is that a new Ministry should be established to deal with all the Arabic-speaking countries which will form part of the British Empire, or will fall to our mandate as Trustees for the League of Nations. Major Ormsby Gore has, I think, elsewhere advocated that such a Ministry should be subordinate to a future "Secretary of State for Imperial Administration." The writer of the article makes out a strong case for such a Ministry of the Near (or Middle) East. Should his scheme be realised, the India Office would cease to control the eastern portions of Arabia, where British influence is paramount and large parts of the Arabic-speaking world, not—as Major Ormsby Gore points out—because administrative capacity is lacking in that office—far from it—but because the Indian and Arabic-speaking peoples differ so much that to make Mesopotamia a dependency of India would, he considers, be disastrous. India, again, has more than enough to do without governing the lands of the Nile, the Tigris and Euphrates, and the Jordan. This latter part of the argument is, I think, the strongest. Similarly, Foreign Office control would cease in Egypt and the other regions of Arabia and Africa where it is exercised. Assuming that neither office is (for different reasons) adequately equipped for the new task, it follows that the staff of the proposed new Ministry should be well qualified for its duties. To mention one point, the more the Arabic language is studied the better. In the School of Oriental Studies more officers have, I believe, been studying Arabic than any other Oriental language. Again, it is most desirable that those to be employed in the Near East shall have full sympathy not only with the problems to be faced, but also with the people, mostly Moslems, with whom they will have to deal. Much, indeed, could be said on this subject.

No reference is made to the Colonial Office except to say that the Dominions Department should soon be transferred to the control of the Prime Minister or the Lord President of the Council. Some of the countries, however, *e.g.*, Cyprus, that would come under the new Ministry, are now under that Office. With reference to the Colonial Office, it is clear that in the coming reconstruction, which apparently waits on ratification of Peace terms, the "palpable anachronisms" of which Lord Milner has spoken, such as that of concerning itself with Dominions "which we do not pretend to govern at all," will disappear also, perhaps the Colonial Office itself, as Major Ormsby Gore thinks it should, being merged in other Departments. Cyprus is just mentioned. The island, though generally regarded in England as a negligible quantity, may yet become of no little importance, in connection with the future of lands bordering on the Eastern Mediterranean. It is therefore to be hoped that Government will not commit an unpardonable blunder in ceding it to any other "Power." In the present state of affairs in the Near East such an act would be worse than foolish. There can hardly be two opinions about this, as there were not in 1915. Whatever tea-cup storms or difficulties have sprung up in the island are entirely due to British failure to steer a right course in our Mid-Eastern policy, as Sir William Ramsay has, amongst others, pointed out. East Africa should, as Mr. Leland Buxton advocates, be included in the new grouping.

It is much to be regretted that Lord Cromer, Sir Mark Sykes, and Lord Kitchener are not with us to-day. But there are many able men well acquainted with all the many inner problems of the Near East. Whatever the reorganisation of Ministries and Departments may be, the great need is to lose no time in promoting the development, under our British genius for the task, of the many patient and long-suffering countries in question.—I am, etc.,

August 11 [illegible] ROLAND L. N. MICHELL.

CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—We are extremely grateful to you for the courtesy which you have extended to us up to now, and we shall deem it a favour if you will kindly grant us space for a few remarks upon your leading article on Cyprus which appeared in your issue of August 8. You are dealing in it with many important questions, and your arguments and conclusions can be fairly summarised as follows:—

(1) That the future of Cyprus is not the concern of the Paris Conference. (2) That the contention that the Cypriot question was a simple question of justice, in view of the preponderance of Greeks on the island, fell to the ground after the Greek occupation of Smyrna and the incidents attending the advance of Greek troops inland, and that there is danger of bloodshed if Cyprus is handed over to Greece. (3) That it is not desirable to add to Greece's difficulties by giving her jurisdiction over more territory than she can at present administer.

Allow us to deal seriatim with each of the above:—(1) We have always refrained from dealing with the point as to whether the Cypriot question does or does not concern the Peace Conference, as we had and still have unshaken confidence in the application of British justice. We left entirely to Great Britain the formal mode which that justice was to take. But it is a fact beyond dispute that up to the outbreak of war with Turkey Cyprus was occupied and administered by England as part of the Turkish Empire by virtue of the Anglo-Turkish Convention of 1878. The war with Turkey, the other signatory Power to that Convention, brought about an anomalous state of things with regard to Cyprus, and the British Government have then taken a temporary measure by issuing the Order in Council of November 5, 1914, annexing Cyprus to His Majesty's Dominions in order that a "proper provision may be made for the government and protection" of the island. Now that these troubled times are over and the complicated problems connected with the ex-Turkish Empire are being seriously considered by the Paris Conference, it is evident that the definite solution of the Cypriot question becomes imperative. But we have not allowed ourselves even to entertain the thought of adopting any other course than that of applying directly and solely to Great Britain, which we implicitly trust. (2) It is beyond our scope to contradict or explain the incidents which it is rumoured have attended the Greek occupation of Smyrna. It is not, however, unknown that many underhand practices preceded the occupation, that the Greek Army was seriously provoked, and that a number of occurrences were purposely exaggerated by the rivals of Greece. But the fact that Greek justice has mercilessly dealt with the few who have committed any wrongful acts is, we think, an asset for establishing not mistrust, but confidence in the Greek administration. The conditions in Cyprus are quite different from those prevailing in Smyrna. The Moslems in the island have enjoyed for a long period equal privileges of citizenship with the Greeks. There is no sharp racial or religious contrast between the two elements; they live in very friendly relations, and strong ties of common financial interest unite them. Consequently, not only there will be no danger of bloodshed, but not even of any disturbance when the union of Cyprus with Greece is effected. The change in Smyrna was great. There the Moslems, from rulers, found themselves subjects. The solution of the Cypriot question is not based only on the "preponderance of the Greeks" in the island. If we are asking for our national freedom on that ground, it does not follow that Great Britain had no duty to perform both towards us and towards the nation with which she had fought in common—namely, the duty of applying to Cyprus, without any demand, the principles of self-determination. (3) Cyprus has had the advantage of good and partial administration for a period of fifty years. If the island is ceded to Greece, not only she will not hamper the Greek Administration, but, on the contrary, both Greeks and Turks will be in a position to give valuable assistance to the Greek Government. We venture to suggest that this ought not to be overlooked by the friends and supporters of Greece, particularly by Great Britain, which no doubt is one of them.

In conclusion, allow us, Sir, to thank you for the complimentary terms in which you have referred to our work in London. But nothing succeeds like success, and we cannot conceal our impression that more attention and weight are given to a more or less imaginary discontent among the Moslem minority in the event of Cyprus being ceded to Greece than to the positive despair of the greatest majority of the Greek Cypriots in the event of a gross injustice being done to their case. But we do not believe that Great Britain is capable of committing such an injustice.—We are, etc.,

"THE CYPRUS DEPUTATION."

2, Lancaster Street, W.2, August 11, 1919.

MONTENEGRO.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—At a time when the gallant rearguard action of Montenegro that held General Mackensen's force back and saved the retreat of the Serbian army is in danger of being forgotten amid the confusion of political propaganda, it was very pleasant to all who admire that gallant little country to see that, at any rate, the British Army did not forget to acknowledge their brave little Ally, and hung from the windows of the War Office the national flag of Montenegro.—I am, etc.,

ALEX. DEVINE.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

FATE OR FREE WILL.*

Miss Jane Stephen has set herself a very difficult task in attempting to follow the trend of Indian thought with the avowed aim of discovering its judgments of "the world, of men, and of that Power of which the world and men are the outcome." Her main authority is the Vedas, or Vedic, hymns—earliest literature of that marvellous race which invaded India in successive swarms between 1500 and 1000 B.C. These are commentaries, with supplementary chapters termed Brahmanas, which give minute directions for conducting sacrifice. The Hindu ideal of a well-spent life embraces three stages—namely, Youth devoted to education, Manhood to rearing a family and performing the duties of citizenship, and Old Age to preparation for death in the depths of a forest (*aranya* in Sanskrit). So the later Vedas are termed Aranyakas, and they conclude with the Upanishads, so styled because their doctrines were learnt by students seated (Sansk. *upa-ni-sad*, "to sit") round their teacher. They are treatises of philosophy, the writer's aim being to extract the grain of truth from the husk of superstition and ritual. Internal evidence inclines Miss Stephen to place the Upanishads between the completion of the Vedas and the Reformation preached by Buddha in the seventh century B.C.

Absorptive power is the basic feature of Hinduism. Every religion current in the West occupies a watertight compartment from which the dogma of its rivals is rigorously excluded. They are fiercely intolerant. "Orthodoxy," said the sardonic Bishop Warburton, "is my doxy, and heterodoxy is other peoples' doxy." On the other hand, a pious Hindu may hold two sets of conflicting ideas. His remote ancestors believed that the dead depend for support in a future life on the efforts of surviving relatives. According to a later development the soul released from its earthly tabernacle passes into another body, whose rank in the cosmogony is proportionate to the merit acquired during previous existences. Although the two theories are mutually destructive, a Hindu spends his life in attempting to deserve a higher stage on transmigration, and performs sacrifices calculated to ensure the well-being of at least three generations of ancestors. Every organised religion may be compared to a complex geological formation, for it exhibits strata of belief in chronological order. This characteristic is very marked in Hinduism. The student detects traces in its structure of the animism and magic practised by the aboriginal tribes with which the Aryan conquerors came into conflict. He can follow the ascent of the human intellect from the thrall of primitive supersition to nature-worship, anthropomorphic conceptions, polytheism, monotheism, and philosophic doubt.

But the ultimate efflorescence of Indian thought is found in the "Bhagavadgita," a poem which gathers into a mighty river the streams of speculation flowing in the Vedas and Upanishads. Miss Stephen assigns the fourth century B.C. to this "product of one of the finest and most powerful imaginations that the world has ever seen." It is an attempt to reconcile philosophic thought with the phenomena of actual existence by announcing a revelation made by a specified person at a specified time and place. In the Gitá God assumes human form as Krishna, who came into the world in order to destroy wickedness, promote virtue, and establish the reign of divine law. It thus possesses remarkable affinity with the Christian Gospels. Miss Stephen, however, disputes the theory once current that one of these revelations is a plagiarism of the other. Inasmuch as the two are teaching the same doctrine, it is natural that there should be likenesses of thought and even of expression. Each claims to be founded on an historical event, and each declares that the divine has manifested itself in human form on earth. Our belief in the doctrine is dependent on our belief in the historical event. We cannot press this point too strongly; it is essential in both cases.

Whatever view may be taken by militant theologians, it is impossible to overlook the vast influence on civilisation exercised by the system of philosophy built up by fifty generations of Hindu thinkers. It has percolated into the framework of the organised religions which took shape in Judea, Persia, Hellas, and Arabia; and it brings the age-long controversy, "Fate or Free-will," to an issue which grows clearer as we dwell upon it.

Western thought has accepted Hebrew guidance, and has put it into practice for 3,000 years; it acts on the assumption of free-will, and has announced its belief on God as a person. This belief it holds occasionally and inconsistently, confusing it with savage superstitions, forgetting and misrepresenting it. Succeeding generations have revolted against the intellectual idols bequeathed to them and set up others of their own; yet all have this common feature, that each man has attributed to God what was at the moment his own highest idea of goodness. To such conceptions India has opposed a continual challenge. It declares that the ultimate is incomprehensible, and that all experience is illusion.

Yet a peroration worthy of a book which is packed with profound speculation is the reverse of pessimistic. Miss Stephen writes:—

It seems that our choice lies between believing that personal character is nothing or is all. In early Indian thought we have the boldest and the most consistent effort the human mind has ever made to show that it is nothing, and the effort has failed. Thought may yet learn a lesson from life that shall end not in failure but in hope.

F. H. S.

* "Studies in Early Indian Thought." By Dorothea Jane Stephen, S.Th. (Cambridge University Press. Price 6s. net).

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Echoes from the Greek Anthology." By J. G. Legge. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Leopard's Leap." By Boxwallah. (London: Andrew Melrose, Ltd. 6s. net.)

"Yashka: My Life as Peasant, Exile, and Soldier." By Maria Botchkareva. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 6s. 6d. net.)

"A New Constitution for India": The Problem of the Electorates. (Calcutta: W. Newman and Co.)

We have received a memorandum on the Indian Reform scheme from Mufti Muhammad Sadiq, political delegate of the Ahmadia community, one of those interesting developments of Islam of which more is certain to be heard in the near future. As represented in this memorandum, the community take a middle position on the question of political reform; they scout the idea of immediate Home Rule, accord their support to the official scheme of Dyarchy, with certain modifications tending to the Right rather than the Left, and naturally argue strongly in favour of communal electorates. The views expressed are typical of sentiments widely held in India, and we are glad that they are being placed before the joint committee.

In response to the representatives of the Imperial Merchant Service Guild, the India Office has approved the issue of a war gratuity to officers (both Regular and Temporary) of the Royal Indian Marine under the same conditions as apply to officers of the Royal Navy or of the Royal Naval Reserve or Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. August	1919. August		1337. Julkada.	5679. Ab.
15	2	Friday	18	19
16	3	Saturday.....	19	20
17	4	Sunday	20	21
18	5	Monday	21	22
19	6	Tuesday	22	23
20	7	Wednesday	23	24
21	8	Thursday	24	25

It is stated that the Shah of Persia is about to visit Europe.

General Sir W. N. Congreve, V.C., is shortly to leave England to take up an important military command in Palestine.

Brigadier-General Ronald Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem, had the honour of being received by the King on August 9.

The Governor of Madras unveiled a statue of His Majesty the King opposite Pachaiappa's College, Madras, on July 19.

Dr. F. G. Clemow, who has been in Constantinople in connection with the work of the Serbian Relief Fund, is proceeding home on leave.

Lieut.-Colonel J. P. Moir, D.S.O., Director of Posts and Telegraphs Department, has left the Sudan for leave to the United Kingdom.

M. Michael B. Boeresco, the Roumanian *Chargé d'Affaires*, visited the Foreign Office on August 8 and had an interview with Sir Ronald Graham.

The marriage was celebrated on July 3, at Sanderstead, Surrey, between Charles Francis Fitch, C.I.E., and Mrs. Emily Beatrice Gertrude Johnson.

The marriage took place on August 1, at Dharmsala, between Charles Campbell Canney, of the Punjab Irrigation, and Mai Burn, of Conseytrowe, Taunton, Somerset.

Dr. Smodlaka, the head delegate of the Yugoslav Peace Delegation, has arrived in London from Paris for the purpose of studying the economic conditions in this country.

His Excellency El Lewa H. W. Jackson Pasha, C.B., Governor of the Dongola Province and Acting Governor-General of the Sudan, left on July 22 for a visit to El Obeid.

M.E. Sowerby Bey, D.S.O., Sudan Government, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army, and has been transferred to the Ministry of Communications, Egypt.

The marriage took place on August 1, at Rawal Pindi, India, between Captain Donald Gillies Reyburn, 93rd Burmah Infantry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Reyburn, Craigrannock, Ballachulish, and Meryll Vernon Nuttall.

Miss Frances E. Newton has been made a Lady of Grace of the Order of St. John in recognition of work done in connection with sending out the British Relief Unit to Syria and with the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund.

Our Malta Correspondent writes (August 2):—
Lieutenant-Colonel Bamford, O.B.E., M.C., of the South African Infantry, the newly-appointed Commissioner of the Malta Police, has just arrived on the Island.

The marriage was celebrated on July 31 at Nicosia, Cyprus, between Major Wilfrid Nash Bolton, O.B.E., late Wiltshire Regt., and Gertrude Nellie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Parkhurst, of Fairmount, Rochester.

The marriage arranged between Captain Hugh Trotter, I.A.R.O., attached 2nd Gurkha Rifles, and Miss Kathleen Norah Muller will take place at All Souls Church, Langham Place, W., on August 27, at 2 p.m.

The Sufi Khankah, established some years ago by Inayat Khan, at 86, Ladbroke Road, is now located at 29, Golden Square, where it will continue its activities. Inayat Khan is taking a short rest and change, and the Khankah will reopen for its new season next October.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—Mr. C. S. Cade, Commissioner of Nicosia, has been granted three months' leave, and will not return to Cyprus. Mr. J. R. Holmes, Acting Puisne Judge, who was to retire in October, will, at the request of the Government, probably remain in the island until June, 1920.

His Honour Sir Harcourt Butler will proceed on tour towards the end of this month, and intends visiting Lucknow, Benares, Allahabad, Cawnpore, Agra, Firozabad, and Khurja before returning to Naini Tal.

Mr. H. M. R. Hopkins, a member of the United Provinces Board of Revenue, has been granted six months' leave dating from this month. Mr. Percy Harrison, Settlement Commissioner, is acting for him.

The engagement is announced of Captain V. C. Cassidy, Indian Army, son of the late Surgeon Capt. C. C. Cassidy, I.M.S., and Mrs. Cassidy, to Lola, younger daughter of Mr. David Wilkins, of Palace Mansions, Kensington, London, W.

The engagement is announced of Henry Plumer Keary, Indian Army, elder son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mee Keary, and Barbara Mary, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Bennett, of Moat Lodge, Beckenham, formerly of Alderley Edge.

Captain E. H. Mann, M.C., Royal Field Artillery; Captain J. H. Pelly, Worcestershire Regiment; and Captain W. C. Ratcliffe, Northamptonshire Regiment, have been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army and posted to the Sudan Government.

The engagement is announced between Clifford James Price, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Price, of Newent, Gloucestershire, and Muriel, youngest daughter of the late W. A. Nedham, Commissioner C.P. India, and of Mrs. Nedham, of Netherbury, Dorset.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain (T/Major) Philip Wheeler Bliss, Royal Engineers, youngest son of Sir Henry Bliss, K.C.I.E., of The Abbey, Abingdon, and Monica, youngest daughter of Mr. Frederick W. Hunt, of 20, King Street, Portman Square.

The Sir George Birdwood Memorial Fund, to which £662 12s. 7d. have been promised, will be closed on August 31. The money will be devoted to the endowment of an annual "George Birdwood Lecture" in connection with the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts.

The engagement is announced of Mr. Bernard de Hailes Pickard (late Indian Cavalry), youngest son of Mr. James Eastwood Pickard and Mrs. Pickard, of Ashfield, Leicester, with Brenda Gladys, second daughter of Sir Samuel and Lady Faire of Glenfield Frith, Leicester.

The marriage was celebrated on August 7, at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Kensington, by the Rev. Gilbert Weigall, M.A., between Captain Harold W. Goldfrap, M.C., Indian Army, and Edith Isobel, second daughter of Major C. R. B. Thorne, Beggearnhuish Manor, Somerset.

Dr. Honoria S. Keer has received unrestricted permission to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of St. Sava, conferred upon her by the King of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, in recognition of her services while employed with the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Serbia.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Mr. Eric Evan Broadway, K.O.S.B.'s, only surviving son of Mr. A. Broadway, of Jhang, Punjab, India, and Gwendolen Mostyn, only child of the late Major C. M. F. Watkins, R.E., and Mrs. Watkins, of Heath End House, Farnham, Surrey.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major James Gourlie, D.S.O., King George's Own Central India Horse, son of William Gourlie and Mrs. Gourlie, late of Birdston, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire, and Constance Winifred, daughter of the late William McKerrow, London and Singapore, and niece of Robert Craig-McKerrow.

The marriage was celebrated on August 5, at Brompton Parish Church, by the Rev. G. E. Rees, assisted by the Rev. Prebendary A. W. Gough, between Owen Meredith Rees, Indian Civil Service, son of the Rev. George Edward Rees and Mrs. Rees, of Harwood Vicarage, Bolton, and Laura Fernanda Morison, daughter of the late Alexander Joseph Morison, of Havana, and of Mrs. Morison, of 67, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.

A marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place, between Geoffrey Nelthorpe Simeon, Imperial Forest Service, Lieutenant, Indian Army Reserve of Officers, son of the late Rev. Geoffrey Barrington Simeon, M.A., Oxon, and of Mrs. Simeon, Fairlawn, Ryde, Isle of Wight, and Henrietta Mary Collingwood Carter, elder daughter of Rev. W. Collingwood Carter, M.A., Oxon, of Wychwood House, Ryde, formerly Vicar of Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxon, and Rural Dean.

Our Jerusalem Correspondent writes:—
Major-General H. D. Watson, late Officer Commanding the Forces in Egypt, has come to take over the duties and functions of Major-General Sir Arthur W. Money, K.C.B., C.S.I., as Chief Administrator of O.E.T.A. (S) Palestine, who is relinquishing that post. General Money, by his patient and sympathetic handling of the many delicate questions that have come up for his decision, has gained the respect and love of the whole population of Palestine.

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The marriage was celebrated on July 31, at St. Clement's Church, Jersey, by the Rev. Paget, between Captain Ronald A. P. Grant, M.C., Indian Army, and Janet Katharine Hay, only daughter of Colonel McCrae Bruce, C.B., and Mrs. Bruce, La Fontaine, Pontac, Jersey.

The *Sudan Times* states that a special committee will be elected by the Egyptian War Office for the object of considering the salaries and ranks of Egyptian officers, and that H.E. El Lewa el Sayid Ali Pasha, Assistant Adjutant-General, will probably be the President of the Committee.

The marriage was celebrated on August 6, at Wilton Square, London, by the Rev. W. E. Davies, of Ilford, between Captain W. J. Pugh, O.B.E., Royal Welsh Fusiliers, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Pugh, of Westbury, Shrewsbury, and Manon, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Davies Bryan, of Alexandria, Egypt.

The engagement is announced between Captain George Arrow Lambert, eldest son of Mr. G. B. Lambert, retired Indian Public Works Department, and Mrs. Lambert, of Brooklands, Enys Road, Eastbourne, and Hilda Mary, only daughter of the late Mr. J. A. Bishop, and Mrs. Bishop, of Holmwood, Alma Road, Southampton.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain F. L. R. Munn, M.C., 46th Punjabis, son of the late Major F. H. Munn, D.S.O., Royal Irish Fusiliers, and Mrs. Munn, of Creggan, Athlone, Ireland, and Catherine Mary Aline, second daughter of Bernard Coventry, C.I.E. (late Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India), Indore, Central India.

The marriage arranged between Duncan George Mackenzie, I.C.S., Political Department, Government of India, second surviving son of T. D. Mackenzie, I.C.S. (retired), of Kincraig, Exmouth, South Devon, and Kathleen Millicent Chandos-Pole, only daughter of the late S. Chandos-Pole and Mrs. Bankhead-Browne, Hut 153B, Gulmarg, will take place on September 17 at St. Mary's Church, Gulmarg, Kashmir.

The marriage was celebrated on July 3, at Murree Hills, India, between Captain Harry Ridlington, 35th Sikhs, Indian Army, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Ridlington, Burton House, Kington, and Marjorie, daughter of the late Major Fox-Strangways and Mrs. Fox-Strangways (of Kashmir), Guides Cavalry, and Deputy-Commissioner of Jhelum and Ludihanna, and granddaughter of the late General Bagley, Indian Army.

The marriage was celebrated on August 6, at the Church of the Holy Ghost, Nightingale Square, S.W., by Rev. Leo O'Hea, assisted by Revs. Jerome and Ignatius O'Hea, brothers of the bride, between Captain Pierre Clifford Campbell-Martin, M.C., Croix de Guerre, Sherwood Foresters, R.A.F., son of Mrs. A. E. Campbell-Martin, of Calcutta, India, and Monica, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John O'Hea, of 11, Endlesham Road, S.W.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Colonel B. S. Romilly, D.S.O., Scots Guards, has been appointed Military Governor of the Province of Tiberias.

M. Grenard, formerly French Consul-General in Moscow, has been appointed Minister at Belgrade in succession to M. de Fontenay.

OBITUARY.

The Raja of Sailana (Central India) died at Sailana on July 13.

The death occurred on August 7, in London, of Major Geoffrey Leigh Blair (late 36th Sikhs).

The death is announced of Mr. T. A. Gibson, Sanitary Inspector, Red Sea Province. He was born in 1886, and had been since 1911 at Port Sudan, where he died.

The death occurred on July 30, at Srinagar, Kashmir, of Lieut.-Colonel Richard Randel Vaughan, Indian Army, elder son of the late Major Richard Vaughan, Bengal Artillery, of Bath, aged fifty-three.

Our Malta Correspondent writes:—

The name of Gollcher is a bye-word in shipping circles, not only in Malta, but in the more important ports further East. The Gollcher family has sustained a great loss in the passing away of Mrs. Vincenza, widow of Chev. O. F. Gollcher. The funeral was attended by representatives of practically all the merchants and shipping agencies of the Island.

The Island has been shocked on hearing the news of the death of General Sir Henry Fane Grant, who was accidentally killed whilst rabbit shooting. Tht deceased General was Governor of Malta from 1907 to 1909, and during his tenure in the position he was decidedly popular.

Sir Richard Frederick Crawford, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., who since 1911 had been Adviser to the Turkish Minister of Finance, has died at Bournemouth. He was fifty-six years of age.

The death occurred on August 2, at Franklin, Natal, South Africa, of pneumonia, of Meredith Exham Eugène Swyny, elder son of the late Exham Swyny, of Ceylon, and of Mrs. Swyny, at 33, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W.

M. Lambros, the Greek ex-Premier, died on August 5 at the age of sixty-seven. He had been Professor of History at Athens University for over thirty years, before he was made, in 1906, Prime Minister by King Constantine.

The death is announced, at the age of seventy-five, in Poona, India, of Robert Batson Joyner, C.I.E., M. Inst.C.E., after fifty-two years' engineering work in the Bombay Presidency, thirty of which were spent in the service of the Government. Mr. Joyner will be remembered chiefly for his great services in designing and constructing the Tata Hydro Electric Works, Bombay.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Turkish prisoners in Egypt are to be liberated and repatriated as soon as possible.

Spain has formally recognised the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab has reduced to terms varying from six years to three months the sentences on twenty persons for their share in the recent riots in the Punjab. All sentences of rigorous imprisonment and forfeiture of property have also been remitted.

The 2nd Batt. of the East Yorkshire Regiment left Plymouth on August 8 for India, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel D. Mathers, in the steamer City of York, which is proceeding to Bombay. The East Yorks will relieve a Territorial battalion which has been in India since the early days of the war.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1919.

ROUMANIA AND THE MAGYARS.

The Paris Conference, which has consistently contrived to create its own difficulties, is now embroiled with the Roumanians over the Magyars. What threatens to be interminable delay in the settlement of Europe has been caused by the failure to recognise that the excellent idealism to which Great Britain, France, and the United States readily subscribe has no place as yet in the everyday existence of the East. If this fact had been grasped, the Inner or Supreme Council in Paris would not have encouraged the armies of South-Eastern Europe to act on its behalf after the Armistice. It is of little practical use to enunciate the most lofty principles and then to leave them to be carried out by people who have never practised them and do not believe in them. The Allies nail the doctrine of self-determination to their standard, but they authorise Serbian troops to over-run Montenegro, and allow Italians and Yugoslavs to "jump" one another's claims; they aim at a speedy settlement of the Near Eastern question, but they leave the matter entirely in the hands of those who have battened for one or more generations on the hatred of their neighbours. In the case of Hungary, the Paris Conference neglected to take the necessary measures to enforce its own decisions. It imposed its terms for an armistice upon the Magyars, but allowed them to be flouted. When Bela Kun, emboldened by his success, proceeded to attack the Roumanians, the Supreme Council had no effective support to offer to the latter, and was obliged to let the campaign take its own course. Fortunately for the Allies, the Roumanians were able to recover their lost ground, the Magyar Red Army was decisively defeated, and Budapest was occupied. The immediate result of this turn of the tide was the downfall of Bolshevism in Hungary, which, under Bela Kun, had defied the Paris Conference for several months. No doubt in an ideal world the supreme command of the Roumanian Army would have placed itself in telegraphic communication with Paris and waited for instructions before each fresh move. That way, as a rule, military success does not lie. The Paris Conference had concluded an Armistice with Hungary in November, 1918, but it had remained a dead letter. The Roumanians determined to leave no loopholes this time; they drafted an armistice somewhat reminiscent of their own experiences under the German Treaty of Bucharest, and set about what in common parlance would be styled "getting their own back." It was a wrong course to adopt, and one that the Allies could not tolerate, but before condemnation is passed on the Roumanians it is well to recall the provocation under which they acted, and the widespread feeling of disgust engendered in the Near East by the Conference's handling of the Hungarian problem.

When all excuses have been made for the Roumanians, it remains a matter for regret that they should have done anything that savoured of defiance of the Allied Conference, or was calculated to lower their prestige in South-Eastern Europe. The protest of the Supreme Council to the Roumanian Government affords unpleasant reading. It states, *inter alia*, that the Peace Conference learns "that the Roumanian generals are permitting their soldiers to pilfer private property, and are requisitioning and sending into Roumania livestock and rolling-stock, and that they are submitting Budapest to an unnecessary blockade, thereby starving the city, and destroying the railway lines, in particular that from Budapest to Vienna; and, in brief, are committing a series of actions in violation of the decisions of the Conference and the rights of the Allied and Associated Powers and of elementary humanity." Until the Roumanian reply to this strongly worded protest is received, we are in the dark as to the chain of circumstances which led up to the precise form that Roumanian action took in Hungary. It is known that the present Government has been on the verge of being superseded for some months. M. Bratiano handed in his resignation in June, and, although it was credibly reported that King Ferdinand had made up his mind to accept the resignation, no new Government has yet been formed. An ultra-Chauvinistic policy, it may have been argued, was likely to restore the Cabinet in popular esteem, if it succeeded; on the other hand, if it failed, the Government, already doomed, could be repudiated with the minimum inconvenience to the country. Another explanation may be forthcoming which will inculpate the generals in command of the Roumanian Army and exonerate the Government. The refusal of the former to comply with the instructions of the Allied generals, and to allow the publication of a telegram addressed by the President of the Allied Conference to the Magyar Government, resembles more the hot-headed action of a military commander carried away by the success of a campaign than the considered policy of a Cabinet. But wherever the responsibility for Roumania's action rests, it may be expected that the Allied protest will lead to a satisfactory solution of the difficulty.

In the meantime the Magyars are making great efforts to set their constitutional house in order. The situation cannot yet be regarded as stable, although all parties unite in welcoming the downfall of Bela Kun. Hungary, or what is left of it to the Magyars, quickly tired of a Bolshevist régime, and when the Peidl proved unable to free itself from Bolshevist influences, it was quickly superseded. The appeal to the Archduke Joseph has not unnaturally been regarded outside Hungary as a more or less avowed return to monarchical institutions. Whether it prove to be or not, the Magyars cannot be denied the rights of self-determination. Elections for a National Assembly are announced for an early date, and to that body will be entrusted the decision as to the future character of the Magyar State. It is possible to understand, without sharing, the anxiety regarding a monarchical Hungary. The tyranny of the Dual Monarchy has burnt too deeply into the souls of those who suffered under it to allow the dread of its return to be eradicated from the present generation. On the other hand, Austria-Hungary's capacity for evil lay in the strength of its fighting arm, and in the subservience of its policy to German ambitions. The future Hungary, whether monarchical or republican, will be a State of some ten million inhabitants, and, if the League of Nations becomes a vital factor in the world, for the most part unarmed. It may still march with Austria, but it will have round it Czecho Slovaks, Poles, Roumanians, and Yugoslavs, all ready and able to challenge the first attempt at imperialistic aims. The Allies can hardly overlook the fact that any republican leanings so far displayed in Hungary led straight to Bolshevism, and their experience of Bela Kun will not encourage them to insist upon the retention of a republican form of government. It may be that the Magyars have too much of the East in them to be fit subjects for republican doctrines. The Western Powers are far more concerned to see the country at peace and prosperous than conforming to certain methods of government which may be wholly unsuited to the mentality of the Magyars. We need not, therefore, be perturbed by insinuations regarding the plotting of this or that Great Power for a Restoration in Hungary. The one thing needed is to insist upon the Magyars carrying out the terms of the Armistice and of Peace, and for the rest to leave them to decide upon their own form of government, provided that it conforms to the orders of the Allies.

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THE MIDDLE DANUBE.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

No doubt it is very inconsiderate of the Magyars to place before the Supreme Council such an awkward situation as that caused by their latest political move. It called for immediate decision, so the usual panacea, an Inter-Allied Commission of Generals, was applied. This Commission, probably to its great surprise, found itself obliged to delegate the control of the remains of the Kingdom of Hungary to a Hapsburg. Exit Bela Kun, enter Archduke Joseph. At first sight this seems an astounding *volte face* on the part of the Magyars, considering their doings of the last four months; but on reflection the change is not so very surprising. Let us cast a glance over the history of the last five years, and so we may find a sequence of events to help us in arriving at some clearer notion of Magyar affairs.

The war against Serbia was doubtless popular amongst the Magyars, but between them and the Serbs there was not that bitter enmity that characterised the relations between Serbs and German-Austrians. Nevertheless, Magyar and Serb, both being keen fighting men, were quite willing to fight each other at any time and on any pretext. But the Magyar is also a keen politician and an opportunist too, owing, it may be, to the position that he had to maintain in a minority among the divers races gathered together under the Crown of St. Stephen. This position, as the war progressed, became increasingly difficult. The Croats and Serbs in Syrmia and the Banat from the beginning of the war gave evidence of their faith in the ultimate victory of the Entente Powers and their Allies. They bought up property of Magyars and Austrians who thought fit to withdraw further away from the theatre of war; they assisted the Serbian troops in many ways, and eventually their secret societies declared openly for "Yugoslavia." Magyar power was waning, and force no longer availed to re-establish it; but the Magyar, still unwilling to accept the new position, was already casting round for some means of re-establishing the authority that he considered his birthright as son of Arpad the Conqueror. This was the situation under the Republic of which Michael Karolyi was President. The Dual Monarchy was no longer; Kaiser Karl had surrendered his authority to anyone who would take it; the Yugoslav State arose and took definite shape as the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes; the Republic of the Czecho-Slovaks had become recognised as an independent State, and several small, ephemeral republics tinged with communism had started their precarious existence. The position of the Magyars, accustomed to domination, was peculiarly unpleasant to them, and many refused to accept it. Deprived of the provinces Banat, Badchka, and Baranya, where they drew much of their provisions, the Magyars nevertheless in the earlier days of March failed to readjust their sight to the new perspective; they continued to squabble with the Roumanians, and having made preparations for a general election to take place in April, intended to prove to the Western Powers that at least some of the territory claimed by the Roumanians was inhabited by people who insistently wished to remain Magyar. Then came the decision of the Supreme Council readjusting the line of demarcation between Magyars and Roumanians. This readjustment created a neutral zone between the two armies; it was to be occupied by small detachments of the French "Armée d'Orient," and was intended to prevent the constant bickering between the troops of the two nations immediately concerned. Incidentally the decision in question gave temporarily to the Roumanians a tract of country from which the Magyars expected results favourable to themselves in the proposed general election.

The Conference and Hungary.

The decision of the Supreme Council was handed to President Karolyi on the morning of March 20 in the presence of the War Minister and the President of the Council, by the chief of the Inter-Allied Military Mission in Budapest, who was accompanied by an officer of each of the other Allied armies. The events that followed this move, in view of the rate affairs have moved since, are almost a matter of ancient history. It was characteristic of the Magyar that the Hungarian Minister of War asked the Chief of the Inter-Allied Mission whether the small detachment of the French Orient Army would oppose any advance of the Hungarian Army against the Roumanians, should the Government of the Hungarian Republic consider such a step expedient. Count Karolyi's proceedings were also characteristic of Hungarian political methods, he delegated all power to the Magyar proletariat, thus hoping to induce the Supreme Council to reconsider its decision under the threat of Bolshevism. The history of subsequent events in Hungary is too well known to require recapitulation. The disorders that were bound to break out in Budapest and several other centres in Hungary had very much the aspect of Bolshevism, and the simultaneous agrarian movement among the peasants who longed for the old days of the *Husz Ar* (the 20 acres), was very intelligible. But it would seem that Chauvinism played as strong a part as Bolshevism in Magyar politics, and the pseudo-idealist Bela Kun, obliged to reckon with this movement, undertook warlike operations against Czecho-Slovaks and Roumanians, hoping by these means to gain touch with Lenin's forces and so to strengthen his own position. The initial successes of those operations have been discounted by the reverses inflicted on a discontented army by an enemy

whom the Magyar never considered an equal as a fighting-man, and so it seems that the Magyars, opportunists all, have been reconsidering their position. Bela Kun has fled, and Archduke Joseph succeeds him.

It is said that the Archduke has gained his present advantage (if it be one) thanks to the plotting of a small band of reactionaries, but it seems likely that that band would have been considerably reinforced by the suggestion of handing the Crown of St. Stephen to the King of the Roumanians. And again, where two or three Magyars are gathered together there is sure to be some conspiracy on hand. At any rate, the Archduke has come in with a rush, and under the auspices of an Inter-Allied Commission. The next thing is to let the Magyars decide whether they really want him or not, and in what capacity. Voices in Paris declare that the choice of a Hapsburg means such a reaction as to intensify Bolshevism. But why should it, and what has become of the doctrine of self-determination? Surely, Hungary now presents a fine opportunity for putting the theory of self-determination to the test. There are only small powers surrounding Hungary, so the Supreme Council need not be deflected from its purpose, or sacrifice its principles, by the fear of offending an old and valued Ally. But has the Supreme Council any definite purpose? In its dealings with Bela Kun there was little evidence of any, and as yet the new condition of affairs in Hungary has not led to anything more than the inevitable Commission and a remonstrance to the Roumanians who, by the way, seem inclined to treat remonstrances much as Bela Kun treated ultimata. Are we to assume that the Supreme Council has lost its power of action? It looks as if this were the case, despite the fact that the United States are threatening to withhold food supplies from both Roumania and Hungary. This threat was used on Bela Kun without any notable success.

But something has to be done. Let us take a glance at the physical map of Central Europe to see whether that inspires us with a suggestion. It should do so. The first feature that strikes us is the vast plain of Hungary enclosed by mountain ranges; the second obvious feature a mighty river which flows east and southward towards the Black Sea. There are minor features: rivers tributary to the Danube. There are minor features: rivers tributary to the Danube. gaps in the mountain ranges, all leading out of the

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countries that surround the Danubian plain. Nature evidently intended these countries, influenced by the Danube and its tributaries, to co-operate. They have done so since time immemorial, with occasional interruptions caused by wars and débâcles, such as the conquest of Hungary by the Ottoman and the recent disruption of the Dual Monarchy through its own decadence. Why should old economic relations not be resumed along the great Danube waterway? This suggestion will probably raise an outcry from one or other quarter. What! a Danubian Confederation? Have we not poured out blood and treasure to break up the last Danube Confederation, the Dual Monarchy? Quite so; but the political aspect has changed, while the physical aspect of the map remains. Instead of the clumsy structure of the Hapsburg dominions we have several States that have gone through fire to freedom, and have found themselves. In the north the Czecho-Slovak Republic, touching the Danube along the stretch between Pressburg and Waitzen, is eager to use that great highway in exchanging its manufactured goods for the food and raw material of the Danube plains. In the east there are the territories inhabited by Roumanians, now to be joined to Roumania, but physically separated from that country by the Carpathian Mountains. Again, in the south a strong and enterprising people, the Yugoslavs, are joining together into a State which shows promise of a great future. Between these new States lie the remnants of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, German-speaking Upper and Lower Austria, then Styria and Carinthia stretching towards the Julian Alps as if holding out hands for help from Italy, their old enemy and one-time ally, and right in the midst the wreckage of Hungary.

The Connecting Link.

The first requisite is to keep open the Danube to enable those that live on its banks to resume normal conditions. Taking the reach of the river between Vienna and Orsova as our immediate concern, we find the chaotic remains of Lower Austria with Imperial Vienna, the "Kaiser Stadt" fallen from its high estate, starving, helpless. Just below Vienna, the Czecho-Slovak republic goes down to the river, a State self-contained and self-reliant, with a keen eye to business and thoroughly qualified to assist its former Imperial mistress. It must be remembered that Lower Austria, especially Vienna, has long been in economic dependence on Bohemia. The river from Pressburg to Waitzen is in the able hands of the Czecho-Slovaks, who have, however, been prevented from freely using this waterway by the disorders in Hungary. Bela Kun and his obstructionists have fallen, the attempt to insert a Roumanian wedge (possibly intended to extend westward through broken Magyars and Austro-Germans towards the new frontier of Italy, thus forming a Latin fence from the Adriatic to the Black Sea) has been foiled by the fact that what power is left to the remnant of Hungary has been delegated to a native prince. Below Baia the Danube enters the kingdom of S. H. S.,* and it is from this new State that help should come to Hungary. Economically the new Yugoslav State is drawn yet closer to Hungary through the fact that it now includes some of the richest districts of that country—Syrmia, Badchka, Croatia, etc. Economically these Danube countries are drawn together; the present separation of interests is due to the war, and in a measure to memories of the political injustice which characterised Magyar dealings with Serbs and Croats in the former kingdom of Hungary. But these memories are fading away under the necessity of re-establishing normal relations; the Serbs of Syrmia and the Baranya have many grievances against the rule of their former Magyar masters, the Croats still tell of the hideous injustice and cruelty under which they suffered in the days of the Dual Monarchy; but both are very ready to do business with their neighbours and to supply their new-born State with the means to fulfil its destiny. Between the Magyars and the Serbians there has never been the deadly hatred that inspires the latter towards the Bulgarians, for instance. True, they fought against each other as hard as good fighting men can; the Serbians won, not only victory in the field but also the respect of the Magyars. It is interesting to recall the fact that when, on March 22, the Magyar Soviet Government informed the Inter-Allied Mission at Budapest that it had declared war on the Entente Powers and all their Allies and Associates within reach, the Serbians were left out of the general condemnation. When this omission was pointed out to the Soviet emissaries answer came that there existed among the people no particular desire to fight the Serbians. Moreover, numerous Magyar soldiers have been known to state their readiness to fight for Yugoslavia against at least one of the Great Powers should occasion arise.

The Danube is the connecting link which will draw together in economic relations the new States and the ruins of the Dual Monarchy, and thus make for a return to order and normal conditions. There need be no fear of a recurrence of the dangers latent in an artificial State like that of the former Austro-Hungarian complex, with its seething mass of oppressed and discontented nationalities. Any future federation would be composed of homogeneous States —Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia, and possibly a Magyar State, independent in themselves, linked together by the economic conditions common to all in consequence of their geographical position. The immediate aim of these States would be reconstruction and consolidation; their chief political preoccupation, at least in case of the Slavs, possibly also the Magyars, to defend themselves against the Teuton. It is in those matters that the new States still require assistance, and it is the duty of the older Powers to help. Here again the principle of self-determination should be brought into practice. The new States realise that they lack experience in many ways, and are anxiously turning to the Entente Powers for guidance; but they also have their preferences and should, therefore, be allowed to choose their friends. The Olympians of the Supreme Council that set out to settle the affairs of nations would do well to descend from out the clouds and take note of this. There is, for instance, a strong inclination amongst the Yugoslavs towards the British people. There is a constant demand for British goods; there is a strong desire for a closer spiritual and intellectual intercourse between the two races. This is not based merely on considerations of self-interest; it is a genuine desire to establish firm friendship. The Serbian and the British soldier hold each other in mutual respect as first-class fighting-men; Yugoslav youths have taken kindly to our games; there have been quite a number of football matches between British soldiers and sailors and Yugoslav teams. The latter proved themselves thorough sportsmen, modest winners, and good losers. The Teuton has overthrown his own "Kultur idol" to which Slav intelligence was forced to bow; the free people of the Entente are urged to replace "Kultur" by a more liberal creed, to open up the wealth of their gathered experience and learning to their humbler friends and Allies. The business men of the new State, with all its possibilities, are demanding their right to trade with us. But the Olympians seem deaf to all appeals.

Britain's Task.

It is, therefore, up to us as Britons to take the matter in hand. Business men, sportsmen, and students, we all have our duties to the nations that are struggling towards conditions which we for many generations have come to look upon as our birthright. We should insist on appropriate action by our Government—the Government elected to further our interests and satisfy our just demands.

It is in our interest to see order re-established in Central Europe, and the only way this can be achieved is by the assisting those friends and Allies of ours who are on the spot, and understand the conditions. The Austrians may well be left to the Czecho-Slovaks; the Yugoslavs know the Magyars well, and are quite capable of restoring normal relations in their section of the Danube lands. A strong, purposeful people will make its influence felt, and will be a guarantee for peaceful development. But the Yugoslavs in particular still require support, though not of the kind hitherto accorded to them. They require no more foodstuffs doled out to them by Inter-Allied Commissions, nor any kind of interference on the part of other peripatetic Missions that are enjoying trips abroad after the horrors of war on the Home Front. They want expert advice on many matters, they would like to choose their advisers, and, according to the doctrine of self-determination, they are entitled to do so.

We should, therefore, depart from ancient procedure, find out what exactly is wanted, or whose services the Yugoslavs require to help them in their work of reconstruction, and then carry out their wishes as best we can. We have a certain number of suitable men, men who are known to and liked by the Yugoslavs; it should be the business of the Government department concerned to find out these men and see how they can best be fitted into a scheme of helping the kingdom of S.H.S., and at the same time serving the interests of our country. It might even be advisable to consider geographical rather than political boundaries, and give the expert advisers, or whatever designation they may serve under, a mandate to extend their activities to include the Magyar country. This could be done from Belgrade, and would be a well-deserved compliment to the Yugoslavs.

However, before entering into details, let us establish principles:—

(1) That the peoples of the Middle Danube should form an economic combine.

(2) That these peoples should be assisted to the fullest possible extent by the Great Powers of the Entente.

(3) That these peoples should be allowed a voice in the matter of choosing the friends that are to help them.

* S.H.S., *i.e.*, Serbia, Hrvatska (Croatia), and Slavonia.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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Recent telegrams make it plain that Egypt is suffering from the prevailing epidemic of labour unrest in the form of a strike movement. Particulars are not available as to the causes and aims of the movement, but I have no doubt that they are at least as futile as has been the case in other countries. The fact that a number of the public services are threatened is very significant, pointing as it does to the fact that the lesson of events elsewhere has not been lost upon those at the head of the strikes, and also very forcibly suggesting that the source of the trouble may be external.

***

In the light of our Cairo correspondent's remark last week, that the labour movement was increasing in strength all over the country, and that "before another six months Egypt will probably not need to envy Paris in any respect so far as Syndicalism goes," it must be admitted that the outlook is somewhat disquieting. Settled conditions are essential if the country is to make a rapid recovery from the effects of the recent disturbances, but it would seem almost too much to hope for anything of the kind in the near future. Still labour troubles have a habit of rapidly dying down, and let us hope it will be so in this case.

***

The very general desire in the Balkans for close economic relations with Great Britain is aptly illustrated by a very significant article which appeared recently in the *Jugoslavenski Lloyd*, of Prague. The article dealt with the scope for the development of Yugoslavia, and the necessity for foreign capital, in which connection it is pointed out that assistance from the former Central Powers must naturally be eschewed, and that Yugoslavia must depend on her Allies. The possibilities of the Allies are then discussed, and the writer, criticising French capitalism, says that "merciless capitalistic exploiting on the part of France" must be resisted vigorously, but of British commerce he says that it has, "true to its commercial fairness, employed investments as a means of production, and as an associate of labour, but not as a means of only exploiting other nations," and his conclusion is that "it is evident that we must open wide the door to English enterprise, commercial spirit, and sound business."

***

The increase in the price of India Council drafts from 1s. 8d. to 1s. 10d. for immediate telegraphic transfers, and from 1s. 7 15-16d. to 1s. 9 15-16d. for deferred telegraphic transfers and bills, is not surprising, in view of the continued rise in the price of silver, which, at its present rate, is equivalent to the rupee at about 1s. 9½d. It is very doubtful whether the present step will long suffice to meet the needs of the position, for there seems little prospect that the advance in silver will be arrested at present, and the rupee may well be at 2s. before very long. While the exchange rate remains in its present uncertain position, it need scarcely be said that there can be no real stability of trade.

***

Obviously, a stimulus to exports to India will be given by the raising of the value of the rupee, while the cost of imports from India will be increased. As regards Manchester, to give one particularly important instance, the position is not unsatisfactory, for the purchasing power of the Indian is increased by the advance in the rupee, and his purchases are likely to be correspondingly larger. On the other hand, rubber and tea companies in India and Ceylon will be very unfavourably affected, since they dispose of their produce in sterling, and will have to remit money for expenses at the higher rate of exchange. As rubber companies outside India and Ceylon will not be affected, rubber cultivation there may suffer to some extent, but as against this there is the prospect of a rubber shortage in the course of the next few years, so that this possibility is counterbalanced.

***

Reports from Roumania continue to be most favourable as regards the prospects for British trade enterprise in that country, and it is very satisfactory to be able to record that there is every reason for thinking that British firms will avail themselves of their unique opportunity in this direction. Representatives of many important British firms are now in Roumania, studying the ground and investigating the most likely openings, and, as the result of their activities, a variety of goods have been despatched to meet the more pressing needs. There is no lack of competition from other countries in Roumania, but, as in the case of Serbia, the desire is for economic relations with this country, and, provided British merchants and manufacturers cater for the market's requirements with the thoroughness they are capable of in other countries, I do not think this competition need be regarded very seriously.

***

During the past year ended March 31 the gross receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Limited, amounted to £366,043, as against £292,520 for the previous twelve months. The gross receipts from passenger traffic increased by £44,064 to £223,739, and there was an increase of £28,923 in the gross receipts from goods traffic, the figures being £134,135. Working expenses increased from £171,331 to £195,194, but the ratio of expenses to earnings fell from 58.57 per cent. to 53,33 per cent. The net profits amounted to £170,850, and adding interest and dividends and the balance of £85,353 brought forward, the total is £266,750. After provision for debenture interest, the general reserve fund, and for the proportion of the profits due to the Egyptian Government, there remains £146,370, and out of this it is proposed to pay a dividend of 5½ per cent. on the preference shares and to carry forward the balance of £89,127. The working of the lines during the period in question was only affected by the disturbances during the last few days of the financial year, and it is only in the next year's report that the full effect will be seen. It may be noted that the company's lines were completely closed for fifty days from March 17, and were only partially working for a further period of thirty days, and that the material damage is estimated at £47,179.

***

A satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Bengal Iron and Steel Company, the net balance of profit available, including £35,208 brought forward and after providing a reserve of £167,000 for income-tax and excess profits duty, is £182,630, and after various allocations the amount available is £123,010. A dividend of 6 per cent. was paid on the preference shares on March 31, and it is now proposed to bring the dividend on the ordinary shares for the year up to 32 per cent. by the payment of dividends of 8 per cent. on September 30 and December 16, and to carry forward £30,058.

***

While the prospects of some of the cereal crops in Turkey are apparently not unfavourable despite adverse climatic and other conditions, so much cannot be said for Turkish fruit crops, in regard to which the latest report by Messrs. Giraud, which will be found on page 185, gives a most disappointing picture. The unfortunate developments which followed on the Greek occupation of Smyrna and the surrounding district are reported to have seriously affected the most important agricultural regions in the neighbourhood, with the result that it is stated that the prospects for all the crops of the Aidin vilayet are jeopardised. It is to be hoped that later information will be more reassuring.

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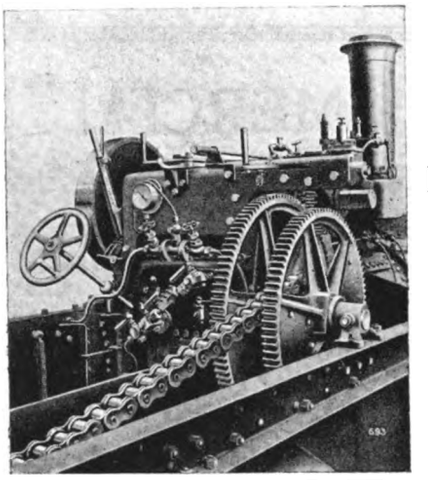

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The Mineral Resources of the Near East.

A Detailed Survey.

By JOHN KIRSOPP, M.I.M.E., F.G.S.

Now that Peace has been signed, and prospecting and developments may be expected to spring up in various directions, a brief outline of the known resources of the Near East and India may be of interest. The following list, which of necessity covers a rather wider area than is included in this region, enumerates the minerals, known as existing in the respective countries, italics indicating that the minerals exist, and Roman type that they are being worked. The total value of the exports given in the text are for the year 1912.

Anthracite: *Roumania*, Russia.
Coal: Serbia, Bulgaria, Russia, Turkey, *Persia*, *Afghanistan*, India.
Lignite: *Egypt*, Serbia, Roumania, Bulgaria, Greece, Russia, Turkey, Abyssinia.
Peat: Russia.
Naphtha (or Petroleum: Algeria, Egypt, Roumania, Russia, Turkey, Mesopotamia, Persia, *Afghanistan*, India.
Asphalt: Russia, Turkey.
Alabaster: —
Alum: Turkey, *Persia*, India.
Amber: India.
Antimony: *Morocco*, Algeria, Serbia, Turkey, *Persia*, *Afghanistan*.
Arsenic (Orpiment): Turkey, *Persia*.
Asbestos: Russia, *Chinese Turkestan*.
Barytes: Greece.
Bauxite: India.
Bismuth: Serbia.
Boracite: Turkey.
Borax: *Persia*.
Cadmium: Greece.
Cobalt: *Roumania*, Russia. *Persia*.
Chrome Ore: *Egypt*, Greece, Russia, Turkey.
Copper: *Morocco*, Algeria, *Egypt*, Serbia, *Roumania*, *Bulgaria*, Russia, Turkey, Chinese Turkestan, *Persia*, *Arabia*, India.
Corundum: India.
Emery: Greece, Turkey.
Fireclay: Tunis, Egypt, Russia.
Flags: *Tunis*.
Fuller's Earth: Morocco, Turkey, India.
Gypsum: Egypt, India.
Gold: *Morocco*, Egypt, Serbia, *Roumania*, Bulgaria, Russia, Turkey, Chinese Turkestan, *Persia*, *Afghanistan*, *Arabia*, *Abyssinia*, India.
Granites and Porphyries: Egypt, Roumania, India.
Iron: *Morocco*, Algeria, Tunis, *Egypt*, Montenegro, Serbia, *Roumania*, *Bulgaria*, Greece, Russia, *Turkey*, Chinese Turkestan, *Persia*, *Afghanistan*, *Arabia*, Abyssinia, India.
Lava: —
Lead: *Morocco*, Algeria, Tunis, Serbia, *Roumania*, *Bulgaria*, Greece, Persia, *Afghanistan*, *Arabia*, India.
Limestones: Tunis, Egypt, Bulgaria, India.
Manganese: *Roumania*, *Bulgaria*, Greece, Russia, Turkey, *Persia*, India.
Magnesites: *Serbia*, Greece, India.
Marbles: Algeria, Roumania, Bulgaria, Greece, India.
Meerschaum: Turkey.
Mercury (or Quicksilver): Algeria, *Roumania*, *Russia*.
Mica: India.
Millstones, Serbia, Greece, *Chinese*, *Turkestan*, *Persia*.
Monazite: India.
Nickel: *Egypt*, *Persia*.
Nitre: *Chinese Turkestan*.
Ochre: India.
Phosphate of Lime: Algeria, Tunis, Egypt.
Phosphorite: *Russia*.
Plaster and Cement: Tunis, Egypt, Serbia.
Platinum: Russia, India.
Plumbago: India.
Potters' Clay: Tunis.
Precious Stones—
Diamonds: India.
Turquoise: Egypt, Persia.
Garnets: India.
Nephrite (Jade): *Chinese Turkestan*. India.
Amethyst: *Morocco*.
Emerald (beryl): *Egypt*, *Arabia*.
Rubies: India.
Carnelian: *Arabia*.
Crystals of Peridot: Egypt.
Realgar: *Afghanistan*.
Sal Ammoniac: *Chinese Turkestan*.
Salt: Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, Egypt, Roumania, Greece, Russia, Turkey, *Persia*, Abyssinia, India.
Saltpetre: *Persia*, India.
Sand, Gravel, and Flint: Tunis.
Samarstrite: India.
Silver: *Morocco*, *Serbia*, *Roumania*, Greece, *Russia*, Turkey, *Persia*, *Afghanistan*, India.
Slate: India.
Stone: —
Sandstone: Egypt. India.
Paving: Tunis, Roumania, *Afghanistan*.
Building: Algeria, Egypt.
Sculptural: Algeria, Egypt.
Steatite: India.
Sulphur: *Egypt*, Greece, Chinese Turkestan, *Persia*, *Afghanistan*.
Trap Rock: India.
Tin: *Persia*, India.
Wolframite and Tungsten: India.
Zinc (Salamine and Blend): Algeria, Tunis, Greece, Russia, Turkey.

Morocco.

Iron was worked by the Carthaginians at Djebel Hadid, 14 miles north-east of Mogador, magnetic iron occurs in the mountain range of Ul Nixan and Monte Milon, and obligiste and haematite at Tres Forcas. Copper ore deposits exist near Taradant, which were still being worked in the early sixties, and is also found in the Tangier region, and in the rocky heights of Mohader. Silver and gold occur in the province of Sas, veins of quartz with sulphuret of lead in the mountains of Afra, rock salt in the Atlas mountains, and sea water is evaporated by the heat of the sun at Rabat and elsewhere. Fuller's Earth in small quantities is exported from Tangier and Larache. Amethysts of great size and beauty have also been found in the mountains.

Algeria.

Phosphate of lime is extensively quarried in the vicinity of Tébessa, and at Tocqueville and Bordj R'Dir, in the province of Constantine. Rich lodes of silver lead ore are worked at the Ain-Smara mines, 11 miles from Constantine, and also in the provinces of Algiers and Oran. Petroleum wells were bored at Aia-Zeft, and a refinery was laid down at St. Aimé some decade and a half ago. Iron ore (magnetite and manganiferous hematite) is extensively worked near Bona and Tlemsen. Antimony ore (stibnite) exists in the department of Contantine. Zinc ores (salamine and blend) are extensively worked in the Souk-Ahrar and Tébessa districts in the department of Constantine. Salt is also produced from lakes in Contantine and Oran. Marbles are extensively quarried, there being the famous onyx marble at Sidi-Hamza and statuary and many coloured varieties at Filfila, near Phillippeville, at Ouled-Rahmoun in the Bona district, and at Tekbalet and Oued Chouly in the department of Oran. The total value of minerals produced in 1912 was £1,662,389, iron and zinc ores ranking highest.

Tunis.

Phosphate of lime is the most important mineral produced, the product value in 1912 amounting to £2,788,272. This mineral is found in the Lower Eocene rocks to the north and south of the mountain chain running from Wady Gtah, near Gafsa, to Tamerza, where the bed may be followed for a distance of 40 miles. The crude rock contains from 58, to 62 per cent. of phosphoric acid. A good deal of prospecting activity took place before the war, lead, zinc, copper, manganese, etc., being obtained. Important iron mines are worked in the north-west of Tunis. Salt is obtained from salt marshes and lakes. Value of minerals produced in 1912 amounted to £3,817,652.

Tripoli.

There seem to be few products other than agriculture.

Egypt.

In 1912 the following minerals, metals, and precious stones were being exploited or developed in a commercial scale:—Building stones, clay, gypsum, gold, lead, and zinc ores, manganese and manganiferous iron ores, natron, nitrate of soda, petroleum, phosphate of lime, peridots, salt and turquoise. Considerable petroleum developments are taking place in several localities, the oilfield region embracing a broad expanse of desert plain and low-hill ridges lying between the high ridges of the Red Sea hills, the Sinai mountains and the Gulf of Suez, and also extending down the western shoreline of the Red Sea, and includes a small portion of South-east Sinai. The dolomitic limestone and the Nubrian sandstone have up to the present yielded the most notable petroleum supplies. The Egyptian oilfield area presents a region of considerable geological complexity, and consequently of special difficulty as regards development. 27,522 tons was produced from the wells at Jemsa in 1912. The Sinai Mining Co. were constructing a railway and loading installation at Abu Zenima for exploitation of manganiferous iron ore deposits on a large scale. Manganese deposits occur in the carboniferous limestone formation in Western Sinai, where development work on a large scale is being carried on, the thickness of the ore varying up to a maximum of 6 metres. Lead and zinc deposits underlying the gypsum are being exploited at Jebel Rossas. Gypsum deposits are worked near Cairo, Heiwan, and Ismailia. The phosphate beds cover an enormous area in the aggregate, the present producing mines being situated on the Red Sea littoral and in the valley of the Nile respectively. Nitrate of Soda occurs in the Esna shales, which are strongly developed in the South of Qena, these shales appearing to carry about one per cent. of sodium nitrate together with considerable quantities of common salt. The gold deposits known to have been worked by the ancients are small and patchy and considerable prospecting and development work is still being carried on at

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some of these ancient mining centres, and producing mines are also working at the present time in the south-eastern desert of Egypt. Turquoise mines at Wady Maghara, in the peninsula of Sinai, are worked by the local Arabs. The only known source of large crystals of peridots of really fine quantity is from a mine working on the Island of St. John's in the Red Sea, although smaller and poorer crystals are obtained from other localities. Several large salt pans are in operation near Port Said for the purpose of making salt from sea water, and salt is also obtained from the natural evaporation of the water of Lake Mareotis, and also at Wady Natron where there are natural alkali deposits, a considerable amount of caustic soda being there made and utilised at the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company's cotton seed crushing and soda and oil factory at Kafr Zayat on the Nile. Clay is worked for cement manufacture at Massara, fireclay and granite at Aswan, basalt at Abu Zabel, near Cairo, and sandstone and limestone are extensively quarried. During the last few years of the war important oilfield developments have taken place.

Montenegro.

Rich deposits of iron occur in this rocky little country, but no returns are available.

Serbia.

Most of the coal region, of Liassic age, lies near the Danube, the coal being shipped to districts requiring fuel, and to the Black Sea. True coal reputed nearly equal to English coal occurs and is worked in the Timok Valley near Vrska Tschuka, and a large area also occurs in the Boljevac district. Considerable beds of Tertiary brown coal also exist at Senje, Sisevac, Resava, Jelasnica, Kraljavatz, and in many other parts of the country. The State operates a mine at Serje, 60 per cent. of the output being delivered to the Serbian State railways. In 1912 a total of 303,000 tons of coal was produced from the various fields. Copper and iron ores are being worked in the vicinity of Bor and Lipnik, and at Maidanpek, where it is found in several quartz veins in a mass of andesite. Lead ore is being mined at Cerveni Breg and Kosmaj in Belgrade, and also in the departments of Podrinje and Rudnik. Gold was worked by the Romans and many centuries later by the Austrians, but Turkish invasions put a stop to mining, it being found in alluvial gravel and in quartz veins, especially in the district west of the River Timok, which forms the frontier of Bulgaria, many veins of gold bearing pyrites existing near Glogovitza. Dredging for gold takes place on the River Pek and the River Morava. Antimony ore is principally worked at Krupanj and Zajaca, in the department of Podrinje. The value of the total mineral production for 1912 was £763,327.

Bulgaria.

Fairly rich deposits of coal and lignite exist. The State works lignite mines at Pernik and Bobovdol, the output of the former place in 1911 being 245,314 metric tons, valued at £112,000. The latter colliery, situated about 10½ miles from the town of Doupnitzia, far from any railway, and so worked to supply local wants only, has an output of about 6,000 metric tons. The Trévena coalfield, 38 miles from Tirnovo, owing to the lack of railway facilities is also only worked on a very limited scale.

A copper mine of some importance is worked at Pakalnitza, about 7 miles from from Elisena in the department of Vratza, producing an annual output of about 15,000 tons, the value of the copper matter exported from the mine in 1911 being £32,000. A ropeway is established between the mine and the railway, and smelting works are close to the railway station. Gold is obtained in many places, from the beds of rivers. Limestone and marble are quarried on a small scale. Other minerals are known to exist but await enterprise and development, and the opening of the country with transport facilities.

Greece.

This country possesses great mineral wealth, easily worked and exported owing to the irregular formation of its coast. Lignite exists in certain districts, and has been worked on the Island of Euboea and in Cropo, but is now suspended owing to foreign competition. The chief product is iron ore, which occurs in several parts of Eastern Greece, the total production of ore in 1912 being valued at £152,574. Hæmatite containing 51 per cent. of iron is extensively worked at Seriphos, where the output amounts to over 200,000 metric tons per year. It also exists, and is worked, in the Laurium district, and in Grammanikon (where it is nearly exhausted), Siphnos and Thermia. Important deposits of chromiferous iron ore exists at Locrida near Lake Copais in the Atalanti district. Manganese occurs most with iron ores, and is worked at Plaka in the Laurium district and in Milos. Rich lodes of magnesite exist in Eubrosea, and it also occurs in the Hermione Chalcis, Simni, Mandondi, and Thebes districts. Several marble quarries are being worked by English companies, mostly in the districts of Dionysos, Larissa, Panosmos, Paros, Skyros, and Styra. The salt industry is a Government monopoly. The salt is obtained from sea water at Anavyssos near Laurium, in the island of Leucada, at Messolonghi, and other places. Zinc ores (calamine and blend) associated with lead ore occur in the Laurium district, and at Antiparos. Sulphur is found in Milos and in some of the volcanic islands. The total value of minerals sold in 1912 amounted to £962,786, of which lead (argentiferous pig lead) comprised one third, and iron ore and salt from sea water another one fourth of this total.

Roumania.

In 1912 petroleum formed the chief mineral product, 1,835,940 metric tons being produced, and 242,025 tons of coal. Petroleum is, and probably always will be, the mainstay of the mineral industry of this country. The mineral is obtained partly from shallow hand-dug wells, and partly from boreholes, in the region of the Carpathians, the principal centres being Prahova, Bacau, Buzeu, and Dambovitza, 90 per cent. of the production in 1912 being produced from the Prahova district. The average boreholes are less than 550 metres deep, whilst the wells are only from 20 to 100 metres deep. The bulk of the petroleum is refined, and the residue is employed in Roumania for heating purposes, for which there is an increasing demand. The capital invested in the Roumanian oil industry in 1909 was nearly 15 millions sterling.

Beds of anthracite and bituminous coal (lignite) outcrop in various parts of the country. Anthracite is worked at Schela in the province of Gorj. Lignite is found in very many parts, the seams sometimes reaching a thickness of 20 feet. It is mined in the following provinces: Mehedintzi, Muscel, Dambovitza, Prahova, and Bacau. An excellent fuel is produced by the utilisation of lignite into briquettes with petroleum residues, the fuel so produced being of excellent quality, and cheaper than Welsh coal. The mines at Marzineanca in the Province of Dambovitza are worked in concession by the State. Rich deposits of salt exist, extending for a distance of about 100 miles along the Carpathians. One bed of pure rock salt is from 300 to 1,000 feet thick. The industry is a Government monopoly, and much of the work in the rock salt mines has been carried on by convict labour. A large amount of rock salt is annually exported both to Turkey and Russia. A large number of stone quarries are being operated for building material, many by the Government. There are important granite quarries in the Dobruja, and marble quarries in Dobruja, Argesh, Gorj, and Mehedinjzi.

Copper ores are reported to exist in Dobrudja in the district of Tulcea, in the centres of Altim-Tepe, Amzatar, and Islam-Gifesca, and iron ores in the Dorna locality in the province of Suceava. The gold resources are as yet unknown, although for centuries the alluvia of some of the rivers, and especially the river Olt have been known to carry gold, and small quantities have been obtained by washing the sands by the peasantry. Gold is also reported to exist in the Gemenea locality in the province of Dambovitza.

(To be concluded.)

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended July 25 amounted to £6,851.

NEAR EAST TRADE.

The Importance of Getting In.

(From a Correspondent.)

Never before has such an opportunity offered itself to British merchants to capture the trade of the Near East as the present moment. But to do so we must adopt new methods. Our banks must not only be prepared to finance shipments, but if needs be to take a share in the risks, credit for a considerable period must be given, although not to the exaggerated extent given by German traders.

The exchange difficulty is one that requires consideration, but it can be grappled with, and should not be used as an excuse for refusing to enter the market. High freights may be another excuse, but notwithstanding this, the Americans are getting their goods in and even at some sacrifice of profit we must do so also. Everything depends in getting in now. If we are to reap a harvest of trade in the Near East in the future we must do our sowing now by sending out agents wherever possible armed with samples and illustrated catalogues in French. Where it is not possible for firms to send out agents the banks represented in Turkey and the Near East will do everything to assist merchants to obtain suitable and reliable parties to act on their behalf.

It is difficult to forecast the future of Turkey. With time, however, and the assistance of the Great Allied Powers she has undoubtedly a period of prosperity before her. From a commercial point of view her huge undeveloped resources in Asia Minor are decidedly an asset of great importance, and the British merchant should lose no time in obtaining a footing in what will undoubtedly prove in the future to be a valuable field of enterprise.

£106,000 is reported to have been paid for the steamer War Malayan, bought by Greeks and renamed "Michael L. Embiricos." The vessel is only nine months old, and has made one voyage.

Speaking in the Spanish Chamber on August 11, Senor Lerroux, the Radical leader, declared that, in view of the new commercial currents now being manifested, Spain should freely pursue her activities in the occupied region of Morocco, and should furnish her troops with all necessary equipment.

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Tel. Address: "LIONDA, STOA PESMAZOGLU, ATHENS."

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CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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Engineering Notes.

Roumanian Waterways.

Before the war there was much discussion in Roumania as to the question of diverting some of the railway traffic, already overloaded, to the waterways. In this connection the possibility of making the rivers Sereth and Alt navigable for a certain distance was being canvassed, and the construction of a canal connecting the capital with the Danube was also under consideration. As to the river Pruth, the improvement of the navigation was at the time considered by a commission of delegates from Austria-Hungary, Roumania and Russia. The advisability of deepening the bed of the river was brought forward, but the idea was abandoned on account of strong objections on the part of the Russian delegate. It was decided that the question could be well met by the construction and use of specially built light draught tugs, and the increase of the fleet of shallow draught lighters already plying there, and which even now grapple with a large part of the grain transport of Moldavia and Bessarabia. As regards the two rivers first mentioned, the question was carefully studied, and the only objection was the heavy cost of the work. This is the case also with regard to the Bucharest-Danube canal, the country to be cut through being extremely flat. It is said that the Government intends now to take the two questions into serious consideration, and probably a commission will be appointed and a decision taken in the very near future.

Engineering Openings in Bulgaria.

The particular attention which enterprising American contractors, engineers, and others have recently been paying to Bulgaria, may well be taken as a proof that the country will soon offer special opportunities for engineering and other enterprises. In recent notes we referred to a new railway, the construction of which, according to reports, an American syndicate proposed to undertake. Further particulars on this subject are not available; but, it is stated, that apart from that proposal, there is a scheme of reconstruction which includes rolling-stock and railway material of every kind, harbour works, electric lighting and tramways. Among the more important of these may be mentioned bridges, road-rollers, dredges, telegraph wires, motor boats for the Danube, barges and lighters, etc. The articles which will be required from time to time for minor contracts, during reconstruction, will include electrical appliances, drugs, surgical requisites, military boots, cement, office stoves, iron windows, hospital beds, paper, zinc, iron bars and tubes, bolts, nuts and screws, saws, lead bars, crude and cast iron, etc. Local agents are necessary in tendering for Government and municipal contracts, but in the case of large contracts it is much preferable that any firm wishing to tender should send out their own representative, as is often done by foreign firms. British firms wishing to do business with Bulgaria should be prepared to act accordingly.

Agriculture in Turkey.

One of the results of the Peace negotiations, a leading technical contemporary points out, is the singular activity of the Turkish Government in preparing for the development of the agricultural industry in that part of Asia Minor still under its control. While it may be possible that the Turks are showing this hitherto unsuspected energy as a means of impressing upon the Allies their desire to advance the general welfare of the population, it is certain that they are sufficiently alive to the economical situation to facilitate as much as possible the production of cereals, which are the main source of the country's wealth. The Germans are reported to have been sending considerable quantities of agricultural implements into Asiatic Turkey, but it is stated in a French report that they are not suited to local requirements. It is difficult to accept this statement in view of the fact that German manufactures were very largely employed in Turkey before the war. Huge quantities of these implements were consigned to all the markets in Eastern Europe and in Asia Minor, but this was due solely to the organisation and to the terms of credit offered, and there is no reason why British firms, by offering better implements, should not secure a large share of the business. In the French report referred to it is said that there is a big demand in the vilayets of Aidin and Adana for ploughs and motor ploughs, harrows, reapers, threshing machines and the like. There is also an active inquiry for flour milling plant. Those firms who get into the market now with suitable implements will have a great advantage in securing future business.

MARKET FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY IN EGYPT.

The American Vice-consul at Alexandria in a recent report on the market for agricultural machinery in Egypt states that the following are the principal kinds of agricultural machinery seen in the country districts: Grain or threshing machines used on many larger estates; steam tractors used on some larger estates in Upper Egypt; portable engines, including steam locomobiles of 8, 10, and 12 horsepower, and refined-kerosene engines; and farm tractors. Before the war an American and a German firm had each sent one farm tractor to Egypt. They did not, however, prove satisfactory, as they were too heavy for the country roads. No other farm tractors have as yet been introduced into Egypt.

The sizes of agricultural machinery which will be most adaptable to Egypt are the following: Grain or threshing machines capable of doing 10 bushels per hour, for landowners whose estates average 400 to 600 acres; and machines capable of doing 25 bushels per hour, for landowners of 1,000 acres or more, and for contractors of threshing. Steam tractors are in disfavour in Egypt and cannot be recommended. Farm tractors, two sizes: A tractor capable of ploughing five acres a day effectively, and one capable of ploughing 15 acres a day. Both sizes must be light, not weighing more than 1,200 lb. for the smaller size and 2,000 lb. for the larger, as the soil in Egypt is light and the land is generally bisected by canals and drains (especially in perennial irrigation regions), and the tractors have to cross canals and drains on light bridges without breaking the banks. Farm tractors using kerosene are most advisable, as kerosene can be found anywhere in the country. Benzine, however, can only be secured in the large centres. The number of agricultural machines introduced into Egypt include 85 sets of steam tractors, all from Great Britain and most of them of the Fowler type; threshing machines, approximately 350, all from Great Britain; farm tractors, only two, as stated above.

Before the war a credit of six to nine months was allowed to jobbers in agricultural machinery, calculated on the basis of three months' time in which to sell the machines after their receipt plus three to six months' credit which the jobber himself had to extend to his customers. The time of credit allowed by the jobber to his customer was based on the time of the sale of the cotton crop, as all payments and settlements in Egypt are effected at this time (October-November). The jobber could have a guarantee of payment in making a contract of sale to the customer, but with the consideration that the machine was on hire only until the date of settlement. In this way he could get back his machine in case his customer happened to fail. From the beginning of the war to its close cash was universally demanded; credit terms, however, are now being granted again.

All the richness of the country lies in its agriculture, which is the main source of its revenues. Old conditions have entirely changed. The number of head of cattle has diminished by 25 per cent. since the beginning of the war. Labour is scarce and has trebled in price. The larger landowners would be willing to use almost any kind of agricultural machinery which would cut down the price of ploughing, harvesting, and sowing and enable them to finish each operation in time. Agricultural machinery, however, must be adapted to the needs of the country.

Ploughing is done in Egypt entirely with bullocks. No horses or mules are used. It costs about £1 15s. to plough an average acre of land six to seven inches deep, and it requires two pairs of bullocks in one day to do it. An average farm of 100 acres requires to keep standing all the year round nine head of bullocks to complete all the usual farm work. A good working bull costs £36 to £40. Therefore a type of tractor adapted to the country and one that would cost less than £1 15s. to plough one acre of land seven inches deep, whose cost price would be inferior to that of nine head of bullocks, should find a market.

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ADEN-RED SEA SKIN MARKET.

Supplies and Prices.

The good demand in America and the resumption of direct shipping services has brought much prosperity and profit to the Aden-Red Sea goat and sheep skin market, says an American consular report of June 16. Shipping rates are now but little more than a quarter of what they were at the beginning of this calendar year, and the rupee has advanced in exchange value to a fraction more than 40 cents (normal value, 0.3244 dol.), and to 1s. 10d. (normal value, 1s. 4d.) in American and English currency, respectively; but notwithstanding these facts the prices asked and paid for goat and sheep skins in Aden continue at a fancy figure. Skins move rapidly, and it is estimated that on this date there are probably not over 1,000 bales of goat and sheep skins (a bale is from 300 to 400 skins) in Aden; half in the hands of exporters and half in the hands of the native brokers for sale to exporters. Considering the enhanced value of the rupee, which is the usual medium of exchange in buying and selling skins in this market, the prices now ruling are practically double those of normal times.

Supplies.

As usual, the Harrar goat skins from Abyssinia lead the market at prices varying from 40 to 48 rupees per score. Supplies of these skins are coming in good quantities, although the quality is at present light, as is always the case in the dry period preceding the heavy rains in Abyssinia. A strike on the Franco-Ethiopian Railway, over which a large part of the Harrar skins reach the market, has also temporarily reduced supplies, but the strike is now ended. Ramazan will also be over in another fortnight, and there may be expected increased supplies of Harrars, and of better quality owing to the beginning of the rains.

Blackhead sheep skins are next in value to the Harrar goat skins. There have recently been some substantial arrivals of these skins from Italian Somaliland, although the bulk of the blackheads in the Aden market are usually from British Somaliland. All supplies arriving have found a ready demand at from 32 to 37 rupees per score. Rains in the back Somaliland country have already occurred, and that means that skins of heavier and better quality will soon be coming again.

Of the Arabian goatskins there are good arrivals of Ghizans and Gatoways, the former selling readily in Aden at 30 and 32 rupees per score and the latter at 20 to 22 rupees per score. Whitehead and redhead Arabian sheepskins are in demand at 20 and 12 rupees, respectively, per score. Arrivals both by land and by sea are good, although the present monsoon season may lessen shipments from Red Sea ports to Aden. All the prices above quoted are for skins without selection.

Increased American Demand.

A distinctly large share of the skins passing through the Aden market since the beginning of the year has gone to the United States. In this period invoices have been certified at this consulate covering 2,703,749 goatskins and 799,412 sheepskins. These figures are nearly double those covering the entire year of 1918, during which year, however, exports of Red Sea goat and sheep skins to America were smaller than for any one of many preceding years.

The present prosperity of the Aden market for goat and sheep skins from various parts of the Red Sea commercial district is due largely to the American demand, and if that demand continues this year promises to be an unprecedented one in the number of skins which will be exported. Some of the Aden goat and sheep skin dealers buy and ship to America for their own accounts, others buy as the direct representatives of American importers, and still others buy on commission for American clients. When the buyer on commission enters the market the Arab brokers know that he probably has instructions to buy a specified number of skins within a specified time limit, and they naturally run the price up three or four rupees per score. The buyer on his own account, or the direct representative of the American importer, usually gets his skins that much cheaper, as he buys when the price is right, according to his idea, and can step out and wait when the commission buyer comes in and usually bulls the market.

Owing to war conditions, which have prevented the native tribes from getting their usual supplies of dates and rice and other grains from outside sources, they have undoubtedly had to depend more upon their flocks and herds for food. This being true, there will have been some depletion of the normal numbers of goats, sheep, and cattle, which will probably result in smaller supplies of skins and hides from this market during the next two or three years.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated August 6:—

Good rain throughout, except in Assam, where fall has been local, and more required.

Bombay cotton market continues irregular. Fully good Broach August quoted 2594 Rs Piece goods steady. Calcutta jute market fairly steady. Hessians and sackings considerably quieter.

Reconnaissance survey Jessore District (Bengal) railway to Salkopa sanctioned.

The India Office has received the following cable summarising the season till July 31:—

Monsoon was late in reaching parts of Madras, Bombay Deccan, United Provinces, Rajputana, and South and West Punjab, but it has recently been abundant, and is now generally satisfactory throughout India.

Despite some delay in agricultural operations in above areas, sowing of autumn crops is proceeding well. Young crops are flourishing and agricultural outlook good.

Prices are abnormally high everywhere, and are still rising in Madras and Bengal, but are showing tendency to fall in Bombay, Central Provinces, and Bihar. Demand for Burma rice and Australian wheat is slackening. Economic situation poor in Madras and Bengal, but, generally speaking, whole country has shown remarkable staying power, in spite of extraordinary high level of food prices. High wages, control of food grains supply and provision of standard cloth have helped to mitigate hardships due to high prices and failure of last year's monsoon.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

ROUMANIA.—S. N. Iancovici, Bucharest, Str. Academici 6, desires to obtain English agencies. English correspondence. First-class references.

NEAR EAST. — Gentleman having important trade relations with Roumania and Balkan States, shortly proceeding to the Near East, invites correspondence with Manufacturers and Merchants for the developmetn of business. Principals only. No cash required.—Box 1,005, Leathwait and Simmons, 5, Birchin Lane, E.C.3.

EGYPT.—ALBERT J. HALFON.—P.O. Box No. 1182.—ALEXANDRIA, British Agent, in touch for twenty years with the best clients of Egypt. Complete and unique organisation (also for visiting the provinces). Highe t references. Would like to secure serious REPRESENTATIONS. Correspondence invited.

NEW COMPANIES.

Anglo-Balkan Commercial.

The Anglo-Balkan Commercial Co., Ltd., was registered as a private company on August 5 with a capital of £100,000 in 98,750 Ordinary shares of £1 each and 25,000 Deferred shares of 1s. each. Objects: Merchants, financiers, concessionnaires, bankers, general merchants, contractors for public and other works, ship owners and builders, shipbuilders' engineers, machinists, steel and iron merchants, etc. Subscribers: J. Morgan, 172, Kingston Road, Ilford, solicitor's clerk; H. N. Lewis, Rutland, Telford Road, Farnham, Surrey, cashier.

Roumanian Drilling and Trading.

The Roumanian Drilling and Trading Co., Limited, was registered on August 6 with a capital of £10,005 in 10,000 shares of £1 each and 100 Founders' shares of 1s. each, to carry on the business of contractors for drilling and prospecting for oil wells and deposits, etc. The subscribers are: G. P. Evans, J.P., Toursgrove, Aberystwyth, 1 Founders' share; Capt. T. S. Masterson, 6, Waterloo Place, W., one Founders' share; A A. Harden, Hillside, 36, Miller's Road, Brighton, cashier, one Pref. share. The first directors are: G. P. Evans, J.P., and Capt. T. S. Masterson (both permanent). Registered office: 45, Russell Square, W.C.1.

Anglo-Baltic and Mediterranean Bank.

The Anglo-Baltic and Mediterranean Bank, Ltd., was registered on August 5, with a capital of £1,002,500 in 200,000 Ordinary shares of £5 each and 2,500 Founders' shares of £1 each. Objects:—To carry on in England or elsewhere the business of banking in all its branches, and the business of bankers' agents, financiers, concessionnaires, insurance brokers, company promoters, merchants, etc. In any year when the net profits amount to 5 per cent. on the amount paid or credited as paid up on the issued Ordinary shares there shall be distributed among the holders of the Founders' shares a sum equal to 5 per cent. of the said net profits, free of income-tax. Subject as aforesaid, the profits which the directors decide to distribute shall be distributed among the holders of the shares other than Founders shares. In a winding up the holders of the Founders' shares shall, after repayment of the entire paid up share capital of the company, be entitled to 5 per cent .of the surplus assets. The balance of the surplus assets is to belong to the holders of the other shares. The seven subscribers to the memorandum of association (each subscribing for one Ordinary share) are all clerks.. The minimum cash subscription upon which the directors may proceed to allotment is seven shares. The articles of association provide that the first directors are to be appointed by the subscribers to the memorandum of association, but Percy Vere Sherwin, banker, of 8, Princes Street, E.C.2, is appointed as the first managing director. The qualification of a director is 250 Ordinary shares. Remuneration of each director £500 per annum and the amount of the income-tax thereon, with an extra £500 and amount of tax thereon for the chairman. The registered office is at 8, Princes Street, E.C.

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Near East Markets.

Turkish Fruit Crop.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows under date July 10:—

Sultanas.

Since our report of June 1 business has continued its activity. Prices have advanced week by week, arrivals from the interior have unfortunately diminished, and stocks on the market are very reduced, consisting mainly of low grades and poorly-conditioned fruit of the 1917 crop. Stocks up-country are estimated at about 2-2500 tons, including existencies of 1917 crop.

Since the resumption of trade relations with the United Kingdom, shipments to British ports have been as follows:—246,576 boxes and 135,530 bags of sultanas, and 15,977 boxes, 12,163 bags, and 264 cases of figs. The s.s. Bellarossia is expected within a few days to load for London, and will take about 200 tons sultanas. No other sailings are in view for the United Kingdom until early August, very little cargo offering for shipment.

Figs.

Market practically bare of supplies and arrivals from the Interior have ceased.

Crop Prospects.

A marked change has recently come over the whole situation. The advance of the Greek forces into the interior of the country is meeting with considerable resistance on the part of the natives. Regrettable incidents have taken place, resulting in damage to some towns and villages, considerable loss of life, and a general exodus of the population. The bulk of the fruit crops are grown in the valleys of the Hermus and the Meander. In the former district, the centre of the vine growing, farmers are abandoning their vineyards, and as the gathering and drying of the grapes should begin next month, a continuance of the present disordered state will have serious consequences, and will certainly result in the loss of a good deal of the production. As regards the Meander Valley, where figs are exclusively grown, the conditions are far more serious. The damage to the town of Aidin, the capital of the district, to several smaller towns and villages, and the withdrawal of the population, are factors calculated to react very disastrously on the eventual gathering of the crop. To assure the fertilising of the fig and its reaching maturing, it is necessary to hang on the trees a string of male figs, and the failure of this operation, which had only been started and has not been completed, would in itself jeopardise the crop. But, coupled with the destruction that has since resulted, the gravest apprehensions are now entertained that the export trade in the coming season of this valuable product may be seriously compromised. The whole outlook at the present moment is serious, and on the developments of the next few weeks hangs the fate, not only of the fruit crops, but of all the products of this rich province. Meanwhile communications with the interior districts are difficult and arrivals of produce are virtually suspended.

In forwarding the above report, Messrs. Giraud write as follows:—As you will notice, the conditions generally governing current business and the prospects for the coming season have for the time being assumed a rather critical aspect. Communications with the interior of the country are for the moment suspended, arrivals of all produce have ceased, and the prospects, not only for the fruit crops but for all agricultural products of the country, are for the present seriously jeopardised We trust, however, that with a restoration of order before the new season is at hand, the situation may assume a more normal aspect. In any case, we are making every preparation to cope with a large volume of business during the autumn. We have recently received from Sweden a supply of 200,000 boxes for the packing of sultanas, and also a large supply of bags required for the packing of natural figs. We have also an adequate stock in hand of skeleton cases in excellent condition, and have made arrangements for any increased requirements that may be necessary. In spite of the difficulties that have prevailed, since the signature of the Armistice last November we have been able to handle up to this date a quantity of over 2,500 tons of sultanas and figs, and we can state with confidence that we are now in a position to cope in the coming season with any extent of business that may reach us. As soon as new sultanas are on the market in the course of next month we shall fix our standard grades Nos. 11 to 17, the same will be mailed to our customers as soon as possible. In view, however, of the delays, both postal and telegraphic, and other difficulties connected with transport, labour, and shipping, it will be clearly understood that unless an improvement comes about in these conditions, our offers will be subject to reply within the dates we shall specify in our cables, and subject also to war and strike clauses. We can also undertake orders in cleaned fruit at an extra charge of 3s. per cwt. over our quotations for uncleaned sultanas.

London Produce Report.

Currants.

There is no change to record in the market position. Prices continue to show an upward tendency. There is no news regarding shipments, but it is hoped that further supplies will soon be available, for while the stock in the country is considerable, the demand is very great and is likely to increase in the immediate future rather than the opposite.

Sultanas.

Available stocks are small. A further supply of Smyrna sultanas has arrived, but as will be seen from Messrs. Giraud's fruit report the outlook for supplies is not very encouraging at the moment. The position in the Smyrna region, and the demand from other countries besides the United Kingdom make it very probable that this market will be short for a considerable period.

Coffee.

Prices remain very firm, and the futures market is steady. Stocks of Brazilian are 117,098 bags, as against 247,719 bags a year ago. Stocks of other kinds total 303,970 packages, as against 184,089 at the same date. The futures market in Brazilian has been active at 5s. under spot prices. At auction, 9,541 bags have been offered. The offerings included 2,095 bags of Costa Rica which realised 151s. to 158s. for good to fine bold, and 146s. to 154s. 6d. for medium, and 835 bags of East Indian which brought 140s. to 156s. for good to fine extra bold, and 136s. to 151s. 6d. for medium.

Sugar.

The home demand for manufacturing purposes has somewhat decreased, but there has been no diminution in the demand for export. The return of the area under cane sugar in the United States as 510,000 acres, as against 540,000 has caused disappointment. Reports from Cuba indicate a record crop, and transactions are reported in it at an increase of about 6s. per cwt. on last year's prices. The market for refined has been steady.

Seeds.

Since the end of July the market for oilseeds has been quieter, but the advanced prices have been well maintained. Linseed has touched 58s. per cwt, and sales for September delivery have been transacted at 55s. There has been little activity in cotton seed. Egyptian has been done at 32s. 6d. per cwt. and for November at 29s. Prices for rape seed are about the same. Gujerat is 51s. at the quay.

Oil Cakes, etc.

High prices continue to rule in the market. Linseed oil has been rather quieter at £120 per ton, fine edible cotton-seed oil has been done at £135 per ton, and soya-bean oil has been steady at £90. Castor-bean oil is dearer owing to the absence of supplies. Shipments of India, Ceylon and Japanese coconut-oil not yet arrived are quoted respectively at 105s., 102s. 6d., and 100s. per cwt.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The quieter feeling in the market has continued, and, if anything, there has been a further falling off in the turnover. The pause in operations is partly due to the expectation in some quarters of lower prices, and partly the result of trade being disorganised by the holiday season of the year. On the whole advices relating to the Egyptian cotton crop continue more favourable, but the plants are still late. Futures in Alexandria and Liverpool have fluctuated rather widely. There has not been very much buying by spinners. Egyptian yarns seem to be stronger than ever. Some producers have refused to sell on any terms. Demand in certain counts and qualities has definitely overtaken supply, and producers have experienced much difficulty in getting what they want. Prices have again hardened. In cloth for Egypt there has not been quite so much activity as recently, but shippers have been prepared to pay very high figures for early delivery. A fair amount of business continues to be done for the Levant. Healthy reports are being received with regard to clearances in Cairo. Trade in piece goods for India has been slow. Demand for China continues on smaller dimensions. Very little has been done for South America. Printing cloths have been in steady request for certain outside markets and the home trade. An unimportant business has been done in American yarns for home consumption. Quotations have shown rather more irregularity, and spinners seem to be losing a little ground. In export numbers a feature of interest has been the active demand in extra hard descriptions for the Levant, and some substantial contracts have been arranged. An increased inquiry has been met with for Germany.

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TURKEY.

Crop Prospects.

The following are extracts from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Biledjik, May 31.

The cereal harvests which were forecasted during the months of December and January last as better than those of last year seem to have suffered by reason of the torrential rains, which fell incessantly during the months of April and May. The spring sowings could not take place, the ground being affected by the rains. Owing to the continued cold and rain during the last two months the opium crop in the valleys and plains has suffered to some extent.

The first arrivals of opium, which in normal times appear on the market about the beginning of June, are not expected before the end of June.

Kutahia, June.

The fine weather which followed the severe rains of May has improved the agricultural position of our region, which is satisfactory. The opium harvest will be rather good.

In spite of the rise in freight, the export of cereals to Constantinople continued during the month under review. The market in mohair has been rather active this month, and prices have risen from Prs. 55 to Prs. 70. Holders of this commodity commenced to unload their stocks on the markets. No important transactions have been effected in wool or opium.

The importation of manufactured articles into this region during the month of June amounted in value to about £T12,000. Colonial produce imported amounted to about £T5,000. The carpet industry is more active owing to the receipt of orders from Smyrna. The manufacture of the native "aladja" tissues seems to show a little activity.

Rodosto, June 1.

The month of May has been principally marked by the return of a certain number of deportees, some of whom have been completely ruined during their exile, but a few others have, on the other hand, improved their financial position. This return has been followed by greater activity in our market, and we are beginning to witness a certain movement which gives grounds for viewing the future with a certain amount of hope. Unfortunately the continual unsteadiness of the general political situation and the possibility of a change in the governing administration of Thrace causes the local trade to remain undecided.

Eski-Shehir, June 20.

During the long war period large amounts of labour having been taken from the fields by the general mobilisation agriculture in default of means in part, at any rate, of replacing the shortage of man power by agricultural machinery has been endangered, despite the co-operation of the village women. Compulsory cultivation imposed by the Government, which ought in part to have filled the gap, did not have the expected results. In practice the system only proved a new means for escaping military service for a number of individuals, who, instead of sowing new lands, only farmed the lands already cultivated before the passing of the law. The following reasons may be given for the decline of agriculture during the war.

(1) Lack of labour and of agricultural machinery. (2) The arbitrary measures which the Government used to obtain the crops from the tillers at prices which not only did not leave profits, but, on the contrary, caused them such losses that it was to their interest to produce the lowest possible amount. (3) The deportations and interference which the Christian population in general, and especially the Armenians, had to suffer. This hatred of the Christian which had such deplorable results only impoverished the country, which thus saw itself deprived of the only class capable of directing commerce.

For these reasons the war has had a disastrous after effect on the general situation of the country.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

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The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

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Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.

The report of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the year ended March 31 last states that in consequence of the recent disturbances all lines were completely closed to traffic for a period of 50 days—namely, from March 17 to May 5, 1919 (15 days of which fell within the company's financial year)—and were only partially working for a further period of 30 days. The material damage done to the permanent way, rolling stock and buildings is estimated at £47,179 and the loss of revenue up to March 31 at £14,153, total £61,332. A claim for compensation has been made to the Egyptian Government. Gross receipts amounted to £366,043, against £292,520. The number of passengers carried was 6,189,221, as compared with 7,081,061. Gross receipts under this head were £223,739, an increase of £44.064, the average per mile per week being £7 13s. 8d., compared with £6 3s. 5d. The gross receipts from goods traffic were £134,135, an increase of £28.923, the tonnage lifted being 631,425 tons, a decrease of 48,170 tons. Working expenses amounted to £195,194, as compared with £171.331. The ratio of actual expenses to gross earnings was 53.33 per cent., as compared with 58.57 per cent. The balance carried to net revenue account is £170.850, which, with interest and dividends earned, amounting to £10,547, and with the balance brought forward of £85,353, gives a total of £266,750. After providing for interest on debentures and for all fixed charges, placing £35,140 to general reserve and making provision for the proportion of profits due to the Egyptian Government under the terms of the concession, amounting to £23,503, there remains £146.370. The Board recommend a dividend of 5½ per cent. on the preference shares for the year, which will absorb £57,243, leaving £89.127 to be carried forward. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., August 21, noon.

Bengal Iron and Steel.

The report of the Bengal Iron and Steel Company for the year ended September 30, states that the net balance of profit available, including £35,208 brought forward, after providing a reserve of £167,000 for income-tax and excess profits duty for the year, is £182,630. Deduct portion of Manharpur prospecting and development expenses written off £712, transfer to general reserve fund in order to bring that fund up to the amount necessary to provide for the bonus on the conversion of the Founders' shares £7,350, transfer to the credit of depreciation, colliery sinking funds and ferro-manganese special furnace repairs account £41,558, and debenture stock interest £10,000, there is left £123,010. The directors propose to deal with this as follows:—Dividend of 6 per cent. for the year ended September 30, 1918, on the preference shares (paid March 31, 1919), £9,000; dividend of 32 per cent. for the year ended September 30, 1918, on the 262,350 ordinary shares (which include all the shares issued in exchange for the Founders' shares on conversion) as follows:—8 per cent. paid March 31, 1919, 8 per cent. paid June 30, 8 per cent. payable on September 30, and 8 per cent. payable on December 16 next, £83.952, leaving a balance of £30.058 to be carried forward. The scheme of arrangement for increasing the ordinary share capital of the company to £262,350 and extinguishing the Founders' shares by the issue to holders thereof of the 37,500 new ordinary shares, which was approved on August 29 and September 18 last, was sanctioned by an order of the Court, dated January 17 last. The general reserve has been increased to £37,350 by the transfer of £7,350 from profit and loss, and this sum has been applied to payment for the additional ordinary shares issued by way of bonus to the holders of the Founders' shares. The shares comprising the new issue rank pari passu with the old ordinary shares and are entitled to participate in all dividends declared or to be declared subsequent to that for the company's financial year ended September 30, 1917. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., September 5, noon.

Hyderabad (Deccan).

The report of the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company for the year ended December 31 last states that the output of coal shows a decrease of 4 per cent. as compared with the previous year. The amount available for sale, owing to colliery consumption, was 6.6 per cent. less, while the cost of winning the coal was 10 per cent. more. The new pit near the western boundary of the coalfield has reached the coal, which is reported to be of quality equal to Oosman Pit coal. The famine in India has been the cause of some considerable anxiety, but the manager, Mr. Trotman, made provision by purchasing sufficient supplies of rice, and thus kept the labour on the field by securing for them ample food at a reasonable price. This, however, has for the time being locked up a large amount of the cash resources of the company. Owing to the high cost of plant and machinery, the cash required for capital expenditure at Singareni Collieries during the next few years will be considerable. Boring on the Paloncha coalfield, which lies some twenty miles to the east of the Singareni coalfield, has proved a seam of coal over a large area, equal to Ram-paid coal. Further boring to prove deeper seams is being carried out with all possible speed. As an increased demand for coal is expected owing to the development of industries in India, it is desirable that the opening out of this field should be pushed on with as little delay as possible. Further developments at Singareni will also have to be carried out. The value of securities represented by £51,833 in the balance-sheet was £44.883 at the market prices current on December 31, 1918. The directors have set aside £22,000 for depreciation. After allowing for this and £2,000 for the reserve, the accounts show a profit of £31,573, which with the amount brought forward of £20,782 gives a credit balance of £52.354 and a dividend reserve account of £5,600. An interim dividend of 1s. per share, amounting to £11.200, has been paid on account of the year, and the board now recommend a final dividend of 1s. per share, less income-tax, making 2s. per share for the year. Although in normal times a dividend of 3s. per share could have been paid, with only a partial encroachment on the dividend reserve, this is not in present circumstances considered advisable, and it is therefore proposed to employ the dividend reserve in part payment of the dividend and carry forward £35,554. Owing to the famine and a great increase in the working costs since the beginning of the year, due to circumstances connected with the war, the prospects for the current year are not so favourable. The most serious rise in cost is due to the unprecedented appreciation of the Halli Sicca rupee, in which currency payments for the labour on the colliery and local purchases are made. The ultimate prospects of the company are, however, in no way impaired, but rather warrant an early and energetic development of the properties.

Southern India Tea.

The report of the Southern India Tea Estates for the year ended February 28 states that, after adding the balance brought forward, providing for general expenses, London office expenses, and writing off £1,000 for depreciation of machinery, the net amount at credit of profit and loss is £12,392. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 10 per cent., free of income tax, on the ordinary shares, dividend of 6 per cent. on preference shares, place to reserve £1,000, and to carry forward £6,684. The ordinary dividend, free of tax, is equivalent to 14 1-5 per cent. gross, with income tax at 5s. 11d. in the £.

Mahawale.

The report of the Mahawale Rubber and Tea Company for 1918, states that profit and loss, including the balance brought forward after making the appropriations and adjustments applicable to 1917, shows a credit balance of £12,616. The directors propose to pay a final dividend of 15 per cent., less income-tax (making 20 per cent. for the year), to write off £500 for depreciation, to place £250 to reserve for doubtful coast advances and £1,500 to taxation reserve, and to carry forward £2,366. During the year excess profits duty for 1917 amounting to £6,697 was paid.

Southern Shan States.

The report of the Southern Shan States Syndicate (1909) for 1918 states that the item of sundry creditors and reserves stands in the balance-sheet at £1,369, as against £2,210. The debtors have also been reduced during the year from £1,499 to £1,144. Cash in hand at the end of 1918 was £7,363, as against £6,480. The holding in Mawchi Mines remains unaltered. With regard to the other investments, the market price of the shares in the General Petroleum Corporation has considerably improved. The shares are, however, shown in the balance-sheet at cost price. The liquidation of the Burma Trust has been completed, and the final winding-up meeting was held on April 28 last. A final dividend of 8.625d. per share was declared and paid. This dividend on the syndicate's holding represents £719, which will be dealt with in the current year's accounts. As this liquidation has now been completed, in the accounts for the year ending December 31 next the items of £3,500 on the liability side of the balance-sheet and £1,000 on the assets side will disappear, and the return on the investment, amounting to £3,219, in addition to the £1,000 paid on the shares, will be dealt with in those accounts. The gross profit is £7,043, and after paying debenture interest and allowing for income-tax deducted from dividends received the net profit is £4,801. After providing for the amount required for debenture holders (about £1,030), the directors recommend that the balance be applied towards writing down the debit balance of profit and loss, which will then be reduced to approximately £18,341. The result of the company's operations for 1919 will largely depend upon the results obtained from its holding in Mawchi Mines. The directors who are all members of the Mawchi Board, are fully satisfied with the progress of that company.

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Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

The market in Egyptian securities has been somewhat idle this week, there being very few changes in prices to record and these are generally in a downward direction.

Among Government stocks, Egyptian 4 per cent Unified have declined half a point to 83½.

In Bank shares National Banks have fallen ⅛ to 21⅛, but all others are unchanged.

Amongst Land shares Aboukirs have been fairly extensively dealt in, but without changing the price. Egyptian Consolidated Lands are a trifle easier at 2s. 6d., and New Egyptians, after the exchange of a few hundred shares are quoted about 1s. lower at 23s. 6d. Sudan Plantations have fluctuated between 7⅞ and 8¼, and close to-night at 8, a decline of 3-16; while Union Foncieres also are a trifle easier at 73s.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions, Salts and Sodas are a shade harder at 3 1-16.

In the Oil division Anglo-Egyptians "B" are 3-32 easier at 5 15-32, and Roumanian Consolidated are 1-6 lower at 20s. 9d.

Amongst Greek securities the 1881 and 1884 loans are half a point down at 73. The others are unchanged.

ROUMANIAN DOCK DUES.

The Board of Trade have received through the Foreign Office a copy of a dispatch, dated July 17, from His Majesty's Consul-General at Bucharest stating that by a decree dated June 27, 1919, new pilotage dues have been fixed for vessels entering and leaving the docks at Galatz and Braila. The dues are to be paid to the harbour masters at those ports and are calculated on every ten tons of a ship's net registered tonnage as shown by the ship's papers, and are applicable alike to sailing vessels and steamships. The dues are paid in full by each ship on her first entry into the docks, while on subsequent entries of the same ship in the course of a year a reduction of 10 per cent. is allowed. In case a ship employs the services of a tug the dues for the tug are payable by the ship employing it. The following is a table of the new dues:—Ships up to 200 tons, 30 bani per 10 tons; ships of 201 to 400 tons, 40 bani per 10 tons; ships of 401 to 600 tons, 50 bani per 10 tons; ships of 601 to 800 tons, 60 bani per 10 tons; ships of 801 to 1,000 tons, 70 bani per 10 tons; ships of over 1,000 tons, 80 bani per 10 tons.

The directors of the Assam Frontier Tea Company announce a dividend of 20 per cent. (40s. per share), free of tax, on ordinary shares for the year, and 7 per cent. (14s. per share), less income-tax, on preferred shares for half-year, making 10 per cent. for year, both paid on July 21; £20,000 to reserve, £583 to provident fund, £30,474 forward, subject to excess profits duty.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON AUGUST 1.

Supplied by G. L. Mortara, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	21½
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	101
" Div.	Frs.	142
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E	14½
" priv.	L.E.	4 17/32
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	152
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 3/32
Building Lands of Egypt	£	3/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3½
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6⅞
Bonded Stores	L.E.	15½
Unifiée	L.E.	84
Privilégiée		72½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7⅞
Nungovich Hotels	£	7⅛
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6 7/16
" Fond.	£	450
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4 7/16
" Ord		110/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	22⅜
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	109
" Jouissance	Frs.	171
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		32/-
Egyptian Markets		23/3
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	425
" Div.	Frs.	360
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	319
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 3/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda		59/6
Credit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	731
" Fondateur	Frs.	990
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	419
" 1903 "	Frs.	304½
" 1911 "	Frs.	286
United Lands	P.T.	4½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		33/32

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price—Aug. 6	Aug. 13
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	—	—
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	82	82
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	84	83½
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	72	72
Greek 5%, 1881	73½	73
Do. 5%, 1884	73½	73
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	57½	57½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	54	54
Do. 5% 1890	71	71
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	65	65
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	66	66
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	64	64
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	82	82
Do. 5% Currant	95	95
Montenegro 5% Loan	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	82½	82½
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	—	—
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	6½	6½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17½	17½
Bank of Athens	72/6	72/6
Bank of British West Africa	7x	7
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½
British Trade Corporation	11	11
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	—
Imperial Bank of Persia	9 11/16	9 11/16
Ionian Bank, Limited	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	7	7
London County and Westminster	16 3/32x	16½
National Bank of Egypt	21⅛	21⅛
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	7¼	7¼
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	—	—
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	—	—
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	68½	68½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	56	56
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	25/-	25/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	14½	14½
Do. Pref.	4⅝	4⅝
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	2/9	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	15/-	15/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	15/6	15/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅜	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	24/6	23/6
Sidi Salem Co.	2 1/16	2 1/16
Sudan Plantations	8 3/16	8
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	75/-	73/-
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	11 15/16	11 15/16
Egyptian Markets Ord.	23/6	23/6
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	3	3 1/16
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅞	5⅞
Do. Do. Prefs.	4⅜	4⅜
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	97	97
Chinese 4½% 1898	80	80
Do. 5% 1896	91	90
Argentine 5% 1890	—	—
Do. 5% 1907	87⅛	87¼
OIL.		
Anglo-Egyptian B	5 5/16	5 5/32
Anglo-Persian	27/3	27/3
Anglo-Roumanian	12/3	12/3
Roumanian	21/3	20/9
Traian (Roumanian)	12/-	12/-

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Aug. 6	Jy. 30
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	61⅜	61½
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	59	60½
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
	Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Go. Debs. 1959	—	—
	Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	72	72
	Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938	—	—
BANKS.			
	Chartered of India	77	78
	Eastern	8⅜	8⅜
	Mercantile of India A	—	34
	National of India	52	52
MINES.			
	Balaghat Gold Mining	6/3	6/-
	Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	—	—
	Burma Corp.	8⅜	8⅜
	Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	8/10½	11/6
	Champion Reef Gold	4/6	4/6
	Mysore Gold Mining	2⅛	2⅛
	Nundydroog	17/1½	17/-
	Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	16/-	16/-
	Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	—	—
	Do. do. do.	—	—
OIL.			
	Assam Oil	1 1/16	1 1/16x
	Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	—	—
	Brit. Burmah	2⅜	2⅜
	Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	14 1/16	13⅝
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	—	—
	Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.	—	—

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES

Continued—

RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	—	—
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	134½	133⅜
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	60½	60½
Bengal-Nagpur	—	115½
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	105⅜	104⅜
Burma Railways	110¼	110¼
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	—	13 3/16
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	—	—
Gt. Indian Pen Ann. "A," 1948	12⅞	12⅞
Madras and S. Mahratta	—	102½
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	—	—
Nizam's Guaranteed State	—	71½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	10	9 31/32
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	—	—
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	—	—
Do. Deferred	555	575
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	70½xd	70x
Bengal United Tea Ord.	18½	18⅜
British Indian Tea Ord.	8⅜x	8 3/32d
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17⅞	17⅜
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	10/6	10/6
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	6½	6 5/16
Consolidated Estates	5 1/32	5⅜
Darjeeling Co.	17/-	17x
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	55/-	55/-
Dooars Tea Ord.	68/-	69/-
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	—	—
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	54/-	54/-
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	27/9	27/3
Hewagam Rubber Co.	—	—
Jhanzie Tea Association	10	10
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	22½	22½
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	19/3	19/3
Lanka Plantations Ord.	—	20/6
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	53/6x	53/6x
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	43/9xd	45/6x
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14	14
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	28	28/9

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at May 31, 1919, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)		£E. 2,925,000
Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)		1,462,500
Special Reserve		487,500
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts		15,713,655
Mixed Tribunals		2,487,829
Egyptian Government		6,989,819
Bankers' Accounts		1,539,813
Cheques and Bills payable		291,618
Sundry other Accounts		648,175
		£E.32,536,909
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		£E. 18,089,403
Sundry Securities		261,551
*Advances on Merchandise		6,491,252
Advances on Securities		478,203
Advances otherwise Secured		365,827
Sundry other Advances		267,230
Bills of Exchange		818,654
Local Bills Discounted		80,325
Buildings and Furniture		231,357
Money at call and at short notice		1,428,375
Bankers' Accounts		1,018,953
Sudan Government		121,863
Sundry other Accounts		379,587
Cash—	£E.	
Notes	1,849,019	
Gold	40,058	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	615,272	
		2,504,349
		£E.32,536,909

Issue Department.

	£E.
Notes issued	43,600,000
	£E.43,600,000
	£E.
Gold	3,309,191
†British Treasury Bills	18,490,809
	21,800,000
Securities:—	
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	536,322
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds	21,263,678
	£E.43,600,000

* This figure includes advances against merchandise and advances made to the Cotton Control Commission and the Cotton Seed Control Board.

† By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The returns of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended July 31 were:—Cattle markets, £366; general markets, £477; total, £843; total for year, £34,926. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918 ended August 1 were:—Cattle markets, £327; general markets, £453; total, £780; total for year, £30,806.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 433.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

An Anglo-Persian agreement was signed on August 9, and, being made public in London a few days ago, has naturally revived the strong interest in Persia and Persian affairs which has so long existed in this country. The terms of the Agreement and its significance are dealt with in our leading article, and here we need only emphasise the hope that Persia has now entered upon a period of greater prosperity and truer freedom than she has enjoyed for many years past. We would also express the sincere good feeling with which Englishmen are looking forward to the visit of H.I.M. the Shah. Other Shahs who have visited this country have always been received as welcome guests, and the present youthful ruler is assured of a hearty welcome. The British public never fails to respond to the appeal made by the sight of youth called on to assume the responsibilities of sovereignty; and attempts which have been made to misrepresent the reasons for Shah Sultan Ahmed's journey and for his visit to our shores will only increase the good will of our people for himself and his subjects.

The Roumanian reply to the protest of the Supreme Council in Paris was very moderate in tone, and he would be a captious critic indeed who would find fault with it on this ground. It appears to have been satisfactory upon the whole even to the august body to which it was addressed, and as a result the tension that was perceptible a week ago is now relaxed. The Roumanian Government declared that "Roumania has not changed her territorial claims according to the success of her army, but she does consider that the new military efforts that she has been constrained to make . . . and the services which she has rendered to civilisation by her sacrifices, give her a new title to claim her rights." Again: "The Roumanian Government could not foresee that the Peace Conference would consider the Armistice of November, 1918, as still existent after having received from it the invitation to co-operate in a military action against the Hungarian Army. Still less could it foresee this attitude after having been the object of a general offensive on the part of this army." To the ordinary man these things look clear enough, but it may be difficult to see them clearly from Mount Olympus. The Council, to judge by its reply, was largely concerned about "the fact that no final recovery of war, railway, or agricultural material or of cattle, etc., can take place at present." The Olympians, it would seem, have a sufficiently keen eye for the main chance.

The Supreme Council, beginning to realise, perhaps, that its handling of this Roumanian-Hungarian-Bolshevist entanglement has not been entirely felicitous, and that the world was getting heartily sick of the inexplicable delay which was finally ended by Roumanian action, has modified its previous *hauteur;* and Roumania has lately had less cause to feel that her services to the Allies must have been forgotten. The Inter-Allied Generals have refrained from any appearance of wishing to issue instructions to the Roumanian troops, and have been conferring with the Roumanian Commander as to future action. The net result, at the time of writing, is that Budapest is to be provided with a force of 6,000 Hungarian police, and that a few Roumanian troops will be left in the neighbourhood of the city.

As we anticipated, Kurdistan declines to settle down and adjust itself to the new order of things. South Kurdistan is semi-officially described as "still disturbed," and since a fresh attack on a British detachment in this district is reported, the description cannot be regarded as unduly pessimistic. In Central Kurdistan it has been necessary to dispatch a punitive expedition to Amadia in order to arrest some of the inhabitants who had murdered British officers and men. This town lies north-east of Mosul, from which it is distant about fifty miles, and is in the Hakkiari country, which has never enjoyed a reputation for law abiding. Sir Mark Sykes described the town thus in "Dar-ul-Islam": "As a position for observation and defence I should deem it almost perfect even now; for the heights behind, which command it, are inaccessible. . . The track which leads up to the town is steep and almost dangerous." The successful surprise of such a place is a feat on which the punitive expedition may justly congratulate itself; and will doubtless afford the Kurds another telling object-lesson.

The formation of a new Yugoslav Ministry was not an altogether easy matter, but it has now been accomplished by M. Davidovitch, leader of the Democratic party, who, finding it impossible to get together a Coalition Cabinet, has formed one from the Democrats and the Socialists, with the addition of a non-party Minister for War. Whether the combination will be able to hold its own against all possible combinations of other parties is rather uncertain, but

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it is much to be hoped that Yugoslavia may not suffer from a succession of ministerial crises at a time when it requires all its energy to cope with the very serious problems, internal and external, by which it is confronted. The new Prime Minister, who was formerly Minister for Education, enjoys a high reputation, while the party he leads is the strongest unit in the Serbian Parliament; and in all probability in any real emergency he may count upon the support of the best men of all parties, whose first thought will very rightly be not for their party, but for their country. They realise that if Yugoslavia is to live and prosper it must present a united front to the world, especially in these days when it is still possible to readjust frontiers without too seriously incommoding the official map-makers. Thus, while it may perhaps be necessary, for party reasons, to let off a few fireworks upon occasion, we may surely expect the display to be kept within reason.

Three important Turkish prisoners have succeeded in making their escape—General Halil Pasha, who was in command against us at Kut-el-Amara; Kuchuk Talaat Bey, an active member of the C.U.P.; and Nuri Pasha, younger brother of Enver Pasha. The escape of Halil Pasha, who was confined at the Ministry of War in Constantinople, is particularly vexatious; for he was rather more than suspected of responsibility for certain crimes for which reparation must sooner or later be made. Nûri was in the custody of the British military authorities at Batoum, and his disappearance is surrounded by mystery. He was awaiting trial on a charge of being concerned in massacres; and his escape is the more regrettable because it will almost inevitably enhance the prestige of the C.U.P. and its agents in Transcaucasia.

The escape of these prisoners was at first reported to be responsible for the resignation of Nizam Pasha, the Turkish Minister for War; but later reports ascribe his act to a difference of opinion with his colleagues regarding the subject of the elections. The Constantinople correspondent of *The Times* anticipates that some C.U.P. candidates are likely to be returned, and that the non-Moslem elements will take no part in the elections, "which," he adds, "is probably wise in the circumstances." What Nizam Pasha's views on these subjects may have been he himself alone knows. His resignation may have embarrassed the Cabinet slightly, but he has already been replaced by Shefik Pasha, who has lost no time in justifying the saying regarding new brooms sweeping clean. Among high officials who have been dismissed by him is the Military Governor of Constantinople.

The Constantinople correspondent of the *Daily Express* reports that "a Smyrna court-martial has condemned tho Greek Colonel Skina to penal servitude for life in connection with the conduct of Greek troops after the landing last May." The infliction of this sentence will doubtless help to appease the very strong feeling of indignation that was aroused in many circles other than Turkish by the acts referred to, and the Greeks are to be congratulated upon having shown real courage in grappling with at least one of the many awkward problems which confront them at Smyrna. If they persevere in the same spirit they may yet "make good," and falsify those rather numerous prophets who foretell disaster for them and for Smyrna alike if their occupation of the town be prolonged.

In the House of Commons on Monday Mr. Cecil Harmsworth announced that it is hoped that the Commission for Egypt over which Lord Milner will preside will leave this country early in October. He added that with one exception all the gentlemen invited to form part of the Mission had accepted, but he would not give the names before the completion of the list. No better head than Lord Milner could have been found for the Commission. He has first-hand knowledge of the country and its financial requirements and potentialities, combined with cool judgment, resolution, and the capacity to take a long view. If his colleagues are as well chosen, and if the Commission is backed by the Home Government, it should inspire in Egypt that confidence which is requisite in order to secure the maximum benefit from its labours.

Members of the Zaghlulite deputation to Paris are now drifting back to Egypt, somewhat depressed, it may be supposed, if not chastened. The "party" has gained no credit at all by the Paris excursion, and though some of its members have contrived to have what they would probably regard as a good time in the French capital, their supporters will extract no particular satisfaction from that fact. Whether the one-time Minister for Education and his followers will now accept the situation as they find it, and endeavour to fit themselves into the existing scheme of things, rather than to remodel it, time alone can show. Zaghlul Pasha might now serve his country well by bringing his influence to bear in favour of law and order; and it is certain not only that it would be easier for him to work with the English than against them, but also that by so doing he would be far better placed to help Egypt along the path of progress.

Egypt's present plague is of an economic rather than a political character, and Cairo and some of the larger towns are suffering from an outbreak of strikes. As is shown by the letter of our Cairo Correspondent, which will be found on another page, some of these strikes are not without their humorous aspect, but they are to be deplored because they serve to prolong the restlessness from which the country has been suffering for quite a long time. Moreover, there are signs that they are taking on a new character: that foreign influence has been brought to bear to make them more annoying thorns in the side of the British administration, and that foreign gold is being freely spent to achieve that purpose. One of the recently returned Zaghlulites, for instance, has been bragging of his recent meetings with Bolshevists; and claims that English Bolshevists in Paris and London have assured him that the independence of Egypt will ere long be proclaimed by "the London Soviet." Curiously enough the English (?) Bolshevists omitted to inform the credulous gentleman of the exact date on which this interesting event will actually take place.

The withdrawal of British troops from Armenia has actually begun, but it is to be conducted very slowly, extending over two months, and the official view is that it is unlikely to be attended by a massacre of Armenians, as has been feared in some quarters. In point of fact, it is announced, there are very few British troops in Armenia, the bulk of our force in that part of the world being in Georgia, and the few outposts in Armenia being engaged only in guarding property and lines of communication. At the same time, it is officially recognised, the presence of even these small bodies has actually served as a check on the display of the secular hatred that still flourishes in the region in spite of—or, more probably, because of—the blood that has been shed there in the past; and their withdrawal will mean a relaxation of this restraint. Efforts are, therefore, being made "to secure the effective policing of the country by arrangement among the Allied Powers." Whether the dispatch of General Harbord and other generals of the United States Army to investigate conditions in Armenia from the military point of view had any connection with these efforts is uncertain. But in view of the fact that the investigations are to provide information regarding the questions that would be involved in taking over and administering the country, they can hardly be completed in time for America to undertake the policing duties now being abandoned by us; and previous attempts to induce other Powers to accept the responsibility do not encourage hopes of success in the present case.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 4.

A Waiters' Strike.

Cairo has been at first amused and later on somewhat perturbed at the great strike at its favourite tea-shop and *patisserie*. The peaceful strike of the waiters was complicated by the somewhat over-prompt action of a "blackleg," who, when his comrades began to reproach and insult him, drew a pistol and, shooting "into the brown," wounded three of the assailants somewhat severely. The strike has now ended by the owner allowing a salary of from £12 to £15 a month, but on condition that there is to be no more tipping. This clause, however, may almost be looked upon as nugatory, as it is impossible in the present stage of the world's manners and customs to prevent a customer from tipping a waiter. Consequently the staff of this establishment will probably benefit enormously by the strike. This is excellent business for them, but it has put up a detestable precedent from the point of view of all other restaurant and *café* proprietors. As for the public, it cannot temporarily be appreciably affected by the issue.

On the whole the sympathies of the consumers and customers are, probably, rather against the employers of labour, even if they do not approve altogether the demands or methods of the employed. Egypt has enjoyed an exceptional cheapness of living compared with the cost in most other countries, and if she has done so it has been in a great measure due to the fact that the price of labour has increased but little. It has certainly not been through any self-sacrifice on the part of traders in commodities of life.

The Profiteer Again.

Take, for instance, a bottle of whisky, which is bought for, say, thirty-five piastres. The bar-keeper divides it into twenty glasses, which he sells for five piastres each, and makes sixty-five piastres clear profit, or about 200 per cent. A native paper, the *Ahaly*, states that the average profit on beer is 300 per cent., and on mastic, vermouth, and other short drinks 400 per cent. It has been whispered by a waiter in one of the big *cafés* that its owner makes nearly £2 a day on his backgammon board, which itself is only worth ten shillings! A kilo of cheese is sold at 100 per cent. profit, and a kilo of olives, which costs six piastres, is sold for sixteen. Sardines, which the grocer buys at four piastres wholesale, are retailed at forty the oke. And so the profiteers have consistently lined their own nests and fleeced the public without raising the wages of the employees who help them to get rich quickly. It cannot, therefore, be greatly wondered at if at length and at last the working classes in Egypt are beginning to follow the examples set them in Europe. Their demands are often extravagant, and the labour movement is still in its infancy, but still the embryo is here. There are no trades unions yet to look after the strikers and their families, but it is a mere question of time for the various guilds and working classes to organise on the usual lines.

More Labour Manifestations.

As a specimen of the quaint procedure that is adopted, the case of the tramway employees may be quoted. They formed a syndicate and placed themselves "under the patronage" of Prince Ismail Daoud. This prince once volunteered to join the British Army, and is the son of ex-Prince Mohammed Daoud, who has just been expunged from the list of relatives of the Sultanian family entitled to enjoy the rank of prince. Whether this degradation applies also to the sons of Mohammed Daoud is not apparent, but presumably if the father is no prince, much less is the son.

One of the latest manifestations of labour has been the strike for an increase of wages by 10 per cent. of the employees of the Delta Light Railways. Amongst Government employees the *Moawins* of the province of Gharbieh are demanding increase of pay and various other administrative privileges and reforms, and similarly the employees of the Wakfs and Sheikhs of Harahs have put in for various favours. The native lawyers' clerks of Beni-Suef are also said to be combining "to defend their interests," and are beginning by a request for an increase of 50 per cent. in salary.

Yet another step towards improvement in the conditions of labour has been the adoption by all the principal shops in Cairo of what is known as "the English week" of forty-eight hours' work and Saturday afternoon and Sunday "off."

Lastly, it is rumoured that medical men are talking of raising their fees all round, in view of the increased cost of living. These are all signs of the times, which Egypt could not hope to escape from.

Bolshevism or the Koran.

Bolshevism has not openly appeared under its name yet, but the Nationalists are beginning to talk of its exploits and its tenets with some approval and satisfaction rather than otherwise. On the whole, however, there does not seem to be the same danger of Moslems being infected with this ultra-Socialistic theory as there is in Christian countries, where religion is a thing apart from politics and government. The Koran is at once a creed and a code to govern the life of individuals and of nations, and it is diametrically opposed to the creed of the Bolshevists.

A Moving Ceremony.

The anniversary of the opening of the Great War—August 4—was marked in Alexandria by a moving ceremony at the British Military Cemetery at Hadra. The French residents having asked permission to pay a tribute to the immortal dead who had died for the peace of the world, a Delegation, consisting of the Acting French Consul and many French officers and deputies of the nation, met the G.O.C., Alexandria, at the cemetery.

A magnificent wreath was then laid on a chosen spot, and most cordial speeches were made by the Consul and by General Price, followed by an oration delivered in honour of the heroic sons of England and France by M. Barbaza, whose own son has been numbered amongst the victims of the Armageddon.

To-morrow another melancholy ceremony will take place in Cairo, when the remains of Pope Bey and of the British officers and other ranks who were murdered in the train outrage at Deirut will be brought to Cairo, and be given a solemn military funeral here, at which representatives of all the corps and units of the garrison will be represented.

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JERUSALEM. — JAFFA.

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BELGRADE LETTER.

POLITICS IN SERBIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, August 5.

The Ministerial Crisis.

The Ministerial crisis, which was foreshadowed in last week's letter, has broken out. The resignation of Dr. Koroshets and Dr. Gostinchar, which was withdrawn, was attributed partly to personal differences with the President of Council, M. Stoyan Protitch, but by many to a disinclination to be a party to a Peace Treaty which assigns two hundred thousand Slovenes to a foreign Power. At the time of that crisis it was reported in Radical circles that the President of Council intended to resign, which would involve the whole Cabinet. On July 21 a special session was held to sign a number of decrees, at which there appears to have been a more than animated discussion, in which several of the Ministers declined to serve any more under M. Protitch, and challenged him to report the resignation of the Cabinet to the Prince Regent, who was at the time away from Belgrade. On August 2 M. Protitch tendered the resignation of the Cabinet to the Prince Regent, basing his action upon the impossibility of working in unison with the Minister of the Interior, M. Pribichevitch, on the failure of the communications of Serbia and on differences on the question of agrarian reform. There was another incident, which certainly had considerable weight. In the Radical organ, *Demokratsia*, there appeared in the news column a wire from Zagreb announcing that the Pope had confirmed Bishop Akshamovitch to the see of Diakovo, rendered immortal by Bishop Strossmayer, the protagonist of the Yugoslav movement. The President of the Council, M. Protitch, who is also leader of the Radicals, denied official knowledge of this, although Dr. Bauer, Archbishop of Zagreb, had known of it a month previously. The latter published a statement to the effect that Akshamovitch had been nominated by the Croatian National Council, which nomination had been signed by Dr. Koroshets and M. Pavelitch, and that he had not considered that it was his duty to inform the Government, but that of the Papal Nunciature in Vienna. M. Protitch complained that this nomination was known in Zagreb before it was announced in Belgrade, and that he had not been officially informed; and the Radical organ, *Tribuna*, declared that the Government should decline to recognise the nomination, and thus bring on a conflict with the Holy See.

M. Protitch's resignation was accepted by the Prince Regent, whereupon the President of the Council paid a hurried visit to Zagreb, intending, according to his opponents, to make an alliance with the *Narodni Klub*, which represents the Starchevists, or Nationalists of Croatia, who number thirteen members in the Skupshtina. As this party, weak as it is, is avowedly separatist, M. Protitch's opponents accuse him of flirting with the partisans of disunion. Meanwhile, the Democrats, lead by Dr. Davidovitch, Minister of Education, and M. Marinkovitch, Minister of Mines and Forests, two of Serbia's best politicians, and M. Pribichevitch, the well-known Croat patriot, had been holding conferences and meetings, and replied in the Press to M. Protitch's statements in his letter of resignation. They state that his differences with the latter-named Minister are purely personal; that his complaints on the question of communications are unfounded, since all that he asked for has been achieved, and that as far as concerns the question of agrarian reform, perhaps the only controversial question before the Government, M. Protitch himself had recently signed a number of decrees, which were signed by all his colleagues, after preparation by the Minister of that Department, Dr. Poljak. Finally, they roundly accuse him of idiosyncrasies so marked that with the best intentions in the world it had become impossible to collaborate further with him.

The Political Parties.

One thing is certain, and that is that the Radical Party, which has been all-powerful for so many years in Serbia, has made many enemies, who accuse M. Protitch of having learnt during the bitter years of war and exile methods of absolutism which might then have been justified by circumstances, but which are intolerable nowadays, especially when his Cabinet includes prominent men from all parts of Yugoslavia. It certainly appears that in Serbian politics the personal equation plays a greater part than it does in the West. It was common conversation in Salonika before the liberation that if the Radicals went to the polls on their return to their country they would go out of power, and to-day, when their policy, directed by the Grand Old Man of Serbia, M. Pashitch, has achieved their dream of union and final dispersal of their secular enemies, the Turks on the one side and the Austro-Hungarians on the other, the Radicals do not command a majority in the Skupshtina.

The strongest party is the Democrats, with a hundred and twenty members, led by Liub. Davidovitch, Minister of Education, Marinkovitch, Minister of Mines and Forests, both Serbs, and Svetozar Pribichevitch, the Croat; but even they are rather heterogeneous, with a strong Left, including a few Bosnian and Croatian extremists and a few Independents; their Right wing includes the remains of the Forward Party, some Nationalists, and a few Independents. The Radicals have a strength of only seventy-two members, but are a powerful and organised group. Their policy is asserted by many to be Tory rather than Radical, for they are opposed to the most modern reforms, object to Proportional Representation, and favour a rather conservative policy on the agrarian question, which is the only really vital question in contemporary Serbian politics upon which opinions are seriously divided. The ideal of the Radicals is a *Velika Srbija*, in which all provincial differences shall be sunk and the country eventually unified into an entirely single state upon the model of the old Serbian organisation. At the same time, the Democrats are stated to be advocates of a rapid and complete fusion of all the provinces into a single form, while the Radicals are in favour of a slower process, all of which is extremely confusing for the foreigner to follow.

A third political group in the Skupshtina is formed by a series of dissidents and relicts of former parties now almost extinct; there are the Clericals, a new feature in Serbian politics, who are a patriotic party numbering nineteen members in the House, led by Dr. Koroshets; these are mostly Croats and Slovenes, as there are practically no Roman Catholics in Serbia proper. At the moment, this party is holding somewhat aloof, waiting to give its support to a strong, patriotic coalition government; then there are the Starchevists, or Croatian Nationalists, represented by the *Narodni Klub* of Zagreb, with thirteen members. The old Liberals, the Whigs of Serbia, who were founded by Jovan Ristitch in 1860, have outlived their usefulness; they number but six members to-day, led by Ribaratz. Then there are thirteen Socialists, led by Kristan, half-a-dozen Dissident Radicals led by Trifkovitch, Minister of Justice; and seven Dissident Democrats led by Dr. Bogdan Medakovitch. If this third group holds together, it will determine the balance of power between the Democrats and the Radicals, even if the latter succeed in combining with one of the minor parties. To the onlooker, it would certainly seem an unnatural alliance between the Radicals and the *Narodni Klub*.

National Feeling.

The crisis has already lasted a full week; the old Ministers are carrying on, while there are goings and comings, and much talking and many conferences, and the expenditure of much ink, of which there threatens to be a shortage, while everyone is wondering what the new Government will be. For while all hope for a strong Coalition Cabinet to steer the country through these critical days, it does not appear likely that there can be one if the majority of the Ministers refuse to sit in the same Cabinet with M. Protitch. Without him in the Cabinet the Radicals will be in opposition; if he joins, the Democrats will stand out.

The declaration of the Democrats referred to above is signed by the three acknowledged leaders of the party, whose names have been already quoted, and also by Dr. Veljkovitch, Minister of Commerce; Dr. E. Lukinitch, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, who is regarded as one of the soundest men in the late Cabinet; Dr. Alaupovitch, Minister of Religions; Dr. Albert Kramer, Minister for the Constituent Assembly; Dr. Urosh Krulj, Minister of Health; Dr. Franjo Poljak, Minister of Agrarian Reform; and Shefkia Gluhitch, Minister of Agriculture. If this strong group succeeds in forming a Government it will certainly have the support of Dr. Koroshets and his Clericals, and probably of the better elements in the smaller nondescript groups.

Independent opinion in Belgrade believes that the real cause of the crisis is not so much hostility towards M. Protitch, though that may well be a contributory cause, but the dislike of every member to associate his name to a treaty that is profoundly unpopular throughout Serbia, as there is no question that the country strongly feels that it has not had fair treatment in Paris. Each fears that when he appears again before his constituents they will turn away from the man who gave his signature to a treaty that gave Temesvar to the Roumanians, and two hundred thousand Slovenes, with the port of Fiume and a piece of Dalmatia to the Italians. Rightly or wrongly, they feel that the Fiume question will not be solved in their favour, and that after all their sufferings they will remain an inland State, in spite of the size of the country and their

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twelve or thirteen millions, and that for access to the sea they will be dependent upon the goodwill of Greece at Salonika—which they dread, remembering 1915, and knowing that M. Venizelos cannot live for ever—and of Italy or some international authority at Fiume, which is galling to so high-spirited a people. And that any part of Dalmatia should be amputated they resent very strongly, as the Dalmatians are strongly patriotic and national, and the Italian element, even at Zadar, is an intrusive one. Moreover, it has been categorically stated that Serbia is to receive neither damages nor indemnity, and even when facts show this to be utterly wrong, the feeling of irritation once aroused, is not likely to be easily soothed.

Meanwhile, all saner elements in the country, and all well-wishers of Yugoslavia, are heartily praying for a rapid solution of the crisis, and a final one, so that the young United Kingdom may gain confidence and respect abroad, and proceed with the development of its own career on broad lines according to the national genius.

BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 26.

Internal Affairs.

Up to the present order has been maintained in the country. In connection, however, with the campaign for the Parliamentary elections, which are fixed for August 17 of this year, the extreme elements, although an insignificant minority, have turned to their great advantage the present precarious international situation. Supplied with plenty of money by the Russian Bolshevists, and by the Socialists and Bolshevists of Athens and Belgrade, they manifest extraordinary activity, and are spending money right and left in their endeavours to gain the votes of the people. Their propaganda is especially successful among the dismissed officers of the Army, who were given up on the demand of the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies in Bulgaria. The National Army has been reduced to 40,000 rifles. About 750 officers have been dismissed, and since their pension is, owing to the extreme cost of living, quite inadequate to provide for the subsistence of their families, the Communists make their way with success among them, giving them 30 francs a day, and promising them several times this amount if they help them to proclaim a Soviet Republic. The Government, though working under most unfavourable conditions, is taking heroic measures to smash the Bolshevist movement, and we may hope that with the sincere co-operation of the Allied Armies full success will crown their efforts.

The Bulgarian Peace Delegation.

On leaving Bulgaria, the Delegation despatched from Rustchuk, through M. Madjaroff, the Minister for War and President of the Cabinet Council, the following appeal to the nation:—

"On starting for Paris, where is to be decided the fate of our nation, the Delegation addresses a sincere appeal to Bulgarian citizens to preserve as hitherto calmness and order, counting wholly on the just decision of the Great Powers, whom History has called to create, upon the principles of Liberty, Right, and Equity, lasting conditions for the peaceful development of all nations in the Balkan Peninsula. The wise and worthy behaviour of all in these fateful circumstances has greatly helped the fulfilment of our heavy duties." For all the delegates, signed, T. Theodoroff, Prime Minister.

Besides the five plenipotentiaries whose names I have given in previous letters, the Delegation consists of the following persons:—

Advisers: — MM. Iv. Enst. Gueshoff (former Prime Minister and Leader of the National Conservative Party), Prof. Stephen Panaretoff (Bulgarian Minister Plenipotentiary at Washington), General Loukoff, D. Tzokoff (former Minister Plenipotentiary at London), Tng. B. Morfoff (Director of the Bulgarian State Railways), and Dr. N. Sakaroff (a lawyer and financial expert).

Secretaries:—MM. Dr. D. Stancioff (Bulgarian Minister at Paris, and former Foreign Minister), Stephan Balamezoff (Chief of the political department at the Foreign Ministry), C. Minkoff (former secretary at the Bulgarian Legation in London), N. Antonoff (Director of the Bulgarian Telegraph Agency), Lieut.-Colonel C. Nikoloff, Captain Petroff Tchoniakoff, N. Stoïloff (secretary at the Foreign Ministry), Captain V. Tzenoff, and M. L. Tcholakoff.

Private Secretaries to the Plenipotentiary Delegates:—MM. K. V. Mouraveïff, to the Agrarian Leader Alexander Stambolisky; Sakyzoff, to the Moderate Socialists' Leader, Minister Yanko Sakizoff Ghenoff, to the Radical Minister, Venelin Ganeff; and Pomakoff to the Tzankovists' representative, Michaïl C. Saravoff, former Finance and Diplomatic Minister at Vienna and Constantinople.

Experts: — MM. M. N. Stoïanoff, Director of Public Debt; the Professors D. Michaltcheff, I. Ivanoff, and D. Michaïkoff, Colonel Noïkoff, I. Molloff, S. Touleff, Shefket Beyoff (a physician), I. Kaleff (Vice-President of Bulgarian Zionists), Pastor D. N. Fournadjieff (representative of the Bulgarian Evangelists), and his wife, Mrs. Z. D. Fournadjieff. Including copyists and other minor officials, the delegation numbers forty-six persons.

Macedonia.

A fortnight ago Mr. Ivan Karendfalott, Attorney-General at the High Court of Cassation, native of Bitolia, Macedonia, and President of the Executive Committee of the Macedonian Benevolent Brotherhoods, convoked a congress at Sofit, whither were sent delegates of eighty Brotherhoods representing all the towns with their surrounding villages of the whole of Macedonia. They discussed the present sad condition of their native land, and after prolonged and exhaustive debates passed an unanimous resolution to send an appeal to the Paris Peace Conference, pleading the sacred cause of their unlucky country, and imploring a just settlement by which Macedonia should be made an independent district, with an autonomous rule, under British or American protection. This unanimous will of the representatives of the whole of Macedonia with the appeal was presented to His Excellency Brigadier-General W. Baird Gordon, His Britannic Majesty's Military Representative at Sofia, and to His Excellency Mr. Wilson, the American *Chargé-d'affaires* here, with a request to transmit it to their respective Governments.

NEW YUGOSLAV CABINET.

Reuter's Belgrade correspondent writes August 16:—The Prince Regent has signed the decree appointing the new Ministry The Cabinet which has been formed by the Social-Democratic party is composed as follows:—

M. Liouba Davidovitch	Prime Minister
M. Pavle Marinkovitch.....	Public Instruction
M. Voislav Veltkovitch	Finance
Dr. Ante Trumbitch	Foreign Affairs
M. Milorad Drachlovitch	Communications
M. Mosta Hymotyevitch	Justice
M. Velislav Voulovitch	Public Works
M. Svetozar Pribichevitch	Interior
M. Edo. Lukinitch.....	Posts and Telegraphs
M. Tougoman Elabupuvitch ...	Public Worship
M. Albert Kramer	Commerce and Industry
M. Franco Poljak	Agricultural and Agrarian Reform
General Stevan Hadjitch	War
M Vitomer Oratch	Social Policy & *ad interim* Public Health
M. Vilin Rouckscheg	Food
M. Anton Kristan	Mines and Forests

The three last named are Socialists. The Ministers took the oath at 6 o'clock this evening at the Palace.

The Greek Government has decided to postpone for another four months the enforcement of the stipulations of the Treaty of Athens, signed in 1913, according to which all Moslems who have decided to adhere to Turkish nationality are under obligation to quit Greek territory.

At a meeting of the Lord Mayor's Armenian Relief Committee in the House of Commons on August 14, Mr. W. G. Smith, Commissioner of the American Society, appealed for delay in the withdrawal of British troops from the Caucasus. There were fears, he said, of the peril of famine and also of attack on the Armenians by Tartars (under Young Turk leadership), Kurds, and possibly Georgians.

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MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, August 10.

There is still a good deal of talk of a new Constitution; and while there is much that is decidedly unreasonable, the clearer thinkers of the island are asking for nothing that is out of the way or chimerical. Summarised, their demands amount to:—A House of Assembly, with a Speaker; an Official House, to be called the Legislative Council, which would be composed of the official members and others to be nominated by the Governor from the electors. Financial matters—the real crux—would fall into the province of the House of Assembly exclusively, whilst other matters would pass into law when approved by both Houses. Such a Constitution would bring Malta into line with other self-governing colonies.

Trade Developments.

The island has long been notorious for its lack of local industries, and, as was pointed out in these notes of but a short time ago, the presence of the Army and Navy has not been altogether a blessing to the community; whilst the capitalists of the island have shown an astounding chariness in investing capital for the benefit of all concerned. But, happily, matters seem on the way to improve, for from statistics before me I learn that the import trade has increased considerably during recent years. Under the auspices of the Horticultural Society a start is to be made in the manufacture of perfumes, and an expert from Grasse has been appointed to teach the people the methods which are in vogue in the south of France. Through the assistance of a lady of title, artificial flower-making is also to be begun. The lace industry, the products of which are known the world over, has received a great impetus during the war, this being largely due to the island being used as a sick base to the extent that it has. Malta imports annually from the United Kingdom goods valued at £1,200,000, and in return it is hoped that the Mother Country will take in exchange local fruit, chiefly oranges, figs, and grapes. In this connection it ought to be also mentioned that Mr. Giovanni Borg, Superintendent of Public Gardens and Plantations, has been entrusted by the Government to draw up a scheme to organise the agriculture of the island. Similar attention is to be devoted to the fisheries. In General Plumer, the new Governor, we have the right man in the right place, and it is characteristic of him that one of his first suggested reforms is the better housing of the poor.

Russian Refugees.

The Russian refugees are still with us, and are likely to remain here for some time to come. By one section of the public—the ill-informed—their presence has not been looked on altogether favourably. In the opinion of the people referred to, these refugees ought to be fighting against Bolshevism, but it is known as a fact that the military refugees have protested against this enforced inaction, and have done all that is possible to get away to do something. It is a pleasing fact to note that letters often appear in the local Press from the refugees, thanking all and sundry for the kindness shown towards them. The last letter on this matter was signed by no less than three princes and a count and countess. This tells the type of refugee.

News Items.

At a special sitting of the Council of Government, the Lieutenant-Governor read a minute from His Excellency the Governor regarding the appointment of a Board of Inquiry in connection with the recent riots. As regards the financial situation a considerable deficit is anticipated.

It comes as good news to all that the Postal Censorship has ceased from to-day, the 10th.

The Government is prepared to allow the exportation to the United Kingdom of 90,000 lbs. of raw cotton.

The local millers have secured two cargoes of Australian wheat. This will lighten the tension at present existing.

W. MORPHY & SON,
Steamship Agents and Commercial Representatives,
ATHENS, PIRÆUS, PATRAS, SALONICA.

THE CARAVANSERAI.

The report that the jewels of the ex-Mpret of Albania have been dropped from an aeroplane in the South of Sweden sets one thinking what the wandering and scarcely winning Wilhelm of Wied is doing now. It will be remembered that when he took on the job of Mpret he uttered many windy words about what he was going to do, but, lacking the courage necessary to translate word into deed, he deemed it best to stay all the time in his palace at Valona. Finally the place became too hot for him, and he fled in imperial haste. From the most recent news it would appear that even Germany cannot hold this monkey-ish monarch, and that he has started, like James II., "on his travels again." By now he should be quite skilled in the moving business! That he will even go back to Albania is a possibility; but one cannot imagine that any respectable Albanian would touch him again with a shepherd's crook.

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In connection with the possibility expressed recently in The Near East of ex-King Constantine's returning to Greece, I am reminded of the miraculous cure which that monarch enjoyed. He was declared by a body of German doctors to be suffering from a pericardial abscess, and his condition really was neither pleasant nor hopeful. With the insight in which olden times were saturated and at which modern times scoff, some priests proposed that the King should have recourse to a Greek icon—the very famous Virgin of the Peloponnesus. With doubting wisdom the King assented to the proposal, and the miraculous object was brought to Athens. He, stooping low to kiss it, felt in a flood of emotion as though his heart would break, and on inquiring into the causes of his feeling found that his abscess had actually broken!

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I have been asked by a correspondent for the well-known "hymn" story of Earl Kitchener. I am surprised to find that such a famous story is not more widely known. However, as far as I can remember, the facts are these: Towards the end of the war of South Africa, when we could see the edge of the wood but were not quite out of it, a friend of Earl Kitchener sent, in anticipation of the public expression of joy, a private telegram, which read: "Can we sing next Sunday at church parade Hymn No. —— ('Peace, Perfect Peace')?" With characteristic promptness the reply came: "No; sing Hymn No. —— ('Christian! Seek not yet repose')."

***

I have just received from a correspondent some fresh facts to prove how the Turkish females are still travelling along the road that leads West. He tells me that the *yashmak* is now almost as extinct as the Dodo in Constantinople, that the dresses there are new and smart; that high-heeled shoes are worn, and the eager "flappers," more saucily to attract, are carrying swagger canes in imitation of the British Tommy. Some of these things—the high-heeled shoes, for instance—have been on the way, so to say, for some time, and I read of them unmoved. But others—the flappers—mark an epoch; and one wonders where, if they can be done even in Turkey, such things will end. In the harems of Tarsus, I have read, are to be found tawdry types of European ornaments, and by such means these unhappy females appear generally to make the brightest of a dull job. The old Orientalism is being undermined, and it must give place to a new. If they have orchestras in the restaurants of Constantinople, why should they not have baths in the houses of Konia? And if the Turkish beauties have already renounced polygamy, why should they not take unto them the unnatural virtue of cleanliness?

Corsair.

CROWE & STEVENS,
Steamship Agents and Commercial Representatives,
PATRAS, PIRÆUS, ATHENS, SALONICA.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

"THE MIDDLE DANUBE."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I fully agree with the principles established by your contributor in his article "The Middle Danube":—

(1) That the peoples of the Middle Danube should form an economic combine;

(2) That these peoples should be assisted to the fullest possible extent by the Great Powers of the Entente;

(3) That these peoples should be allowed a voice in the matter of choosing the friends that are to help them.

Some time ago I stated in a letter to your journal that a close economic co-operation among the nations of the Middle Danube was desirable, and I expressed the conviction that such a co-operation among the Czechoslovaks, Yugoslavs, and Roumanians was almost certain to come into being. Of course, it goes without saying that anything resembling former Austria-Hungary is out of the question. Only a genuine and free economic combination based on equal terms has a chance to be realised, and its immediate aim, as your contributor suggests, should be reconstruction and consolidation. The Czechoslovaks are ready to take part in such an economic combination, and I think they may constitute the rallying point in the Central European *bloc* as one of the most advanced nations.

The difficulties, however, will be with the Magyars and Austrians. The restoration of the Habsburgs in Hungary would certainly be a great handicap, as the Czechoslovaks can have no confidence in a State at the head of which is a Habsburg.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER BROZ.

Czechoslovak Press Bureau, 9, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1,
August 15, 1919.

ST. GEORGE PATRON SAINT OF THE COPTS?

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I have read the extract from Dr. Butler's article, "The Fortunes of Egypt," published in your issue of yesterday, and I cannot agree with him when he says that St. George of Merry England is also the Patron Saint of the Egyptian Christians.

Without wishing to contradict this hypothesis, pointed out by such a high authority in Egyptian history as Dr. Butler, I should like to remind him that the only national and beloved Patron Saint recognised as the Apostle of the Egyptians is evidently the Evangelist John Mark, of Cyrene, Barnabas' kinsman. It is true that St. George was, and is still, venerated throughout all the land of Egypt, and before the Arabian cataclysm the churches dedicated to his shrine were numerous. I cannot contest either that George is a preferred namesake for Greeks, Copts, and Syrians, and that the only Greek monastery of St. George, Old Cairo, is honoured especially by Coptic pilgrims, on St. George's "Pardon." St. George's Day is celebrated two days before the anniversary of St. Mark's martyrdom. On that day the Orthodox Greeks in Alexandria return the complimentary visit of the Copts on St. George's Feast, and devoutly attend St. Mark's Church, where their Coptic brethren gladly welcome them. I have always considered the anniversary days of St. George and St. Mark as "red-letter" days for Copts and Greeks, fraternising after so many centuries of misunderstanding. In those days Dioscoros, Proterios, Achiros, Apollinarios, and the Coptic schism are not considered.

Now, I have never heard that St. George was the Patron Saint of the Copts, though I myself am proud of being born in the Land of Light. I know, of course, that the Copts claim to be the descendants of the Ancient Egyptians, and that they style themselves as "Massiheen Mourgousieen" (Christians of Mark). For them Mark is a magical name. The two cathedrals in Cairo and in Alexandria, and most of the Coptic churches, are dedicated to St. Mark. The Coptic colleges are always known as "St. Mark's Orthodox," and the Coptic Patriarch, besides attributing to himself the title of "Pope of Alexandria, the Western Pentapolis, Nubia, etc.," is also called "The Vicar of Mark's Apostolate."

I could write more on another subject—that of the tradition of St. George "The Tropaioforos," Patron Saint of the Byzantines and of the Greek Klephtes during the War of Independence. Unto this day the Greek infantry regiments proudly hoist, not the Greek mercantile flag, to which we are used in this country, but the Greek White Cross, upon blue ground, and St. George defeating the Dragon within the crest of the Cross.

Apropos of St. George, I read some time ago in the *Egyptian Gazette* a leading article, in which an erroneous statement was published concerning the Patron Saint of England. The writer pretended that St. George "with the Dragon" is no other than George of Cappadocia, one of the two Arian Georges who occupied the See of Alexandria during the exile of St. Athanasius (middle of the fourth century). I have always believed that the "genuine" St. George was the son of a Cappadocian father and a Palestinian mother. He was a Tribune of a Roman Legion somewhere in the East, and suffered martyrdom during the reign of Diocletian (A.D. 296). The pious traditions of the Greek, Latin, and Coptic Churches state that the martyr's slave brought his master's body to Lydda (Lud), in Palestine, that town being, probably, St. George's mother's birthplace.

It was then an extraordinary coincidence, gladly hailed by the inhabitants of Lud when the British entered their town on November 3/16, 1917, the anniversary date of the translation of St. George's body in the Siamonymans Church, built upon the Martyr's tomb at Lud.—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONAS.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester, August 16, 1919.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I examined very carefully the letter of the "Cyprus Deputation," published by you on July 11, and though I failed to find in it anything logical justifying their demands, here I shall write some of the facts revealed me lately by my investigations.

Homer, in the second book of the Iliad (Globe ed., p. 36-44), describes the number, ships, and the country of Greeks who went to destroy the old city of Priam. He cites just 1,162 ships sent from twenty-nine different parts of Greece, including three trim ships led by Nireous from Syme, and nine from Rhodes, led by Tlepolemos. Here Homer mentions almost every country and every island inhabited by Greeks, but he says nothing about Cyprus, because Cyprus was not Hellenic. The breastplate, mentioned in the Book xi., p. 202, given to Agamemnon as a guest-gift, and not as a war-gift, is proof enough that if some help had gone from Cyprus he would not pass silently over it.

After the war of Troy, the description by Telemachus of his experiences in Cyprus is an ever-living and unanswerable argument that Cyprus was not Hellenic at all, and leaves one in doubt whether any Greek was living there. Again, his narrative shows that Cyprus was populous, prosperous, and civilised—though not in moral and spiritual qualities. I believe—and there is no reason to contradict me—that the ancestors of the people to-day living on Cyprus, and assuming to be of Greek descent, are those of whom the son of Odysseus complains so bitterly.

I have many proofs that the mythology of Aphrodite—Kypris, the coward goddess (p. 92)—is not Greek by origin. Then, as a correspondent of THE NEAR EAST once wrote, in 480 B.C. Cyprus sent 150 ships to join the fleet of Xerxes against Greece.—I am, etc.,

M. NEJMI BODAMIABISADE.

Paphos, Cyprus, August 5, 1919.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Letters often appear in your paper over the signature of Mr. N. K. Lanitis, and others, which state that it is the wish and will of the *whole* Orthodox population that Cyprus be united to Greece. If such is the case, can Mr. Lanitis, or anyone else, explain, first, why so many *Orthodox* Cypriots are anxiously *hurrying* to take out certificates of *British* nationality, especially since the "Delegation" left England? Secondly, why, when asked whether they really want union with Greece, most of Mr. Lanitis' Orthodox compatriots deny it, generally adding, "It is only a few fanatics and agitators who want this union"?

I have lived twenty years in Cyprus, and know, for a fact, that most Orthodox Cypriots would be perfectly satisfied to remain under British protection, notwithstanding anything the "Delegation" may say on the contrary.—I am, etc.,

Cyprus, July 30, 1919. M. B. E.

WHERE IS CYPRUS?

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The remarks of "Corsair" on the general ignorance in respect of Cyprus are very well founded.

We know from Mrs. Botherby (through Thomas Ingoldsby, Esquire) that the world, according to the best geographers, is divided into Europe, Asia, Africa, and Romney Marsh: the said Marsh being a spot where, in favourable weather, a witch may be occasionally discovered braving the waves in an egg-shell, or careering through the air on a broomstick. I have often been tempted to think that Cyprus has a good claim to the fifth place. If not the abode of a witch, it is the home of the most bewitching of the goddesses, and it is said that the form of Aphrodite may even now be sometimes seen, on a moonlit night, to rise from the foam at some favoured spot along the Paphian coast.

It was hardly surprising that at the time of the British occupation in 1878 many schoolgirls, and even boys, should have guessed that Cyprus was somewhere in the West Indies. Even now many persons, possibly a few M.P.s, have but a vague notion where it lies. This is very natural, seeing that Sir Charles Bruce, in an interesting paper on "Colonies and Places," located it in Europe, thereby raising the British population in the Mediterranean by more than double; seeing, also, that the Colonial Office, in the annual List, assigns it to Europe. The present Colonial Minister lately confessed that he knew "very little about Cyprus."

A friend of mine, an officer in a detachment quartered in Cyprus, took an excellent island pony to India, and there entered him for a race open to Asiatic ponies only. The Race Committee had no idea whether Cyprus was in Asia or Europe, and much time was spent before the question could be settled.—I am, etc.,

R. L. M.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Britain, France, and Syria.

The *New Statesman* of August 10 examines the causes of French suspicion of British policy in Syria. The following is its version of the French case :—

The two main complaints centre in our support of the Emir Feisul and in an alleged campaign of misrepresentation of the French to the Moslem world. Feisul, with his army of Hedjaz Arabs, rendered valuable service against the Turks, and is entitled to his price. But what is that price? His ambitions have grown, and his claims have grown. He is to have Damascus. But by what right is he to extend his pretensions to Aleppo, to Alexandretta? What is the meaning of his emissaries and his propaganda right across Syria? What is this talk of an undivided, independent Arab kingdom? Where does he get the long purse that is so necessary for his activities? There can only be one answer to all these questions, say the French. Feisul is the creation of Britain. He is supported by British gold and by British diplomacy. Those Frenchmen who are friendly to us—and there are many—warn us that we are playing a dangerous game. The Arab will not lick the hand of his benefactor for ever, and a policy which aggrandises the power of the Hedjaz may result presently in the overwhelming not only of French influence in Syria, but of our own also throughout the Middle East. Palestine is not a country inhabited entirely by Anglophil Zionists. Mesopotamia has yet to be proved. Egypt has just given us an ugly lesson. Islam is a force to be reckoned with very seriously by Europeans in the East.

The article concludes :—

What is the answer to all these allegations? Which, if any, contain truth? We do not know. We may believe that they are capable of refutation. But we have not the means of refuting them. We are aware (and the French are aware also) that many Englishmen hold that France is not good at colonial administration, that Syrian opinion is not really favourable to the French. But this, even if it were true, would not help much, for we definitely repudiate any claims to Syria, and it will hardly be alleged that the Syrians love the Hedjaz Arabs! Nor do we think that anything is gained by pretending that our only business is to see to the integrity of Palestine, and that the rival claims in the north can be fought out independently between France and the Emir Feisul. The whole onus of the French charge is that nothing which Feisul does is independent, since we are behind him all the time. And, in any case, it is folly to imagine that this country is not vitally interested in the settlement of Syria. Let it be clear that we hold no brief for France. We make no imputations against the Emir Feisul, or against anyone else. We are interested in the welfare of the peoples of Syria, of Palestine, and of the rest of the Middle East. We are interested in the maintenance of good relations with our Allies. And we are interested in the honour of Britain, which is seriously impugned. For those reasons we demand that the country should be enlightened on our policy in Western Asia.

Persia.

The *Manchester Guardian* of August 16, in discussing the terms of the Anglo-Persian agreement, says :—

To begin with, we pledge ourselves in the strongest terms "to respect absolutely the independence and integrity of Persia," but as we have done the same thing several times before, with the final result of the 1907 Agreement, this by itself will hardly give great comfort to the Persian Government. Still, there can be no doubt that this does really represent alike the policy and the interest of this country, and therefore, in the absence of any strong temptation to the contrary, we shall certainly respect our undertaking.

Its conclusion is :—

Everything depends on the spirit in which such an agreement is worked. Honestly and honourably worked, with some approach to a disinterested regard for Persian interests and the growth of the spirit of independence in Persia, it may prove the beginning of a new and better era for a once great people. It will be for public men and for the people at large here to see that this is done. But it will need all our vigilance and all our goodwill.

The *Morning Post* of August 19 thus views the position :—

One has only to look at a map of the Middle East to see the vital importance of Persia to the British Empire. A weak Persia, a prey to internal anarchy and defenceless against machinations from without, is a standing danger to the security of India. The part which was allotted to Persia in Turco-German designs is well known, and although these ambitious schemes have now been frustrated, there remains the Bolshevist danger. It would have been sheer madness on the part of Great Britain had she failed to respond to the overtures from Teheran. She is, further, the only Allied Power which marches with Persia, and—were her policy not dictated to her by urgent strategic necessity—she is manifestly the Power whose mission it must be to extend a helping hand to Persia and assist her to the prosperity which her natural resources entitle her.

In commenting on the same subject, *The Times* of August 16 says that England seeks neither territory nor exclusive influence in the lands of the Shah.

In that disinterested spirit, the present agreement has been framed. When the Shah and his Ministers saw that the ultimate victory of the Allies was assured, they recalled memories of the past close friendship of their country with Great Britain, and made overtures, to which there was a ready response. Sir Percy Cox, who possesses a long and intimate acquaintance with Persian questions, was sent to Teheran, and under his discreet guidance the new Agreement was framed.

The broad attitude of England towards Persia is thus summarised :—

The wish of the British Government is that Persia shall stand on her own feet, and with the aid now given to her she should be able to reorganise her Administration. The revived friendship between the two countries will be exemplified by the visit which the young Shah is about to pay to these islands. The Agreement has the full support of the Persian Government, and without the cordial aid of leading Ministers at Teheran it could never have been concluded. The regeneration of Persia really rests, in the last resort, with the Persians themselves. They have now a renewed opportunity to show their capacity for enlightened government. If they cease from internal strife and purge their Departments of corruption, the Agreement should help to produce a definite stabilisation of the Middle East, of which the Kingdom of Persia is the core. The only part of the Agreement which we regard with misgiving is the reference to railway construction. Persia's first need is roads, not railways. Her population is too scanty and her resources too few to permit large railway schemes. On the other hand, there never was a country more admirably suited for a widespread system of motor transport, and we trust roads and motor vehicles will be given the foremost place in any programme of internal developmet t.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

DISEASE IN PALESTINE.*

Whatever merits may be claimed for Palestine as a potential El Dorado, a tourist's paradise, or even an ideal strategic base, we doubt whether anyone will ever have the hardihood to advertise it as a health resort now that its sanitary secrets have been revealed to the world by Dr. Masterman. It was Mr. Rudyard Kipling, we believe, who, after reading "The Cruise of the Cachelot," wrote to Mr. Bullen praising his book highly, but at the same time chiding him for shocking extravagance in his use of material—for the making of one book he used enough matter to make half-a-dozen. We are inclined to think that this criticism applies to some extent to Dr. Masterman's effort, for here we have skilfully compressed into a small pamphlet published by the Palestine Exploration Fund not only a comprehensive sanitary survey of modern Palestine, but also a weighty contribution to Biblical criticism. Practical sanitarians may be tempted to read Part I., giving a miss to Part II. Historical students may be tempted to reverse the process. We strongly advise readers of the former class to persist to the end, and of the latter to begin at page 1. For there is not a superfluous line in this book, and although the author has divided it into sections, the historical chapters will be found to have an important bearing on the sanitary questions discussed in the first part of the work. It is conceivable that in a Zionist Palestine the Levitical law might become the law of the land for the great majority of the population; hence it is desirable that we should be in a position to examine that law critically and dispassionately before we can claim to express an opinion as to its suitability for governing the life of a civilised community in the twentieth century.

The picture presented to us by the author of the sanitary conditions prevalent in Palestine to-day is not in the least highly coloured. He is sparing in his comments, contenting himself with the recital of facts, mostly unpleasant, which, set down in cold print, seem to us to constitute one of the most damning indictments of Turkish rule ever brought to the notice of an exasperated world, sick of the Turk and all his works. One fancies that Dr. Masterman's revelations will not be altogether welcome to some people interested in the future of Palestine. Zionism is fashionable for the moment, and Zionist schemes of settlement are beginning to take definite shape, but one doubts whether the enthusiasts responsible for them really want to know that the Promised Land is to-day a hotbed of disease, into which it would be almost criminal to introduce a large number of civilised colonists until it had been subjected to a thorough cleansing from end to end, its filthy towns and villages opened out and rebuilt, a proper system of drainage and water supply provided for them, and their malaria-infected inhabitants removed to areas where their capacity for breeding and spreading disease might at least be limited. All these things can be done; the transformation of the Panama Canal zone from a forcing ground of disease into a tropical health resort leaves us in no doubt on that point; but it will cost a great deal of money, and where it is to come from is a problem which might well engage the attention of the League of Nations and the Zionist Committee, let alone our own overburdened Government. In connection with the future administration of Palestine, we seem to have heard murmurs of the blessed word "autonomy," and enthusiasts for self-determination are disposed to leave the people of Palestine to work out their own salvation, which in their case really means to stagnate in filth until some salutary epidemic sweeps them off the face of the earth. This might, at least in theory, be justified if we were dealing with an ordinary Turkish province released from the Sultan's paternal rule; but this most emphatically does not apply to Palestine, which, apart from its historical attraction for the great international Jewish community, is for millions of Christians the Holy Land. A heavy responsibility rests with the Power armed with the mandate of the League of Nations to administer it, and if the lot falls to us it behoves our Government to see that a free hand is given to their officials to cleanse it thoroughly, without making the slightest concession to the ignorance and prejudice of its present inhabitants. It will be the duty of the mandatory Power to make Palestine a model State. In their efforts to wrest the Holy Land from the Saracens, our forefathers not only sacrificed their lives in thousands, but poured out their treasure freely in days when Western Europe was sparsely populated and very poor, and if there is any reality in our Christianity to-day we should be prepared to find all and more than the money needed for the restoration of Palestine to a proper condition of health and prosperity by our voluntary subscriptions. It would be a disgrace to Christendom if the tax collector was allowed to have any hand in the business.

The chapters in which Dr. Masterman deals with the health of the people of Palestine in Biblical times take us on to some very debatable ground, difficult to explore in these days when the Bible, never more freely discussed, to say nothing of being drawn on heavily by journalists and politicians in search of catchwords calculated to attract the multitude, is actually read and studied by the comparatively few. One doubts indeed whether many of the present-day clergy could pass a satisfactory examination in the Levitical law as set forth in the priestly books of the Old Testament. But Dr. Masterman is nothing if not practical, and bringing the trained observation of the physician to bear on the sanitary element in the Jewish law, he demolishes with ease many popular beliefs on the subject which have been allowed to take root merely because nobody has hitherto taken the trouble to expose the fallacies underlying them. It is interesting to note that, in his opinion, the Jewish division of the animal kingdom into beasts clean and unclean rests on no sanitary basis, as is popularly supposed, but is rather to be traced to a survival of Totemism into the historical period. He suggests that the taboo on certain beasts classed as unclean really owed its origin to an attempt to preserve their pristine sanctity in the eyes of man. His attitude towards those who by seeking to establish rational explanations for the miracles recorded in the New Testament eliminate the supernatural from our religion is frankly discouraging, and his severely logical handling of some of the popular theories on the subject is calculated to rejoice the heart of the orthodox, even if it leaves the modernist unconvinced.

The prejudice against the missionary dies hard, and even now there is a marked tendency among the educated classes to belittle the achievements of the devoted men who under many sectarian flags have laboured unceasingly in many lands to bring about the practical realisation of the Christian dream of a kingdom of God upon earth. But even those who are little inclined to value the spiritual element in their work cannot deny that in the practical business of spreading civilisation among the backward races of Asia and Africa great things have been achieved by our missionaries. Nowhere is this more evident than in Palestine, where the work of the British medical missions has done so much for the sanitary education of the people. It is on the pioneer work of men like Dr. Masterman that, one trusts, will eventually be raised the structure of the model State we all hope to see established in Palestine now that Armageddon has been fought and won.

E. H. B.

* "Hygiene and Disease in Palestine in Modern and in Biblical Times." By E. W. G. Masterman, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H. (Palestine Exploration Fund, Manchester Square. 2s. 9d. post free.)

AN INDIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.*

Mr. Bannerjea offers us a series, or rather the first part of a series, of sketches of Indian public men, from Ram Mohan Roy to B. G. Tilak, his object being not so much "to chronicle incidents as to strive to reveal the personality" of the men whom he describes. It is an ambitious undertaking, and we must say frankly that Mr. Bannerjea's effort stops some way short of success; his sketches are in some cases interesting exteriors, but he scarcely ever gives us a glimpse of the inside, and a reader without other sources of information would derive from this book impressions so inadequate as to be altogether misleading. The sketches show little sign of the historical spirit, and the writer is so delightfully confident of the truth of his own somewhat conventional prepossessions that he is apt to judge the merits of his predecessors by the conformity of their opinions with his own. We cannot recommend the book to serious students of Indian thought, but it is readable enough, and we have not noticed actual mistakes in matters of fact, though there is some loose writing, as in the sentence on p. 115 which suggests that the British were in India when the Parsees came. We hope that in the further volume which is promised we shall find rather deeper study of the subjects and a little less of Mr. Bannerjea's own views.

* "Indias' Nation Builders." By D. N. Bannerjea. (London: Headley Bros. 7s. 6d.).

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Hutchinson will shortly issue "The Madman," a work of Kahlil Gibran, the poet-painter of Arabia.

A report of the public meeting to express sympathy with the Armenian cause, held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on June 19, 1919, which included speeches by the Rt. Hon. Viscount Gladstone, the Rt. Hon. Viscount Bryce, General Andranik, and many others, is now published in pamphlet form, and is obtainable from the Armenian Bureau, 153, Regent Street, London, W.1.

BOOK RECEIVED.

"A Colloquial Sinhalese Reader," by H. S. Perera and Daniel Jones. (Manchester University Press: 4s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. August	1919. August		1337. Julkada.	5679. Ab.
22	9	Friday	25	26
23	10	Saturday.....	25	27
24	11	Sunday	27	28
25	12	Monday	28	29
26	13	Tuesday	29	30
			Julheggia.	Elul.
27	14	Wednesday	1	1
28	15	Thursday	2	2

We understand that Mr. W. G. Middleton Edwards has left London for Constantinople.

Colonel R. Rossetti, the newly-appointed Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, has arrived in London.

Sir Malcolm McIlwraith has returned to London from the Mission in Belgium and Northern France to search for missing British soldiers.

The marriage arranged between Mr. E. B. Robinson, Alma, Maturata, Ceylon, and Miss I. Margaret Horn, will take place at Epping Parish Church on Tuesday, September 9.

The marriage arranged between Major A. C. H. Trevor, 24th Punjabis, and Miss Dorothy Noel Woodhouse, will take place on Thursday, August 28, at Holy Trinity, Wandsworth.

The Rev. Montford, Milford, Derby, would be pleased to hear from anyone who was at Nablus Hospital, Palestine, in April, 1918. He is anxious for news of his son, who has been reported missing.

The Church Missionary Society has selected Bishop Azariah, of Dornakal, South India, to preach the sermon at St. Bride's Church next May, when the annual meetings are held. He is the first Indian to be raised to the Episcopate.

The marriage of Mr. A. H. Clarke, Calcutta and Dublin, to Miss E. Dorothy Walls, second daughter of the late Rev. R. A. Walls and Mrs. Walls, Boothby Hall, Burgh-le-Marsh, Lincs., is arranged to take place in Bombay in October.

Major-General Sir Arthur Money had the honour of being received by the King on August 18, when His Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Military Division.

An engagement is announced between Captain William Robert Kempson, R.F.A. (T.), late R.A.F., of Thorpe, Norwich, and Miss Enid Margaret Fearnside, daughter of Colonel C. F. Fearnside, I.M.S., and Mrs. Fearnside, of Haven House, Conway.

The engagement is announced of Captain W. S. Smith, 2/19th Punjabis, youngest son of Captain C. J. Smith, late Royal Berks Regiment, and Mrs. Smith, the Old Rectory, Enfield, to Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Clements, Rosslyn Road, Watford.

The Rev. Dr. W. A. Wigram, of St. Albans, Head of the Assyrian Mission, has returned to England after being a voluntary hostage to the Turks (taking the place of a married man) whilst officiating as chaplain of the English Church at Constantinople.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between A. A. Dunbar Brander, O.B.E., Imperial Forest Service, India, youngest son of the late Captain Dunbar Brander, of Pitgaveny, Elgin, N.B., and Frances Emily, widow of George Rowell, F.R.C.S.

Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert Bryan, Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, having served in France, Macedonia, Salonika, and Constantinople, has returned to the island after an absence of five years, and has assumed the Governorship until Sir Leslie Probyn returns.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain Harold H. M. Spink, I.A.R.O., attached 1st King George's Own Sappers and Miners, and P.W.D., India, eldest son of Mr. S. M. Spink, of Furze Hill Lodge, Redhill, and Silvia Mary, only daughter of the late Mr. Edward Cleaver Newbery and Mr. Newbery, of Rathcool, Eastbourne.

The marriage was celebrated on August 16, at Park Chapel, Crouch End, N., by the Rev. J. T. Maxwell, between Arnold James Jack, Captain, Indian Army, and Constance Mary, elder daughter of Charles Biggs, Esq., of 32, Tivoli Road, Crouch End.

Major-General Vere Fane had the honour, on August 16, of being received by His Majesty, when the King conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire.

The Committee of Management of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, have had an engraved brass plate fixed to the wall in the front hall of the hospital, as a permanent record of the generosity of the officers and men of the 15th Indian Division.

Vice-Admiral Sir John de Robeck, upon his appointment as Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, and High Commissioner, Constantinople, and Brigadier-General Sir Gilbert Clayton, Egyptian Expeditionary Force, had the honour of being received by His Majesty on August 15.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain Brian Gerald Keene, 92nd Punjabis, son of the late Charles James Keene, C.I.E., and Mrs. Keene, Bedford, and Dorothy Elizabeth Atkinson, only daughter of James Atkinson, of Great Bentley, Essex, and the late Mrs. Atkinson.

The marriage arranged between Arthur Beatson Reid, Indian Civil Service, son of the late John Maitland Reid and Mrs. Reid, of Charmouth, and Norah, daughter of the late F. Stonehewer Bird and Mrs. F. Stonehewer Bird, 40, Roland Gardens, S.W., will take place early in September, at Charmouth.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain R. W. Mollison, R.F.A., son of Mr. James Mollison, C.S.I., Inspector-General of Agriculture in India (retired), of Ascotts, East Grinstead, and Veronica, younger daughter of Mr. Arthur J. Walker and Mrs. Walker, of Dean Lodge, Felixstowe.

The engagement is announced of Lionel S. Hargreaves, Public Custodian of Enemy Property in Egypt, Egyptian Civil Service, son of the late Mr. Charles Hargreaves and Mrs. Hargreaves, The Hill, Laverstock, Salisbury, and Kathleen Comyns Eames, eldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Eames, Shanakiel, Heanor, Derbyshire.

Lieut.-Commander H. C. Luke, R.N.V.R., the author of "The Fringe of the East," "The City of Dancing Dervishes," and other works on the Near East, has been seconded from his post as Commissioner of Famagusta, Cyprus, in order to join the staff of Admiral Sir John de Robeck, who is proceeding to Constantinople as High Commissioner.

The engagement is announced between R. N. Dymoke Broad, captain, 5th Gurkha Rifles, Frontier Force, son of Rev. J. A. and Mrs. Broad, of Cheddington Rectory, Tring, and Elsie Marie Sturridge, L.D.S.R.C.S., daughter of Ernest Sturridge, L.D.S.D.D.S., 29A, Wimpole Street, W., and Mrs. Sturridge, 127, Dartmouth Road, Brondesbury.

The marriage was celebrated on August 16, at St. Mary's, Bryanston Square, by the Rev. J. N. Newland-Smith, of St. Mark's, Marylebone Road, between Major Philip Wheeler Bliss, Royal Engineers, youngest son of Sir Henry W. Bliss, K.C.I.E., of The Abbey, Abingdon, and Monica, youngest daughter of Frederick W. Hunt, F.R.I.B.A., of 20, King Street, Portman Square.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in October, between Captain George Tresilian Pender, M.C., Indian Army, Reserve of Officers, attached 1/33rd Punjabis, third son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Usticke Pender, of Tresilian, Falmouth, and Budock Vean, Cornwall, and Marjorie Vernon, fourth daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. C. V. P. Keene, of Crosswood House, East Molesey, Surrey.

The marriage arranged between Captain P. H. Champion, West Kent Yeomanry (attached 24th Battalion the Rifle Brigade), Personal Assistant to the Honourable the Chief Commissioner Central Provinces, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Champion, Nevill Lodge, West Malling, Kent, and Beatrice Katharine, only daughter of Sir Benjamin Robertson, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., and Lady Robertson, will take place at Nagpur on Tuesday, September 9.

The marriage was celebrated on August 11, at St. Michael and All Angels', Swanmore, Ryde, by the Rev. W. F. Hanbury, M.A., Vicar, between Lieut. Geoffrey Nethorpe Simeon, I.A.R.O., Imperial Forest Service, son of the late Rev. Geoffrey Barrington Simeon, M.A., Oxon, and Mrs. Simeon, Fairlawn, Ryde, and Henrietta Mary Collingwood, elder daughter of the Rev. W. Collingwood Carter, M.A., formerly Vicar of Shipton-under-Wychwood, and Rural Dean.

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The marriage wes celebrated on August 14, at St. Peter's Church, Bedford, by the Rev. H. F. Prideaux Davson, brother of the bridegroom, assisted by the Rector, the Rev. J. E. Gilbert, between Major (acting Lt.-Col.) Harold John Hunter Davson, D.S.O., 82nd Punjabis, youngest son of the late Dr. Davson, of Dartmouth, and Mrs. Davson, of Torquay, and Marjorie, only daughter of Major Garraway (late Royal Irish Regiment), and Mrs. Garraway, of Bedford.

The Shah of Persia arrived on board a British warship at Constantinople on August 19. The Shah's suite during his visit to Europe is as follows:—Prince Firuz Mirza, Nusrat-ed-Dowleh, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Prince Hussein Kuli Mirza, Nusrat-es-Sultaneh, the Shah's uncle; Prince Shahab-ed-Dowleh, Master of the Ceremonies; Prince Mohammed Hussein Mirza, A.D.C.; Muin-ul-Mulk, Secretary; Lokman-ed-Dowleh and Hakim-ed-Dowleh, doctors; and five personal attendants to His Majesty.

An engagement is announced between Lieut. Victor Léon Henri Chatenay, Croix de Guerre, of Doué la Fontaine, Maine et Loire, France, late Commandant of the S.S.Y.3 (Hackett-Lowther) unit of the French Army, and Miss Barbara Edith Stirling, Croix de Guerre, Serbian Medal for Valour, and Cross of the Serbian Order of the Good Samaritan, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Stirling, of Goring-on-Thames. Miss Stirling served as a member of the unit during the war. The wedding will take place early in October.

Reuter's Paris correspondent writes:—General Harbord, of the United States Army, is leaving Paris shortly at the head of a mission to visit Armenia and Trans-Caucasia, under instructions from President Wilson, to investigate the conditions there from the military point of view. His mission is distinct and apart from any other now in those countries. He will inquire especially into conditions in the new Armenian Republic, and by personal investigation obtain complete information, indicating what questions would be involved in taking over and administering the country. General McCoy and General Moseley are also members of the mission

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Fatollah Khan Monazam-es-Saltaneh has been promoted Second Secretary to the Persian Legation in London.

The Lord Chancellor has appointed the Rev. W. S. Langston Day, late Chaplain at Moda, Constantinople, to the rectory of Thoresway-with-Croxby, Lincoln.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed Major Malik Sir Umar Hayat Khan Tiwana of Kalra, K.C.I.E., M.V.O., to join the Committee on the Army in India as a member on its arrival in India in the autumn.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Lieutenant-General William Dunlop Morton, Indian Army, retired. He spent thirty-five years in India.

Colonel Frederick Thomas Humfrey, late of the Indian Army, has died at Bournemouth, at the age of eighty-three. During his service he took part in the Hazara Campaign of 1863-4, and in the Afghan War of 1878-80.

Our Malta Correspondent writes (August 10): Great regret has been expressed over the death of Salvatore Carnana Dingli, LL.D., the *doyen* of the legal profession. He graduated in 1862, and for many years was connected with the firm of Banker G. Tagliaferro and Sons.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. Quin, late of the Indian Staff Corps, who has died at Llandrindod Wells, served in the Abyssinian Campaign of 1867-8, when he took part in the siege and capture of Magdala. He also took part in the Afghan War in 1880 and in the Burmese Expedition of 1885-7.

The death is announced of M Isvolsky, who, as Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, was responsible for the conclusion of the Anglo-Russian Agreement. He had much diplomatic service, his posts including Rome, Philippopolis, Bucharest, and Belgrade. He was largely responsible in promoting a community of views between England, France, and Russia.

Mr. Edmund Penny, C.I.E., late of the Indian Civil Service, who has died at Bournemouth, was born in 1852, and was appointed to the Indian Public Works Department in 1874. In 1890 he planned and carried out the scheme for the Nagpur Waterworks. In 1891 he acted as Assistant Secretary to the Chief Commissioner; in 1899 was appointed superintending engineer and Secretary to the Chief Commissioner; and in 1900 was nominated a C.I.E.

The death occurred on August 14 of Major the Hon. Rupert Leigh, at Stoneleigh Abbey, the residence of his brother, Lord Leigh. He was third son of the late Lord Leigh, and heir-presumptive of the present Baron. Major Rupert Leigh had seen much active service, having taken part in the Afghan War, 1878-9, and in that in Egypt in 1882, and in Bechuanaland, 1884-5. He was also in the North-Western Frontier Expedition in 1897. He was Military Secretary to Lord Northcote during his Governorship of Bombay.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A message from Bucharest states that the Roumanian Mission under General Zadik has arrived in Lemberg.

A Japanese military mission has arrived at Belgrade to examine the principal Serbian battlefields of the great war.

The ex-Mpret of Albania's jewels, dropped from an aeroplane in the south of Sweden, are valued at nearly £380,000.

A memorandum has been presented to the Peace Conference by the Committee for the defence of Jews in Roumania.

Two French airmen who arrived at Salonika on August 14, from Paris, have safely completed their flight to Cairo via Constantinople.

Over a thousand troops from India, chiefly territorials, who have been serving abroad since 1914, arrived at Plymouth on August 16, from Bombay, on the P. and O. liner Malwa.

A fire, arising from an act of carelessness, has destroyed a hundred houses in the suburb of Beshik Tash, Constantinople. The flames were overcome with the assistance of Allied troops.

General Halil Pasha has escaped from imprisonment in the Ministry of War at Constantinople, and crossed to Asia Minor with another propagandist leader of the Committee of Union and Progress.

Commenting on the reduction of sentences on the ringleaders in the Punjab disturbances, the *Englishman* says that Sir Edward Maclagan, the Lieutenant-Governor, has taken a very grave responsibility in the matter.

The Orient Express service, which was held up on August 18, is now definitely cancelled, owing to the refusal of the Austrian Government to provide a locomotive for the train across their territory, the lack of coal being alleged as a reason for this decision. The Ministry of Railways of Czecho-Slovakia points out that the Allies delivered to Austria 86 per cent. of the promised coal, while only 67 per cent. has been delivered to Czecho-Slovakia. The suspension of the service completely cuts off Czecho-Slovakia from France.

The survivors of the ship Tara, about sixty in number, visited Saighton Grange, Chester, on August 16, to make a presentation to the Duke of Westminster as a mark of gratitude for their rescue by him from the Senussi Arabs, by his armoured car dash across the desert in 1916, after their ship had been torpedoed in the Gulf of Sollum. The gift, which was jointly presented by the survivors of the Tara and several from the Moorina, consisted of a silver casket surmounted by a miniature armoured car, and bearing an inscription.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 1919.

GREAT BRITAIN AND PERSIA.

Both Great Britain and Persia are to be congratulated upon the new agreement made between the two Governments on August 9. This document, it is to be hoped, marks the definite end of the weak policy that Great Britain has pursued towards Persia for the last dozen years—weak, not in the sense that any high-handed treatment of Persia was called for, but because of hesitation to give effect to the line of action that our friendship for the country as well as British and Persian interests required. There is no need now to cry over spilt milk. The British Government's policy towards Persia has been in theory always the same; but the necessity of remaining on good terms with Russia was held to be an overriding consideration, and in the hands of advocates of peace-at-any-price it was inevitable that the less important interests should go to the wall. Thus, it came about that, in spite of a genuine desire to do the right thing by Persia, to safeguard her independence and to set her upon her feet again, Great Britain became closely associated with Russia's deliberate aim at destroying Persian independence and reducing the country to a condition that made annexation under one form or another the only possible outcome. The British Government has done well, therefore, to lose no time in giving its real policy towards Persia a fair start while Russia is out of action. We owe it to ourselves, to the Persians and to the world at large; for no views in regard to Persia's capacity to work out her own salvation without reference to any Great Power could carry conviction under the conditions prevailing before the outbreak of the Great War. It was open to those Persians who had an interest in retarding the development of their country to urge that Persia could quite well manage her own affairs if she were freed from interference by Russia or Great Britain; and conceivably the League of Nations, anxious to impress the smaller States with its disinterestedness, might have felt obliged to support the contention. The present arrangement between Great Britain and Persia is the only honest method of meeting the needs of the position, and from the fact that immediately after the signing of the agreement the Shah has left Teheran on a visit to England we may infer that the Persian Government is anxious to let it be known that it has been acting as a free agent, and has been in no way dragooned into acquiescence. The point is an important one, for Persia cannot be rehabilitated in her own despite, and unless she is prepared to co-operate willingly and wholeheartedly, Great Britain's efforts to help her must fall short of complete success.

The agreement places once more on record the fact that it is in the essential and mutual interest of both countries that the ties of friendship which have existed in the past between the two Governments should be cemented, and the British Government reiterates the undertakings repeatedly given in the past, but so frequently stultified in the eyes of the Persians, "to respect absolutely the independence and integrity of Persia." As the basis of the new order Great Britain supplies, at the cost of the Persian Government, the services of whatever expert advisers may, after consultation between the two Governments, be considered necessary for the several departments of the Persian Administration, as well as such officers and such munitions and equipment of modern type as may be adjudged necessary by a joint commission of British and Persian military experts, for the purpose of a uniform force, which the Persian Government proposes to create for the establishment and preservation of order in the country and on its frontiers. A further clause in the agreement arranges for "a substantial loan" for the purpose of financing the reforms indicated and provides that, pending the completion of negotiations for such a loan, the British Government will supply on account of it such funds as may be necessary for initiating the said reforms. When, therefore, on the same day a contract was entered into between the two Governments for a loan to Persia of £2,000,000 to be paid to the Persian Government after the British Financial Adviser shall have taken up the duties of his office at Teheran, we must conclude that this sum represents a preliminary advance on account of the "substantial loan" to be negotiated at a later date. It cannot be contended that Persia, with an empty exchequer and, probably, heavy calls for arrears, which will have to be met at once, can be set on her feet by a loan of only two millions sterling. Financial assistance to be effective must be on a scale to enable the country to be put upon a paying basis within the shortest possible time. One of the first needs will be the adequate payment of Government officials to relieve them of the necessity of living by corruption and oppression. In this matter only the most uncompromising candour will bring relief to the country. If circumstances compel the retention of the existing civil service, it should be stipulated that the time-honoured practices which have undermined all efficient administration in Persia must be at once discontinued. To pretend that the departments of the Persian Administration need only expert advice will expose the service to the continuation of the old abuses, by allowing the new recruits to suppose that efficiency is possible side by side with corruption. Nor shall we do well to encourage the belief that Russia has hitherto been the sole obstacle to Persian reform. Russian aggression was helped considerably by Persian incompetence, and only adequate recognition of their shortcomings in regard to self-government will enable the Persians to benefit to the full by the new opportunities now offered them. If Sir Percy Cox, who has brought the negotiations of the last nine months to a successful issue, has been able to convince the Persian Government that Great Britain has no designs on Persian territory, and is actuated solely by the desire to see the country administered by Persians on sound progressive lines, it should be possible to insist upon a thorough purging of the existing Administration.

There would be nothing surprising in an outcry in Germany against Great Britain's "land-hunger" and an attempt to represent the agreement with Persia as marking the final act in the elimination of that country from the family of independent States. But it is unfortunate that the French Press should play Germany's game to the extent of taking exception to the Anglo-Persian Agreement, and trying to make of it a special *coup* for Great Britain, to be grudged by France or to be weighed against some failure on the part of France to attain all her aspirations in another direction. By no stretch of the imagination can the relations between France and Syria be compared with those existing between Great Britain and Persia. The war, it is true, was carried into Persian territory, but Persia did not become in any sense of the term a belligerent. To what extent the deputation that went to France to urge the claims of the Persians to territory in the Caucasus represented the considered judgment of the Teheran Government we have no means of knowing, but it could not hope for success, and if the Government had had anything to do with its despatch it was well advised to lay no further stress upon an imaginary Persian irredentism in Russia and to proceed with the negotiations with Great Britain. In view of the recent developments in Afghanistan and the part played by Persia as a more or less privileged corridor through which German and Bolshevist agents were free to pass for their sinister purposes, the British Government could not allow the anomalous position in Persia to continue indefinitely. During the war the nucleus of a new gendarmerie had been created in the South Persian Rifles, for whom Great Britain was en-

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tirely responsible. This force, apart from the British troops which had been drafted to Persia and the Caspian Sea represented the only protection available for Persia against lawlessness and unrest. But its position was not regulated, and in any case it could not singlehanded have effected the rehabilitation of Persia. The malady from which the country was suffering was too deep-seated. The whole system of Government needs to be radically overhauled, and it is to be hoped that the new agreement will be the prelude to this act. Great Britain has an easy conscience in regard to the matter, and can afford to ignore insinuations from outside. It will be time enough to challenge her action when she has restored prosperity to Persia and raised the standard of administration to a point at which there is some likelihood of the Persians being able, when left to themselves, to carry on without a lapse into old methods and abuses. In the meantime, the Anglo-Persian Agreement is but one item in the complicated settlement of the Near and Middle East, and if strained relations between the various Powers concerned are to be avoided no time should be lost in bringing the work of the Paris Conference to an end.

ALAM KHAN.

A TIWANA IN CAPTIVITY.

"Salam' alaikum!" was my greeting to the wounded Indian soldier, as I approached him, seated on his bed, at the end of No. C.2. Ward in the King George Hospital, Waterloo. "Walaikum salam!" ("To you also be peace") was the response he made, smiling to hear the familiar tones of his vernacular. "Ya Rab! is bandeh ko salamat rakhe" ("Keep this, Thy servant, safe, O Lord"), and, thereupon, we were good friends. He invited me to sit down on a chair by his bed. He was dressed in the usual blue hospital costume, with a brown turban, with a flowing end. Alam Khan did not know a word of English, but that did not impede our conversation, as I had lived in his country for more than thirty years. "How have you come here?" I said; and he proceeded to tell the story. Alam Khan is a Tiwana, a Mohammedan tribe of high degree, of whom a considerable number have their ancestral lands in the district of Shahpur, Punjab. The Tiwanas have the instincts of ancestral nobility, and may be said to be a military caste. Alam Khan has three brothers, officers in the 31st. Bengal Cavalry (Jacob's Horse), and he himself is a Daffahdar. His home is the well-known township of Mittha Tiwana, which supplies a good many officers, and some thirty or forty troopers to Jacob's Horse. This born fighter is a fine young man with aquiline features; and he wears his hair somewhat long, as is the custom of his race. His demeanour is gentle and courteous. The Tiwanas claim to be Rajputs, and the conversion of their tribe to Islam is lost in the mists of early history. They resisted the advancing forces of the Sikhs, long after the rest of the district had fallen before them.

Alam Khan's story was that he was with his regiment in France, when one night he was sent out with three other men on a scouting expedition. Proceeding through the darkness they suddenly encountered a party of the enemy, and a machine-gun opened upon them. They were all knocked over. One was killed and three were made prisoners, including Alam Khan, who was carried off the field and taken to a German hospital in the town of Douay. Of his two fellow troopers, he believed one had died, and one he had lost sight of in Germany. After a time he was taken to a prison camp in Munster, and subsequently to Berlin, where he remained five months. Then he was sent with a batch of English prisoners, too badly hurt to fight again, to Switzerland, and after three months there, he was sent to London, preparatory to his being sent back to India. With the exception of a "Padre Sahib" (no doubt a German missionary who had served in India), and a Miss Sahib, who was kind to him in Switzerland and gave him a Bible, he has not spoken his own language to anyone for about a year. All this time he had never heard from his home, although he had repeatedly sent letters. He dictated one to me there and then, so that his three little boys would at last hear of their father's whereabouts.

Very soon after his arrival in the hospital here he was visited by a Colonel of the Military Staff of the India Office, who telegraphed his arrival here to his people in India. He had been wounded in the hip and in the ankle, but could move about pretty easily, and even take short walks in the street.

As regards his treatment as a prisoner in the hands of the Germans, he does not appear to have been subjected to anything like cruel treatment, though he had to subsist largely on black bread and fish. At the German prison camps in Berlin, however, there seems to have been some store of supplies provided for British and Indian prisoners, and the parcels of food which he received from home were a great boon. Being a Mohammedan he could not partake of pig's flesh, nor, indeed, of the flesh of other animals, because they had not been slaughtered in accordance with the strict Mohammedan ritual. He said his wounds were dressed about once in ten days. When I asked him what had been the principal hardship in his lot in Germany he said that he felt his *isolation*, arising from ignorance of German or other common language, as one of his principal trials.

On the occasion of my second visit to him I found him deep in a game of draughts, which he was playing with an English Tommy. I stood at a distance, and did not disturb the game, which shortly ended in a victory for Alam Khan. On this occasion I had to cut short my visit. I told him I must leave, as I was going to church. "Remember me in your prayers," he said, quite simply. It is good to think that, having done his bit, and sustained an injury which will hamper him for life, this faithful soldier had the prospect of a speedy return to his ancestral home in the Central Punjab, under the Salt Range, where he would have an interesting story to tell.

W. COLDSTREAM.

EARLY BRITISH RELATIONS WITH TURKEY.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

In his account of the "principal voyages and traffiques of the English nation" R. Hakluyt relates how voyages to Candia and Chios were made by English ships in 1534 and 1535, and mentions one William Eyms as factor to Sir W. Bower, Alderman of London, and to the Duke of Norfolk, both of whom had commercial relations with the island of Chios up to 1532.

These have always been mentioned as the earliest known instances of our countrymen trading in Turkey, but the Venetian records have many instances of British activities at a much earlier period. In 1469 there is a decree of the Senate concerning one William Cowper, who shipped a quantity of goods from Constantinople on the Andrea de Napoli, which was captured off Scio by Sir Nicolo de Conne, the Venetian Captain-General. Cowper's complaint to our Government appears to have been taken up in a very energetic manner, for they protested, and supported his claim at Venice. A decision of the Council of Ten finally awarded him £1,500.

In 1490 there is another instance before the Doge and Senate, and a "decree of the Criminal Court of Forty concerning an English merchant, one Richard Pencher, who had shipped a certain quantity of wax, hides, etc., from Constantinople." The goods were captured by the Venetian Admiral, but compensation was eventually made. The records seem to indicate that the Venetian merchants did not favour our activities in those parts, and by pin-pricks hoped to drive us out. The Doge and Senate, however, had greater interests in England, and to secure support here were not disposed to follow the lead given by their countrymen in the East.

Some idea of the trade is provided by entries in the Venetian records. In 1510 an English barque was wrecked off Irica (?), "having a cargo of 7,000 pieces of coloured kerseys" for Chios. Another mention is made in 1510 of a barque from Hampton bound for Scio with kersey and cloth.

From the facts here related it is evident that Hakluyt, Epstein, and others are wrong in attributing the entry of

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE
KING OF SPAIN

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English traders into Turkey to Anthony Jenkinson in 1553, or to Queen Elizabeth in 1580.

Jenkinson was the first to obtain privileges—he obtained what we might to-day call a concession. It was a purely private privilege granted by the Sultan Suleiman at Aleppo. In 1575 Hakluyt asserts in a document which is at the Record Office that after 1550 the Levant trade declined, "was in manner quite forgotten," until Sir Edward Osborne and Richard Stafer made an effort to revive it. To these two London merchants, particularly Richard Stafer, is due the success of the enterprise. Their agent, William Harborne, obtained the first privileges, notwithstanding the opposition of the French Ambassador and the Venetian Bailo. Harborne was a skilful and diplomatic agent, and managed to obtain a letter from the Sultan to Queen Elizabeth couched in flattering terms. This letter offered to open Turkish ports to the English traders who had sent Harborne, and asked that a similar liberty might be granted to the Turkish traders. Elizabeth's reply suggests that the privilege be extended to all English traders. Seven months later, in June, 1580, Murad II. issued a charter of privilege to English traders. This was opposed, however, by the French Ambassador and the Bailo, and was not ratified until 1583. It is evident from the correspondence that Harborne's mission was originally purely commercial. The opposition he met threw him, so to speak, into the political ring; and to obtain what he wanted he made his mission a political one. Elizabeth and her Ministers supported him; and the formation of the Levant Company with the charter was the natural consequence.

Harborne again went to Turkey—this time as Ambassador. His commission gave him authority to appoint Consuls and Vice-Consuls within a month of his arrival. Richard Foster was appointed "Consul to the English nation in the ports of Aleppo, Damascus, Jerusalem, etc." That Englishmen were trading in those parts is obvious from the wording of the Commission. It empowered him "to execute the office of Consul over all our nation," and gave him extraordinary powers "to imprison and expel and command all Her Majesty's subjects to honour his authority."

A further proof that there were Englishmen trading at Aleppo is to be found in the voyage of John Eldrid in 1583, who mentions his "caravan arriving at Aleppo, where he was met by Mr. W. Barrett, our Consul, who fell sick and died in eight days."

In 1581 and in 1582 John and Ralph Fitch, London merchants, started from Aleppo for Baghdad.

These notes are sufficient to show that our commercial relations with Turkey date from a much earlier period than the Levant Company.

CHESS.

The culminating point of interest in the Hastings Tournament was reached on August 20, when Senor Capablanca and M. Kostitch, the Serbian master, met in what was thought before the tournament began would be the deciding game. While the two masters had up to that point dominated the tournament, Capablanca had unquestionably played the better chess. He narrowly escaped a draw with Sir G. A. Thomas, it is true, but only because he missed the right continuation—the sacrifice of his queen—at his last move, and apart from that oversight his superiority has been very marked throughout. On the other hand, there has not been the same suggestion of ease about the Serbian's successes, and his draw with Mr. Wahltuch, of Manchester, came, in the circumstances, as no surprise. In a subsequent game against M. Marchand he was more than a little fortunate to win when a pawn down, and in view of his somewhat uncertain form little doubt was felt that Capablanca, with black, would at least obtain the draw, which is presumably all he requires for victory. And that is precisely what happened. The leading scores up to the end of the ninth round are: Capablanca 8½, Kostitch 8, Sir G. A. Thomas 5½ (1 unfinished), Wahltuch 5½.

This is the game between Mr. Wahltuch and M. Kostitch:—Queen's Pawn opening. 1, P—Q4, Kt—KB3; 2, Kt—KB3, P—K3; 3, P—QB4, P—Q4; 4, Kt—B3, QKt—Q2; 5, B—Kt5, B—Kt5; 6, P—QR3, B x Kt ch; 7, P x B, P—B4; 8, BP x P, KP x P; 9, Q—R4, Castles; 10, P—K3, P—B5; 11, Kt—Q2, P—QR3; 12, B—K2, R—K1; 13, Castles, P—Kt4; 14, Q—B2 (*a*), P—R3; 15, B—R4, Kt—B1; 16, B—B3, B—Kt2; 17, B x Kt, Q x B; 18, P—QR4 (*b*), Kt—K3; 19, KR—Kt1, B—B3; 20, P x P, P x P; 21, Q—Kt2, Q—Kt3; 22, R x R, R x R; 23, B—Q1, Kt—Kt4; 24, B—B2, Q—Q3; 25, R—R1, Q—Kt1; 26, P—B3, P—Kt3; 27, P—B4, Kt—K5; 28, R x R, Q x R; 29, Kt x Kt (*c*), P x Kt; 30, P—R3, Q—R4; 31, K—B2, P—B4; 32, K—K2, K—B2; 33, K—Q2, K—K3; 34, Q—Kt4, Q x Q; 35, P x Q. Drawn.

(*a*) Q—Kt4 would have been better.
(*b*) P—K4 would be answered by Q—Kt3.
(*c*) With B x Kt White would have had a chance of a successful ending.

In the distribution of the French Navy, a Danube and Black Sea flotillas are provided, and a Rear-Admiral will command the Syrian squadron, which will consist of nine big ships, with gunboats and mine-sweepers.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Transcaucasia. August 14.

In reply to Mr. A. Williams, who asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the British forces in Transcaucasia, or part of them, were to be withdrawn, Mr. HARMSWORTH said: The British forces are being entirely evacuated from Transcaucasia immediately. At the same time a political mission, under the charge of a gentleman specially qualified for the post, is on its way to Transcaucasia, and will, it is hoped, be in a position to exercise a restraining influence on the local Governments of the various Republics, both as regards their relations with each other and with the Russian Volunteer Army to the north. His Majesty's Government regard the position of the Armenians in the Caucasus as extremely unsatisfactory, and they earnestly trust that it may be possible to appoint a mandatory Power in the near future. In the meantime, the Peace Conference in Paris have appointed an Allied High Commissioner for Armenia.

Armenia.

In reply to Mr. A. Williams, who asked what steps had been taken to bridge the interval between the withdrawal of our troops from Armenia and the establishment of some other settled government in the country, Mr. HARMSWORTH said: The Italian Government at one time contemplated sending troops to the Caucasus, not specifically to prevent an Armenian massacre after the withdrawal of the British troops, but to assume military charge of the areas between the Black and Caspian Seas. They have since desisted from that intention. The American Government have not accepted a mandate for Armenia, nor can they do so without the consent of Congress, which has not as yet been given. The British occupation of the Caucasus, undertaken for the purpose of expelling the enemy, has indirectly had a great effect in tranquillising the country. But if it were to be continued until settled government has been established in those regions, it would be impossible to place a limit to its duration. His Majesty's Government are taking every available step to prevent the revival of racial conflict and to secure a stable order upon the departure of the British forces.

Jewish Soldiers in Palestine. Aug. 19.

Mr. Forster, asked by Captain Ormsby-Gore whether the status of the Jewish battalions of the Royal Fusiliers now in Palestine had yet been decided; whether they were for general service or only for service in Palestine; whether 400 Jewish soldiers enlisted in the United States of America for those battalions would be allowed local demobilisation, as they requested, instead of repatriation to America; and what were the rules regarding the local demobilisation of Jewish soldiers now in Palestine, said:—The whole matter is under consideration, and it is hoped to arrive at a decision very shortly.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the Official Report.

HIGH COMMISSIONER IN EGYPT. WAR DECORATIONS (GARRISON DUTY IN INDIA). ARMY OF THE BLACK SEA (POSTAL SECTION). SIGNAL COMPANIES, EGYPT. DEMOBILISATION: Men in India. INDIAN CURRENCY COMMISSION (EVIDENCE). (August 12.)

INDIA: Ex-Officers (Employment).—Public Services.—Punjab (Riots).—Press Act (Nationalist Newspapers).—Military Operations (Transport and Medical Services).—Government of India Bill.—Afghanistan and Mesopotamia. SIGNAL SERVICE (EGYPT). TRANS-CAUCASIA (BRITISH FORCES). SMYRNA: INDIAN OFFICERS' KIT (COMPENSATION FOR LOSS). (August 13.)

INDIAN FRONTIER OPERATIONS (HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT). WIRELESS INSTALLATION TO EGYPT. INDIA: Bombay High Court (Passive Resisters.—Indian Army (Widows' and Dependants' Pensions).—British Troops (Rawal Pindi).—(August 14.)

INDIA: Police Pay.—Burma Reforms. PEACE TREATY: Yugoslavs (Dalmatian Coast). EGYPT: Viscount Milner's Commission—Postal Censorship. RUSSIA: Caucasus (Rate of Exchange). MESOPOTAMIA. PERSIA: British Policy. MESOPOTAMIA (EXPENDITURE). DEMOBILISATION: Signal Officers, Egyptian Expeditionary Force.—Troops in India. CAUCASUS (EVACUATION). AIRSHIP FLIGHT TO INDIA. NAVAL AND MILITARY PENSIONS AND GRANTS: Egyptian Expeditionary Force. SERBIAN YOUTHS' EDUCATION (BRITISH GRANT). (August 18.)

General Liman von Sanders has now been repatriated, but Field-Marshal von Mackensen, who is being sent to Salonika, has not yet been liberated.

Admiral Sir E. E. T. Troubridge and his French, Italian, and American colleagues on the Danube Commission, have succeeded in re-opening navigation along the Danube from Ratisbon to the Black Sea, the last difficulty having been the clearing of mines sown between Pressburg and Baja by the Bela Kun Government.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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The new agreement concluded between the British and Persian Governments should prove an event of far-reaching importance in the history of Persia. The country possesses great natural resources, as yet practically entirely undeveloped, and if the conditions which obtained before the war had continued it is obvious that they never would have been developed, except in circumstances unfavourable to Persia. The war has brought about a state of things in which settled conditions are no longer an impossibility for Persia, and it is in order to ensure this happy issue that the new agreement has been made. Great Britain has no ulterior motives in regard to Persia, unlike Russia and Germany, whose ill-concealed desire to obtain possession of the mineral resources of the country found vent in several remarkably candid statements, and the agreement, made solely in the interests of Persia, will, it is hoped, enable that country to give her entire attention to the question of the development of her resources free from all preoccupations in regard to external affairs.

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It will be noted that the agreement provides for a loan of £2,000,000 to the Persian Government at an interest of 7 per cent. and repayable in 20 years. The existing 5 per cent. loan of £1,250,000, of which the outstanding amount is £1,237,200, was issued at 96½, and the higher rate of interest of the new loan emphasises the change that has taken place in financial conditions in the intervening years. The services of the 1911 loan is secured on the net Customs dues of the ports in the Persian Gulf, and these dues will also be the guarantee for the service of the new loan. On a pre-war basis, these dues will not suffice to pay the interest on both loans, and the deficiency will have to be met in other ways by the Persian Government, for which contingency due provision is made, but it is very probable indeed that if Persia's commerce develops as expected, the dues will soon prove far more than sufficient to meet these charges.

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This brings me to the question of the country's development. Obviously, for the growth of commerce, adequate communications are absolutely indispensable, and Persia's transport system is very poor. A good system of railway and road communications, with adequate services of motor transport, is essential for the opening up of the country, and to secure this should clearly be the first care of the Persian authorities. When this has been done the country will be on the high road to progress, and the proper development of her undoubted resources. It need scarcely be said that the present loan will not suffice for any extensive schemes, but I imagine that it is to be regarded merely as a first instalment, and that if Persia proves her eagerness to further her economic progress by utilising that sum to the best advantage, she will not find any difficulty in obtaining the further amount that may be necessary.

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The Government's scheme for encouraging the resumption of British trade with some of the devastated areas of Europe was referred to by the Prime Minister in his speech on August 18. He pointed out that special steps are necessary for the resumption of trade relations with Roumania, Serbia, and other countries similarly situated, because, while there are very extensive demands from these countries there are no credits established. To meet the situation the Government have adopted a scheme for furnishing credits to the extent of £26,000,000 as a guarantee against risks or absolute loss. British traders have been waiting for action on these lines, and this step will undoubtedly give a great impetus to the revival of trade between this country and the Near East.

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A correspondent draws my attention to increasing postal delays between this country and Roumania. It appears that while some weeks ago letters only took a week to reach Roumania, at the time my correspondent wrote the time had increased to fifteen days. Unfortunately I have only too good reason to know that the position with regard to Roumania is more or less typical of communications with that part of the Near East at the present time. Mails are intermittent, and the possibility of regular weekly communications seems as yet out of the question. It is a most unsatisfactory state of things, and is bound to have almost as adverse an effect on business as the uncertainties of the cable service. The matter is one which ought to receive the attention of the authorities, for it calls for official representations in the quarter responsible for these delays.

***

While on this subject I may point out that complaints are still being made with regard to the cable service between this country and certain parts of the Near East, notably Constantinople, and there is no doubt at all that the continuance of these delays will very seriously affect British trade enterprise in these regions, for our business rivals are not handicapped in this way. French and Italians can send what are known as "urgent" telegrams by payment of a treble fee, and these messages are subject to no delay, with the result that these countries are at a considerable advantage in business transactions which require an immediate decision. If it is impossible to remedy the delays in respect of British messages immediately the system of "urgent" messages might well be introduced here as a temporary expedient. But it should not be impossible if, as is stated, the chief cause of delay is the length of official messages.

I learn that in general outside the Smyrna district Turkish crops are very promising. Our Constantinople Correspondent, who refers to the good reports which are being received, draws attention to the opening in the country for the sale of agricultural machinery, provided local requirements are studied. It may be pointed out that in many localities, at any rate, Turkish agriculturists had an exceedingly prosperous time during the last two years of the war, and with a good harvest this year they will be well able to make extensive purchases of machinery and implements. Undoubtedly there is an excellent opening in this direction for our manufacturers, and it rests with them to take due advantage of it.

***

A further report from Messrs. Giraud on the fruit crop position in the Smyrna district is given elsewhere in this issue, from which it will be seen that the situation has rather tended to grow worse than to improve. Turkish proprietors have abandoned their holdings and have withdrawn into the interior, so that the gathering of the crops must be inevitably delayed, while in many localities the complete loss of the fruit is feared. The estimate of the yield of sultanas varies from 23,000 to 25,000 tons, but the most optimistic opinion is that the actual yield will not be over 18,000 to 20,000 tons, and that of this quantity not more than half will reach the market within the next five months. As regards figs, the outlook is just as unsatisfactory, and the prospects as regards the yield of the finer qualities, which are grown in the Meander Valley, are specially unfavourable. Obviously it should be the first duty of the Greek authorities to induce the Turkish inhabitants to return to their holdings.

***

A satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Champdany Jute Company for the year ended March 31. The sales amounted to £1,316,800, as against £924,100, which, after the deduction of working expenses and costs and £350,200 as against £194,500 for excess profits duty, leaves a net profit on working of £221,000, an increase of £86,000 on the figures for the previous year. Including interest received and the amount brought forward the available balance is £286,600, which is utilised to pay a dividend of 70 per cent., as against 45 per cent., while £22,400, as against £30,000, is written off block account for depreciation and £126,300 is carried forward, as against £50,100. The prospects for the current year are stated to be favourable, but it is pointed out that the cost of raw jute is likely to increase.

COMMENTATOR.

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CONSTANTINOPLE BUSINESS LETTER.

Opening for Agricultural Machinery.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, July 30.

Contrary to what might be expected from the disturbed state of the country, the agricultural reports, except in the Smyrna district, are surprisingly good under the circumstances. But such is the scarcity of labour that as much as £T.1 per day is being paid to harvesters. The whole of the harvesting is done with sickles and scythes. As in the province of Castamouni alone there are no less than 560,000 acres under cultivation, there ought to be a splendid opening here for agricultural machinery, provided the peculiar requirements of the country are studied.

Before the war, scythes, sickles, and ploughs were supplied mostly by Germany. At one time, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, certain experiments were made with a German plough of special design. The following results were noted:—

Native ploughs used, 1 sown, 3 reaped.
Native ploughs, with chemical manures, 1 sown, 5 reaped.
German ploughs, 1 own, 10 reaped.
German ploughs, with chemical manure, 1 sown, 20 reaped.

In the year 1918 there were 2,051,714 donoums under cultivation. This year there are 2,273,347 donoums under cultivation, an increase equal to more han 55,000 acres. Once the country is settled there is not the slightest doubt that there will be a great demand for the right kind of machinery. But it must be remembered that machinery suitable for England or the colonies is not necessarily the sort of thing that will do for Anatolia. In this respect, as with other branches of business in this country, there must be a special study of conditions and requirements. The mentality of the Anatolian cultivator must also be taken into consideration. It would be best to have a man on the spot who knows the country and the people, and to follow his advice. Every kind of agricultural machine is urgently needed, but it is essential to have a man on the spot, and to make arrangements, if possible, for demonstrations. The initial outlay would soon be recovered with interest. But the thing will have to be done at once, because I happen to know that the Americans are already on the same game, and they are our most dangerous competitors in this particular line.

Rebuilding Constantinople.

As I pointed out in a former article, huge areas of the city have been wiped out by fire during the last ten years. One fire went from the Marmora Sea to the Golden Horn. One or two companies have already been formed, and have approached the Government in the matter, but there is so much to do that only a very big syndicate could possibly deal with the task on an adequate scale. Something like 50,000 houses might be built within the next ten years, and then there would be none too much room for the population. Wherever one goes, whether in the city itself or to the suburbs on the Bosphorus, one finds ruins everywhere of houses burnt down and never rebuilt for want of capital, enterprise, material, and labour. The best thing would be for a syndicate to arrange for plant to manufacture its own bricks, etc., in the country, and to obtain a concession to exploit one of the forests for the wood required.

Trade.

There is nothing startling to record with regard to business in general. The restlessness of labour has been faintly reflected here, but although there have been threats of strikes among various sections of the manual workers, nothing has come of them. But the situation is like the situation everywhere—bad. Labour is scarce and dear. There seems to be little prospect of a fall in prices, and the outlook is far from encouraging from the point of view of the small employer.

ANGLO-PERSIAN AGREEMENT.

The £2,000,000 Loan.

A White Paper (Cmd. 300) has been issued giving the text of the agreement between Great Britain and Persia. We reproduce below the clauses relating to the financial arrangement and also Article 5 of the contract relating to the Persian Five per Cent. Loan of 1911, which is included for reference:—

Agreement relating to loan of £2,000,000, at 7 per cent., redeemable in twenty years.—Preamble: Contract between the British Government and the Persian Government with reference to an agreement concluded this day between the said Governments. It is agreed as follows:—Art. 1. The British Government grant a loan of £2,000,000 sterling to the Persian Government, to be paid to the Persian Government as required in such instalments and at such dates as may be indicated by the Persian Government after the British Financial Adviser shall have taken up the duties of his office at Teheran, as provided for in the aforesaid agreement. Art. 2. The Persian Government undertakes to pay interest monthly at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum upon sums advanced in accordance with Article 1 up to March 20, 1921, and thereafter to pay monthly such amount as will suffice to liquidate the principal sum and interest thereon at 7 per cent. per annum in twenty years. Art. 3. All the revenues and Customs receipts assigned in virtue of the contract of May 8, 1911,* for the repayment of the loan of £1,250,000 are assigned for the repayment of the present loan with continuity of all conditions stipulated in the said contract, and with priority over all debts other that the 1911 loan and subsequent advances made by the British Government. In case of insufficiency of the receipts indicated above the Persian Government undertakes to make good the necessary sums from other resources, and for this purpose the Persian Government hereby assigns to the service of the present loan, and of the other advances above mentioned, in priority and with continuity of conditions stipulated in the aforesaid contract, the Customs receipts of all other regions, in so far as these receipts are or shall be at its disposal. Art. 4. The Persian Government will have the right of repayment of the present loan at any date out of the proceeds of any British loan which it may contract for.

Signed at Teheran, August 9, 1919.

* See below.

Article 5 of Contract between the Persian Government and the Imperial Bank of Persia relating to the Persian Government Five per Cent. Loan of £1,250,000 of May 8, 1911. (Included for reference.):—5. The Imperial Government of Persia specially assigns to the service of the loan, and as a first charge thereon, subject only to prior charges amounting to £15,714 1s. 10d. per annum for three years, and £30,278 12s. 7d. per annum from the year 1913 to the year 1928. The full net Customs receipts of every description which the Government now is, or at any time hereafter may be, entitled to collect and receive at all ports or places in the Persian Gulf, including Bushire, Bunder Abbas, Lingah, Mohammerah, and Ahwaz, which receipts are hereby made payable to the Bank, and the Imperial Government of Persia hereby engages forthwith after receipt thereof to pay to the Bank all such Customs receipts as aforesaid without deduction other than for actual expenses of administration of the Customs of the said ports disbursed prior to the date of such payment. (*a*) The Imperial Government of Persia undertakes that throughout the continuance of the loan all sums collected by the Customs Administration shall be paid to the Bank at the ports of collection, or at its nearest branch, week by week, for meeting the prior charges referred to above, and for the service of the loan, and an account of such receipts shall be submitted to the Persian Government by the Bank at the end of each month. (*b*) The Bank shall, out of the moneys so collected, pay the prior charges above-mentioned, and the interest and sinking fund of the loan, and shall hold the surplus at the disposal of the Imperial Government of Persia. (*c*) The Bank undertakes, out of the moneys so received, to pay on behalf of the Imperial Government of Persia the half-yearly coupon in London, and supervise the working of the sinking fund and service of the loan free of charges connected with the same. (*d*) In the event of the Customs receipts of the above-mentioned ports for any three months falling short of the amount required for the prior charges and the service of the loan, either for interest or amortisation, the Imperial Government of Persia binds itself to make good such deficiency from other sources of Government revenue, and further, should receipts from these sources fall below the amount required as above, the Persian Government hereby assigns for this purpose the revenue derived from the receipts of the telegraphs—this assignment to constitute the second charge on the said telegraph receipts up to the year 1928, after which the telegraph receipts will be free.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The weekly returns of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended August 7, were:—Cattle markets, £343; general markets, £509; total, £852; total for year, £35,778. The figures for the corresponding week of 1918, ended August 8, were:—Cattle markets, £342; general markets, £455; total, £797; total for year, £31,602.

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The Mineral Resources of the Near East—II.

Position in Turkey.

By JOHN KIRSOPP, M.I.M.E., F.G.S.

Turkey.

No geological survey of the Ottoman Empire has ever been made, but its mineral resources are reported to be great. Owing to deficient transportation facilities, however, they are almost entirely undeveloped. Coal is known to exist in nearly all the provinces of the Empire, but the only mines deserving mention at the present time are those at Erekli, which in 1912 produced 513,899 statute tons of coal. Other small mines are operated in the Heraclea coalfield, which produced an additional 220,000 statute tons. Other known coal deposits exist at Amasserah on the Black Sea, Rodosto on the Sea of Marmora, and in the neighbourhood of Adrianople, and the opposite side of the Sea of Marmora, as well as on the Island. Coal is also found at Bolon, Castamoni (Black Sea), and at Viranshes (Asia Minor), and also further inland at Mount Lebanon, and near Lampsacus on the east side of the Dardanelles. The Rodosto mines worked a seam 5 feet in thickness, but containing a band of 18 inches, but seems to have been abandoned owing to the district being heavily watered, and to only very primitive pumping contrivances being in operation. Deposits of antimony ore occur in the neighbourhood of Alexandretta, at Allkhar, near Rozdan, and near Aidin. Orpiment occurs with the antimony ore deposits at Allkhar, and there are also some important mines near Yenikeni. The Dead Sea is reported to contain large quantities of asphalt. Borate of calcium (boracite) is worked near the port of Panderma in Asia Minor, and it is also found in the province of Aleppo. Chromite (chrome ore) is found in many parts of Turkey, occuring in regular bunches of serpentine. Copper ores are worked in various places. The Arghana Maden is the richest copper mine in the country, the average ore containing about 30 per cent. of copper. Other mines are at work in the Trebizond Vilayet, and in the Erzeroum district. Deposits of argentiferous galena (silver lead) exist in the province of Aleppo and in the district of Konia, and mines are also worked at Balia, in the province of Karassi, at Avnie, in the Caza of Adramit, and at Karalar in the province of Adana, and the Government are working silver mines at Bulghar Maden, near Konia. The Kodja Gumush mine at Balia produces a good proportion of the country's annual output, working ore yielding 82 per cent. of lead, and from 1¼ to 4 per cent. of silver. A mine at Iotape or Eidah in the province of Adana is worked for silver-lead and zinc. Zinc also occurs at Anamur. Ancient workings for mercury exist in several places near Konia. There are oilwells at Myriofito and Hora on the north coast of the Sea of Marmora. The country round Kerkuk in the Vilayet of Mosul, and also that near the Red Sea is said to be very rich in mineral oil. Petroleum also occurs in Farsan Islands in the Red Sea, and also in the province of Erzeroum. No particulars of output are available. Asphalt is worked in small quantities in the vicinity of Hesbeya, and the Dead Sea is reported to contain large quantities of it.

Salt is a Government monopoly, and is obtained from sea water, brine lakes or springs, and rock salt mines. Extensive beds of salt are located in the region of the Dead Sea in Palestine. Rock salt mines are worked near Van in Armenia, and near Neveshehr in the Konia district. Rock salt is also widely distributed over many parts of Tehama, and there are also extensive salt mines in the Yemen. In 1908-9 the value of the salt sold was £1,229,000 on 335,923 metric tons, of which about one-third was exported. In the Turkish vilayet of Benghazy, on the Mediterranean, the sea overflows the waste salt tracts of land, leaving salt deposits which are extracted during the summer. Deposits of iron ore exist at Beirut-Dagh in the province of Aleppo. Shipments of iron pyrites are exported from Stratoni. Magnesite is worked at Yerakino. Manganese mines are in operation in Asia Minor. Fuller's earth is quarried on a large scale, the deposits extending over 60 miles and being of varying breadth. The greater part of their area is comprised in the Sandjak of Kutatnia, and principally in the Caza of Eskichehir between the two banks of the Poursaktchai and the left bank of the river Sakaria. Emery exists in Asia Minor, and a large quantity is annually exported from Smyrna. Mining meerschaum is an industry of some importance at Sari-sou, Sépétdji, Gherkli, and Menton, and several thousand persons are engaged in digging the stone, and preparing it for market.

Mesopotamia.

This country is rich in petroliferous territories, which are situated near the Baghdad railway, and on the borders of Persia. The region is mostly a great plain.

Chinese Turkestan.

Mineral wealth of considerable importance exists in the districts of Bagdo-Gia, and around Turfan. Nephrite (or true jade) is found in some of the mountain gorges traversed by the upper waters of the Yarkand and Khotan, and by the Karakash, a tributary of the Kholan.

Russia.

This country is enormously rich in all kinds of mineral wealth, very largely undeveloped. Coal (anthracite, coal and lignite) mines are in operation in the districts of Donetz, Poland, Moscow, Urals, Kieff, Turkestan, Tomsk, Caucasus, Saghalien, and Eastern Siberia, the aggregate production in 1910 reaching 25,433,567 metric tons. The most productive coal region is the Donetz Basin, in the province of Ekaterinoslav; next in importance comes Poland, mining true coal and brown coal, the Dombrowna Basin in Poland being a continuation of the great Silesian Coal Basin. Other important coal regions are the Urals, the Eskibastus district south of Omsk, the Kusnelski Basin in the Government of Tomsk, and the Tkvibulski district in the Caucasus. A large proportion of the product of the Donetz Basin is converted into coke. Coal is also abundant in Siberia, but it is chiefly brown coal and the quality is poor. It is also worked in the island of Saghalien, by convicts, for bunkering purposes.

Petroleum ranks as the second largest production, 9,317,700 metric tons being produced in 1912 from the Caucasus, Transcaspian, and Turkestan. The Baku region comprises five separate fields—viz., Sabounchi, the most productive, the average depth of the producing wells being 994 feet, Balakhany 693 feet, Romany 1,456 feet, Bibi-Eibat 1,589 feet, and Binagadi 490 feet. Ninety per cent. of the oil derived from wells in these fields is required to be drawn up mechanically. Eighty-four per cent. of Russia's total production is obtained from the Baku district. Other producing territories are Grozni, producing 11½ per cent., Maikop, 1.5 per cent., and the island of Tcheleken, situated in the Caspian Sea, at the entrance to the Bay of Krasnovodsk, 2.1 per cent. A new field was discovered in 1909 near the river Elchta on the boundary of the provinces of Archangel and Wologda, reputed to be a richer field than that of the Caucasus, but the region is difficult of access.

Oil is also reported to exist at Gulkhan, in the Kokand district, and there are large oil wells at Urdkin, Chaivo, and also near Nabil Bay, on the north-east coast of Sakhalin.

Peat is also an abundant and important fuel, deserving special attention as being so easily and economically obtained in certain localities far removed from railways. Many of the turbaries have been carefully tested by borings, and large areas of peat bogs have been proved, several ranging from 19 to 38 square miles (5,000 to 10,000 hectares) in area and over, and in the aggregate (as proved) occupying an area of at least 398 square miles. Large peat works exist in the neighbourhood of Petrograd, and the Rojsjo Peat Works are manufacturing compressed peat in Finland.

In manganese ore Russia has a greater wealth than any other country in the world. There are two great manganese districts, one in the province of Kutair and county of Sharapan, and which extends over the whole central part of the basin of the river Kvisila, and in which the richest mines are situated, the other being in the province of Ekaterinoslav. The richest deposits cover an area of more than 50 square miles, the beds of manganese ore being interstratified with sand and clay of Eocene age, the ore as exported containing about 50 per cent. of metallic manganese, 6 to 9 per cent. of silica, and 0.12 to 0.17 per cent. of phosphorus. The quantity exported from Batoum and Peti in 1912 was 926,330 metric tons.

Important copper mines exist at Pitkäranta, on the north-east coast of Finland, and also in Siberia, 54 per cent., however, being produced from the Urals, and 28 per cent. from the Caucasus. Platinum is being derived from alluvial deposits mainly in the Perm and South Verkhotursk districts in the Urals, where many dredges are at work. The bulk of the world's supply of platinum is produced by Russia. The iron ore deposits in various parts of the Empire are also enormous, the total quantities raised in 1912 being 7,993,500 metric tons, of which over two thirds were obtained from the rich deposits in the Krivoy Rog district in the South of Russia. Deposits of high-grade magnetic iron ore exist in the neighbourhood of Olga Bay (Vladivostok).

Important deposits of asbestos exist in Finland, but the Ural region is the chief source of supply. Gold is derived mainly from alluvial deposits in the Urals, and in Eastern and Western Siberia. Gold dredging is carried on in the Urals and in Lapland, chiefly in the river Ivalo. The output of fine gold in 1912 was 1,395,882 oz. Silver deposits exist in the Urals, Altai, Nerchinsk, and Karkalinsk districts, and are also worked at Tomsk, Transbaikal, Kirghiz Steppe, Caucasus and in Finland. Quicksilver is obtained in the district of Ekaterinoslav in South Russia, the deposits being first worked in 1885.

Sulphate of sodium is largely obtained from the Transbaikal district, and the Government of Tomsk. The great Marmischanski Lake is estimated to contain more than a million tons of sulphate of sodium, and a large quantity is obtained from it annually and some of it is used for making soda. Native sulphur occurs in various parts of the Empire. It is worked in Daghestan and at Czarkowsky in the Government of Kielce, near the Austrian frontier. Zinc ore is at present mainly obtained from the deposits of calamine in Poland. In 1910 about 51 per cent. of the salt produced in Russia was from lakes, 23 per cent. was obtained by evaporating brine pumped up from the boreholes, and 26 per cent. by mining beds of rock salt. The lake production is derived mainly from the Crimea, and the adjacent provinces, and in Astrakhan and Taurida. Most of the rock salt is mined in the districts of Ekaterinoslav, Orenburg and Erenvan. The boiled salt is principally produced in the Perm district. In Western Siberia salt is obtained from a number of lakes which partially dry up in summer, and in hot years deposit crusts of salt from two to four inches thick. The great Burlinsk Lake yields 20,000 tons yearly in this fashion. In Eastern Siberia the salt is obtained from springs, and from deposits of rock salt. The value of the total minerals produced in 1910 amounted to £50,678,102. This is the year for the last available return.

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Engineering Notes.

Spraying Machines.

In spite of the extensive use in the Levant of sulphate of copper, lime, and other substances in liquid form, for spraying vineyards, orchards, etc., as a prophylactic against phyloxera, peronosporos, and other diseases, a subsequent, though sporadic, appearance of these diseases is not unusual. And as this occurs even in vineyards or gardens where economy in spraying is not considered, and only the best quality of liquid is used, it may safely be taken as an indication of faulty or imperfect spraying. With a deficient spraying machine or apparatus, the liquid cannot be properly sprayed; vital parts of the plants or trees may thus be left "untreated," and, naturally, such parts, as well as any others which the spraying has not reached, will sooner or later be attacked by the disease, and there the germs will breed, and the spreading of the disease will follow.

Machines Hitherto Used.

Various spraying machines and devices have hitherto been used in the Levant, but, as a rule, the cheap German and Austrian mechanisms were mostly in evidence. Cheapness was not so much a temptation as the way in which the manufacturers "pushed" their wares before the buyers' notice. These were bought because buyers knew where and how to find them, although their efficiency might be doubtful. In view of the present opportunity for introducing British-made sprayers in the Near East, makers should take the necessary steps in that direction *now*, for now is the time that landowners and farmers begin to realise their products and decide as to what machinery and implements they must purchase for the approaching season; and sprayers are of the utmost importance to almost every peasant in the Near East, for few do not possess a vineyard, an orchard, or a garden. It must also be borne in mind that Continental, American, and Canadian competitors are aware of the bulk of business that can be done in this simple, but very important, agricultural implement, and will not lose time in availing themselves of the present opportunity. Some new designs of spraying machines of British construction may be found very suitable for the East, for they are fitted with very powerful pumps, enabling the liquid, applied as a spray, to reach the corners, cracks, and crevices of the plant, where, generally, disease and germs breed. This cannot be done with ordinary mechanical spraying devices such as hitherto have been used in the Levant vine and fruit-growing districts. Makers of the above-mentioned British sprayers, of all sizes, should not lose time in bringing their productions before the notice of Oriental and other agriculturists. There will be no demand for prompt delivery, for such sprayers are generally needed about January or February, but orders are booked from now.

Potato Diggers.

There was a time when potatoes for consumption in the Near East were supplied by Italy and Austria, but now the cultivation of the tuber is almost general in all districts. It is not well known, however, to growers that there are machines or implements for the raising of the crop, and others cannot believe that such work can be done by a machine without damaging the tubers. But now that manual labour is very scarce, potato farmers will be obliged to have mechanical diggers, or raisers, and some of the new patterns used in England and Ireland will be found very suitable. They dig clean, and owing to the slow motion the potatoes are not bruised or damaged in the slightest degree, and are left in a narrow row. The shares are of hardened steel, and can be adjusted to the correct working depth by a lever at the side of the driver; their draught is sufficiently easy to enable them to be worked by two horses.

Manure Distributors.

The use of artificial manure is increasing every year in the East, and apart from considerable quantities that are imported, there are large factories in the Near East that produce some excellent qualities for local use and the supply of the neighbouring countries and South Russia. Most of the distributors used were of Hungarian origin, but those who use machines of British construction have found the latter far superior, stronger, simpler, and easier to manage than the Hungarian, although their price used to be slightly higher. A machine for the Near Eastern countries must be made to suit the requirements of a fruit farm owner as well as a root grower; that is to say, to be of general use on an estate. It must be fitted with a metal hopper by preference, as wooden hoppers do not last long in hot climates. Some time ago an English pattern was introduced in a Thessalian district which has, apparently, given satisfaction since other districts have adopted it. This distributor was built upon the disc delivery principle, and the rate of distribution can be altered without changing any cog wheels. It was simple in construction, and perfectly easy to operate. Manufacturers of such and other types of distributors may find a good market in the Near East and especially in the Levant mainland and the large Aegean islands, where in recent years there has been a distinct advance in the employment of modern machinery for agricultural purposes.

Small Agricultural Tractor.

The reason for recommending and importing American agricultural tractors was stated by an engineer and machinery importer in the Near East, to be because the smallest British made agricultural tractor was too large for the Oriental agriculturist and required two or three men to attend to it, while the American machine was small, light, and compact, and required only one man to operate it. Of course, this is not the case and if buyers had only been aware in the past of the qualities of British machines they would have insisted on having them. As a guidance to buyers in the Near East, mention may be made of the wonderful work of a small British made agricultural tractor, which was witnessed the other day by a party of foreign landowners at an English farm. At the time this little tractor was driving some barn machinery, and was prepared to start soon after on field work. This machine allows a two-furrow plough, a cultivator or other implement to be hinged behind in such a manner that it can be operated and lifted by the driver. Work with this tractor, therefore, becomes a one man proposition, and its suitability for employment on small farms cannot be gainsaid. Owing to its light weight it can be used for seeding or harrowing, and its power is fully equal to the rapid harvesting of grain with a six-foot binder. Its width is 4 ft., three speeds of 2, 3, and 5 miles per hour, and a reverse are provided; force pump lubrication with an indicator on the front dashboard is supplied, and a well made magneto ensures regular ignition of the fuel. Cooling of the engine cylinder is effected by a thermo-syphon and tank with very large water pipes arranged on a new principle giving, it is claimed, unusual efficiency and ample facility for cleaning. The engine starts on petrol, but works on paraffin, one minute's run on the spirit being sufficient to obtain the heat necessary for vaporising the more ordinary fuel. It is mounted on steel travelling wheels, and is fitted with a belt pulley and friction clutch from which barn machinery requiring up to 10 h.p. can be driven. For transporting farm produce, it is said, this tractor will do the work of, at least, four horses, hauling three tons at five miles per hour on roads with reasonable gradients. It is to be regretted that such modern machines have not been brought to the notice of buyers in the Near East.

At the present time, when the acute dearth of dwellings for the people has brought all matters relating to building very prominently before the notice of the public, the forthcoming issue of *Specification*, of which Mr. Frederick Chatterton, F.R.I.B.A., is the newly-appointed editor, will be looked for with more than usual interest. It will contain, together with much technical matter of direct value to architects, surveyors and municipal engineers, specially contributed articles on a variety of subjects. Mr. Chatterton will be remembered as having practiced as an architect in South Africa some thirteen or fourteen years ago, during which period he designed St. Patrick's Church, Pietermaritzburg, and carried out a variety of work in Pretoria. He has for the last seven years been in the service of the Egyptian Government as a member of the architectural staff of the Public Works Ministry, Cairo, which appointment he resigned in order to take up his editorial duties in London.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Champdany Jute.

The report of the Champdany Jute Company for the year ended March 31 last states that inclusive of £50,086 brought forward the balance at credit of profit and loss is £224,781. An interim dividend of 20 per cent. was paid on October 22 last, and £22,391 has been written off the block account for depreciation. The directors now propose to pay on August 27 a final dividend of 50 per cent., which will leave a balance of £126,281 to be carried forward. The stock of jute has as usual been taken at cost price, and the cloth and bags have been entered at contract rates. The mills have run smoothly throughout the year. Full time working was in force up till November, when the Armistice caused a suspension of the demand for manufactured goods, and an agreement was signed by all the Calcutta mills to restrict working to five days per week. This was subsequently curtailed further to four days per week, and advice has recently been received that the latter arrangement is to have effect up to December 31 next. Thereafter it is proposed to work five days per week during January, February, and March. The prospects for the current year are favourable, but prices for the new season's jute crop have opened on a very high basis, and the cost of raw jute is likely to show a material enhancement on that recently current. Meeting, Glasgow, August 26, 2 p.m.

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Near East Markets.

Unfavourable Outlook for Turkish Fruits.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows under date August 1:—

We regret to report that there is no improvement in the outlook. Being on the eve of the new season, we consider it advisable to enter fully into the present conditions and future prospects of the fruit crops.

Sultanas.

The estimate of the yield stands presently at about 23,000 to 25,000 tons. The gathering and drying of the grapes in the lower districts should commence during the next fortnight. Under normal conditions, arrivals of new fruit would begin middle of August and regular supplies would reach market throughout September and October, at least 15,000 tons becoming available for shipment during this period. The situation to-day does not in any way warrant this forecast. In many districts, the farmers have abandoned their vineyards and have withdrawn into the towns. Security does not exist. The gathering in many localities will necessarily be delayed and may consequently involve the complete loss of the fruit. Transport has diminished considerably, and where the fruit is gathered, it will require time to convey same to the railway stations for transport to the Smyrna market. The view now generally taken is that arrivals of new fruit in any quantity will be much later than usual, that supplies will come forward with much irregularity and delay and that a considerable portion of the yield will be lost owing to the impossibility of gathering the grapes on maturity. The most sanguine opinion does not incline to estimate the eventual result of the yield at over 18,000 to 20,000 tons and it is not expected that more than half this quantity will reach market over the next four or five months.

Figs.

The outlook for this article is decidedly more unfavourable. The estimate of the yield stands at present at about 60,000 to 65,000 loads. Of this total, about 15,000 loads would be raised in the districts of Thyra, Odemish, and Ephesus, the remainder coming forward from the Meander Valley, say in the district between Azizieh and Nazli, the town of Aidin lying about half-way. This district produces the fine qualities required for layer packing. The Meander Valley, however, has for some time been a battle field. The town of Aidin, numerous villages, farms, etc., have been burnt. The population has scattered. The country between Azizieh and Aidin is in possession of the Greek forces, but as practically 90 per cent of the fig orchards in all the Meander Valley are owned by Turks, it is needless to say that the population has entirely withdrawn.

The authorities are considering a scheme under which the fig orchards in this district will be allotted to the Christian refugees who have lost house and home, at the rate of sixty trees per head, the produce being equally shared between the gatherer of the fruit and the Government. This scheme in practice is not likely to work out satisfactorily. If any portion of the fruit is eventually gathered under these conditions, the quality, condition and grading will certainly not be up to the mark, the fear being that the fruit will be taken up in immature condition. The country beyond Aidin is held by the Turks and all railway communications are impossible. Further hostilities being imminent, the native population is slowly withdrawing. Meanwhile, the collecting of the figs should commence in about a fortnight and supplies would, under other conditions, have come forward by the third week in August. Normally, given a yield of about 80,000 loads, say some 18,000 tons, daily arrivals by railway to the Smyrna market would average about 300 to 400 tons and between the end of August and the first week in October some 15,000 tons would have reached Smyrna, been packed and shipped off. At present, it is the conviction of the majority of dealers that not more than 25,000 to 30,000 loads can be collected and transported to Smyrna in the period September-December. Arrivals will be on a small scale and intermittent. The fine qualities grown in the Meander Valley and on the hill slopes bordering same will not be forthcoming.

Market Prospects.

Meanwhile, against this unfavourable outlook, shippers are receiving inquiries from all foreign markets, and there are strong indications of a very active demand for both sultanas and figs, especially from Northern Europe. If a Government control on prices is established in the United Kingdom, it is inevitable that the bulk of the sultanas and figs in the coming season will find an outlet on other markets. Holland so far has been paying better prices for sultanas, and the American market and the Continent will certainly absorb the bulk of the fig crop.

The railways serving Smyrna are very badly off in rolling stock, locomotives, etc. It will be very difficult for them to cope with anything but moderate traffic for some time to come. Timber is scarce and the supplies of cases, boxes, etc., in shippers' hands are totally inadequate even for the reduced crops in prospect. Labour is scarce and dear, port shipping facilities are very limited, the currency question is still far from a settlement, and exchanges are continually fluctuating, rates in a few days showing variations of as much as 10 per cent. It is needless for us to make any reference to the delays in cable and postal communications. These are unfortunately too obvious and are not limited to our parts only. The season is likely to prove a very difficult one for shippers, and importers abroad will be well advised to take full count of the situation, which we have in no way exaggerated.

Promising Bulgarian Harvest.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 26.

After the cessation of the prolonged rains of May and June and the weather became warmer the grain crops underwent a marked improvement, and the peasants are now reaping abundant crops of the very best quality. Unfortunately, the lack of labour owing to the fact that a great number of war prisoners are not yet released is being sorely felt, and this factor and the insufficiency of means of transport due to present conditions will result, it is feared, in much of the harvest being left in the fields to spoil. But it is certain that sufficient will be harvested to provide amply for the needs of the country.

Egyptian Crops.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in June:—

Cotton.

The weather has continued adverse, with high cold winds and cold nights. Temperatures were persistently below the average throughout the month, except at the end of the first week of June. The mean for the month was abnormally low. The mean temperature at Giza was 23°5 or 2°0 below the normal; this is the lowest temperature recorded for the period on record since observations started at that station in 1902. The lowest temperature recorded at Giza during the period May 26-June 2 was 10°: and the absolute maximum was 42°. Water supply has been generally sufficient. The crop is still at least 20 days later than usual and in many districts the plants are stunted. Speaking generally, the prospects are unsatisfactory, especially in Lower Egypt. In Upper and Middle Egypt conditions are slightly better and bolls are forming. The cotton worm (Prodenia) attack has fortunately been slight, and is being easily controlled. It is practically confined to Lower Egypt and Giza, the only attack elsewhere being a small one in Fashn Markaz (Minya). Aphis is prevalent in practically all provinces of Lower and Middle Egypt and is reported to have caused some damage in places, especially in Minufiya. Thrips is also reported from Daqahliya and Minufiya. Attacks of "wilt" are becoming more serious in Beheira, Gharbiya, and Daqahliya, and are reported to attack Sakellarides while leaving other varieties in neighbouring fields unaffected.

Wheat.

The final reports confirm last month's forecast: the result of the Hindi variety in Lower Egypt has been even worse than was expected last month, owing chiefly to the heavy attack of rust. Apart from the poor yield, the grain is stunted and gives a very low out-turn of flour. The attack has not been quite as bad in the Baladi variety. In Middle and Upper Egypt the crop has been almost an average one.

Barley.

The final estimation of the yield is somewhat lower than that made last month.

Millet (Sefi).

Weather not favourable; water supply sufficient everywhere, including the new canals of Assiout basins. The stalk borer is fairly prevalent but has hitherto caused little damage. In Girga, Assiout, and Minya the early-sown fields are in flower, and the crop generally is in a fairly good condition.

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TURKEY.

The following are extracts from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Panderma, July 10.

It is impossible as yet to estimate the final yield of the approaching harvest, but, without being charged with pessimism, one can foresee a decrease of 50 per cent. at least compared with what the production should be. It is our opinion that the country will find it necessary to import certain quantities of cereals to supply its needs.

The despatch of catalogues of agricultural machinery is very desirable, for the farmer needs to renew his material, and he will desire to purchase the latest and most satisfactory agricultural machinery.

The past month has not been marked by any important transactions. Commerce is for the most part inactive, merchants hesitating to conclude business, owing to lack of confidence due to previous disappointments.

Aidin, May 17.

Our cultivators and merchants have for the most part realised large profits during the last two years of the war, owing to the high prices of all products. There are few people who have not profited sufficiently by the low level of paper money to settle their pre-war debts. Fortunes which were before reckoned in hundreds of pounds are to-day for a great number estimated in thousands. Even taking into account the difference between gold and paper money, the wealth and credit in general of various merchants and agriculturists are very greatly improved. Commercial tranactions in the future cannot be otherwise than favourably affected by the new position of our merchants and producers.

Broussa, July 24.

The people deported during the war have not yet all returned to their homes. A large number of the repatriated folk who had money before the war find themselves in a position of serious difficulty. Apparently this situation will last until a decision is made in regard to their demands for restoration of their goods.

There are a certain number of business men who, through the unforeseen circumstances of the war, have grown rich.

Among those exports which we think will probably interest you the silk of our district occupies the first place. Unfortunately, sericulture has declined greatly in importance in the lest few years, due chiefly to the withdrawal of the active part of the population. Secondary causes of this decline in importance include the removal of mulberry trees on a vast scale, their use as firewood, and their replacement by the cultivation of cereals. Without doubt, the silk production could be improved by the re-establishment of security in this district.

The agricultural situation could be much improved by the introduction into the country of ploughing machines.

As to products of import in general, the proximity of Constantinople to Broussa make it imperative for this town at the moment to provide for itself almost entirely from the neighbouring market.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

NEAR EAST. — Gentleman having important trade relations with Roumania and Balkan States, shortly proceeding to the Near East, invites correspondence with Manufacturers and Merchants for the developmetn of business. Principals only. No cash required.—Box 1,005, Leathwait and Simmons, 5, Birchin Lane, E.C.3.

ROUMANIA.—S. N. Iancovici, Bucharest, Str. Academici 6, desires to obtain English agencies. English correspondence. First-class references.

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Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

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LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.

The demand continues, and prices still show a hardening tendency. There is still nothing to report regarding the prospects of further supplies. When details of the proposed scheme of control are available the outlook will be clearer.

Sultanas.

This commodity remains in great demand, and the available stocks are being rapidly absorbed, so that if further shipments do not come to hand shortly the market will be bare of supplies. The prospect for further shipments at the moment is not encouraging, the latest report of Messrs. Giraud on Turkish crops being of a most discouraging nature.

Coffee.

The feature of the market has been the strong demand for export, and as prices for export business are better than for home trade merchants have been giving the former the preference. Indian and Brazilian have been in special demand, while Costa Rica has been in steady request. At auction this week 8,486 bags were offered. The offerings included 1,997 bags of Costa Rica, which realised 152s. to 157s. for good to fine bold, and 152s. to 154s. 6d. for medium. The stock of Brazilian is 116,609 bags as against 255,594 a year ago; while the figures for Central American are 200,868 packages as against 132,469 for the previous period. The future market has been quiet.

Sugar.

There is a marked demand, both for home consumption and for export, and a feature has been the inquiry from the Continent. The outlook for beet crops on the Continent appears to be very unfavourable, with the result that cane sugar is likely to increase in price. A tendency in that direction has already been noticeable, Java sugar being dearer. In the circumstances the excellent reports of cane crops are, to say the least of it, eminently satisfactory.

Seeds.

The market has been rather easier, and prices for some varieties have been a shade lower. Linseed has been done at 52s. per cwt. (Calcutta), and at 55s. per cwt. (Bombay). Prices of rapeseed have been maintained, the quotations for August-September being for bold Ferozepore 48s., for Toria 49s., and for brown Cawnpore 45s. There has not been much business, as buyers have been holding aloof. Cottonseed has been quiet. Egyptian September-October is quoted at 29s.

Oil Cakes, etc.

There has been a decided reaction in the prices of oils. Linseed oil has been done as low as £112, the quotation for September-October being the same. Crude cotton-seed oil is £110, while refined cotton-seed oil is £120. The Government's price for linseed cake is 500s., and for cotton-seed cake 400s. The official price of decorticated ground-nut cake is 400s., and of undecortricated ground-nut cake 420s. There is a good demand for coconut cake at 440s., and for sesame cake, which is exceedingly scarce.

The Japanese have opened business houses in British Cochin, and it is reported that the Japan Cotton Trading Company intend to take over spinning mills in Travancore.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Trading in the market during the past week has been on a comparatively small scale, and the tone in all quarters remains very quiet. The confidence of buyers in current prices has been very severely shaken by the recent easier tendency in American cotton rates. It is quite likely, however, that a reaction in values would soon result in increased activity, and perhaps that point is not very far off. Advices relating to the Egyptian cotton crop continue favourable. Some damage to the plants is mentioned from pests, but the weather conditions are satisfactory. Prices in Liverpool and Alexandria have favoured buyers. Demand in Egyptian yarns has been on a small scale, but producers are in a strong position as a result of extensive engagements, and full prices have had to be paid for anything wanted. In piece goods for Egypt demand has been more subdued than for some time back. Some shippers have been prepared to purchase for long delivery, but many makers do not care to commit themselves to contracts beyond next March. Fair offers have been mentioned for several outlets of the Levant. A little more inquiry has been reported for India, and it remains to be seen whether business will mature. Only odd lots have been sold for China. Grey shirtings have again been purchased for Singapore. Stock lots, especially in printing cloths, have been wanted for South America. Manufacturers have been slow to grant concessions in price. A rather dragging state of affairs has existed in home American yarns, and rates have favoured buyers. There are signs of supplies becoming rather more plentiful. A pause has come round in operations in shipping yarns.

Cotton Mill Deals.

The outstanding feature in Lancashire cotton trade circles this week has been the deals in mills. It is understood that three or four financial syndicates are determined to secure control of a large number of spinning companies, and very tempting offers are being made to directors to dispose of their concerns. As an indication of what is going on, it may be said that the Wye Mill at Shaw, which contains about 67,000 ring spindles, has just been sold, £16 per share being given by the buyers. The shares are of the value of £5, but only 10s. has been paid up, and of this amount 5s. has come out of past profits in the way of a bonus can. Recent dividends have been at the rate of 200 per cent. per annum. It is of interest to point out that a buyer of 100 shares in this concern at the floating of the company, which would cost £25, will receive for his holding £1,600. Another interesting case is that of the Pearl Mill, Oldham. A financial syndicate has offered £29 for the £10 shares, of which £6 is paid up, £1 10s. of which has been added as a result of the capitalisation of reserve funds. The mill contains nearly 120,000 mule spindles and over 14,000 ring spindles. Other deals have also taken place, and very big figures have been paid This development in the Lancashire industry is viewed with some apprehension in certain quarters. Profitable trade is expected for several years, but depression is bound to be experienced sooner or later, and when that time comes the high capital value of the mills which are now being purchased will hit the owners very severely. There are numerous companies in Lancashire which stand in the books as a result of depreciation at 10s. a spindle, whilst these new concerns are being floated at anything from £2 10s. to £3 per spindle.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated Calcutta, August 13:—

General rain throughout, except in North West Frontier and Assam where fall was local. More badly wanted in Assam.

Bombay Cotton Market dull. Fully Good Broach August quoted Rs. 526. Piece goods Market steady. Calcutta Jute Market dull. Hessians dull, nothing doing. Sackings very quiet.

INDIAN FAMINE FIGURES.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agricultural Department, dated August 15:—

Our telegram dated August 8. Famine has been declared in Palur, Biridi, Humma and Ronabha estates, and in Chatrapur subdivision of Ganjam district, Madras Presidency. Relief works in Gungarpur Native states of Rajputana, and test works in Merwara have been closed and cheap grain shop relief in Akola district of Central Provinces stopped. Distress in the United Provinces is greatly diminished and decreasing in Bengal. Condition of cattle in Bombay has much improved. Numbers relieved:—Bengal: relief works, 4,001; test works, 83; gratuitous relief, 19,505. Bihar and Orissa: relief works, 1,193; test works, 3,660; gratuitous relief, 44,305. Feudatory States of Orissa: test works, 7,300; gratuitous relief, 23,359. United Provinces: test works, 675; gratuitous relief, 13,012. Rajputana: test works, 362; gratuitous relief, 75. Ajmer-Merwara: gratuitous relief, 425. Central India: relief works, 4,000; gratuitous relief, 10,078. Central Provinces: relief works, 15,248; test works, 8,500; gratuitous relief, 47,897. Bombay: relief works, 1,936; dependants, 12,243; village works, 1,985; test works, 438; gratuitous relief, 68,755. Hyderabad: relief works, 24,000; gratuitous relief, 25,000. Madras: relief works, 34,360; test works (incomplete figures), 445; gratuitous relief (incomplete figures), 65,298.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The directors of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways announce that the dividend on the cumulative preference shares for the year ended March 31 last will be 5½ per cent.

The directors of the Southern Punjab Railway have declared an interim dividend on the Ordinary stock in respect of the year ending September 30 next of £5 per cent., together with a bonus of £1 per cent., payable on September 10.

The directors of the Standard Tea Company of Ceylon announce an interim dividend of 5 per cent. (at rate of 10 per cent. per annum) for the six months ended June 30 last.

The dividend on the Egyptian Guaranteed Three per Cent. Loan, due on September 1, will be paid by Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons on that date.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

Business has continued dull, and this has had the effect of making some Government stocks and several land shares somewhat easier in price. Bank shares, however, with one exception, have remained firm.

Among Government stocks Egyptian Unified have dropped half a point to 83, while the 3½ per cent. Pref. have suffered a much more considerable decline to 70¼.

In the Bank division some business has been done in Nationals and Agriculturals, but without change of price in either case; while a fair-sized deal was effected in the Agricultural Pref. at 7⅜—a decline of ⅛. Bank of Abyssinia shares are also in demand at about 32s., but there are none on offer.

Among Land shares the easing of prices has been fairly general. Behéras have dropped half a point to 14, Egyptian Delta Lands have lost 6d., and are now quoted at 14s. 6d., while a more considerable decline has brought Egyptian and Foreign Trusts to 14s. 6d. also. New Egyptians have lost 1s., and are now 22s. 6d.; but, exceptionally, Egyptian Consolidated Lands are firmer, and are quoted at 2s. 9d.

In the Miscellaneous group Salts and Sodas have changed hands in fair numbers, and some business has been done in Alexandria Water, but without change of price in either stock.

INDIAN EXPORT TRADE AND CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS.

The East India Section of the London Chamber of Commerce have received a telegram from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce drawing attention to a statement in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for India to the effect that exporters of produce from India were not being seriously inconvenienced by currency restrictions. The Bengal Chamber consider the statement open to question, and affirm that the export trade is undoubtedly seriously hampered by the inability of exchange banks to purchase forward bills without cover, owing to the inadequate supply of Council bills for foreign trade requirements and the restrictions on the import of gold and silver. The Bengal Chamber do not suggest any alteration in present restrictions until the report of the Currency Committee has been published, but wish to correct the impression conveyed by the Secretary of State that the export business is not restricted.

The traffic return of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended July 20 amounted to £E8,773, making the total for the year £E56,624. The corresponding totals for the previous year were £E7,862 and £E80,801.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON AUGUST 8.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	21⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	100
,, Div.	Frs.	141
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅜
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E	14½
,, priv.	L.E.	4 17/32
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	150
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	3 31/32
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3 29/32
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6⅛
Bonded Stores	L.E.	15 5/16
Unifiée	L.E.	82⅜
Privilégiée		70⅜
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7⅛
Nungovich Hotels	£	7 3/32
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6⅛
,, ,, Fond.	£	450
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4 7/16
,, Ord		110/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	21/32
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7⅛
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	109
,, Jouissance	Frs.	171
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		33/-
Egyptian Markets		23/3
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	425
,, Div.	Frs.	360
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	339
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 15/16
Egyptian Salt and Soda		59/4½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	718
,, Fondateur	Frs.	990
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	420
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	304
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	286¼
United Lands	P.T.	4⅛
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		48 32

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Aug. 13	Price Aug. 20
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	—	—
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	82	82
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	83⅛	83
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	72	70½
Greek 5%, 1881	73	73
Do. 5%, 1884	73	73
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	57⅛	57½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	54	54
Do. 5% 1890	71	71
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	65	65
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	66	66
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	64	64
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	82	82
Do. 5% Currant	95	95
Montenegro 5% Loan	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	82½	82½
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	—	—
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17½	17⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	—	32/-
Bank of Athens	72/6	72/6
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¼
British Trade Corporation	11	11
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	—
Imperial Bank of Persia	9 11/16	9 11/16
Ionian Bank, Limited	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	7	7
London County and Westminster	16½	16½
National Bank of Egypt	21⅜	21⅜
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	7½	7½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	—	—
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	—	—
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	68½	68½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	56	56
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	25/-	25/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4¼	4¼
Béhéra Co.	14⅜	14
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	2/6	2/9
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	15/-	14/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	15/6	14/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅜	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	23/6	22/6
Sidi Salem Co.	2 7/16	2 7/16
Sudan Plantations	8	8
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	73/-	73/-
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	11 1/16	11 1/16
Egyptian Markets Ord.	23/6	23/6
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	3 1/16	3 1/16
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅛	5⅛
Do. Do. Prefs.	4⅜	4⅜
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	97	99
Chinese 4½% 1898	80	81
Do. 5% 1898	90	91
Argentine 5% 1890	—	—
Do. 5% 1907	87⅛	87⅛
OIL.		
Anglo-Egyptian B	5 3/16	5 3/16
Anglo-Persian	27/3	27/3
Anglo-Roumanian	12/3	12/3
Roumanian	20/9	20/9
Trajan (Roumanian)	12/-	12/-

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Aug. 13	Aug. 20
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	61¾	62
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½% * Redeemable.	59	63
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Go. Debs. 1959		—	—
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		72	72
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		—	—
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		77	79
Eastern		8⅜	8⅜
Mercantile of India A		—	34
National of India		52	53
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		6/3	5/9
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		—	—
Burma Corp.		8⅜	9 7/16
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		8/10½	10/4½
Champion Reef Gold		4/6	4/3
Mysore Gold Mining		2⅛	2⅛
Nundydroog		17/1½	17/-
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		16/-	16/-
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		—	—
Do. do. do.		—	—
OIL.			
Assam Oil		1 1/16	1 1/16x
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		—	—
Brit. Burmah		2⅜	2⅜
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		14 3/16	13 15/16
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		—	—
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		—	—

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES

Continued—

RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	—	—
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	134⅛	133⅜
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	60½	60⅜
Bengal-Nagpur	—	116⅜
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	105⅜	104½
Burma Railways	110½	110
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	—	—
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	—	—
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	12⅞	13
Madras and S. Mahratta	—	102½
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	—	—
Nizam's Guaranteed State	—	71½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	10	9 3/16
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	—	—
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	—	—
Do. Deferred	555	555
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	70 1/32d	69⅜
Bengal United Tea Ord.	18½	18⅜
British Indian Tea Ord.	8 3/32x	8⅜
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17⅜	16 3/32x
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	10/6	10/6
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	6½	6 1/16
Consolidated Estates	5 1/16	5⅛
Darjeeling Co.	17/-	17/-
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	55/-	56/6
Dooars Tea Ord.	68/-	68/6
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	—	17/-
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	54/-	54/-
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	27/9	27/9
Hewagam Rubber Co.	—	—
Jhanzie Tea Association	10	10
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	22½	22x
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	19/3	19/3
Lanka Plantations Ord.	—	18/6
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	53/6x	53/6
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	43/9xd	45/-
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14	14
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	28	28/9

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	July 10 Rs.	July 17 Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	69	68⅛
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	92	92
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	302	302
Bank of Bengal	1885x	1900x
Bank of Bombay	2090	2090
Bank of Madras	1377	1340x
Bank of India	132	132
Tata Industrial Bank	67	66½
COAL.		
Baraboni	18⅜	20
Bengal	900x	905
Burrakur	50½	50⅜
East India	40¼	38x
Equitable	50⅛	50⅛
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	72½	70½
Standard	67	66⅛
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	213	230
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	1640	1815
Bowreah	385	400
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	662½	662½
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	545	555
Central India	2655 1327½	2670 1335
Elgin	125	125
Gold Mohur	1100	1100
Khatau Makanji	3700	3700
Muir	120	120
New Ring	180	180
Phœnix	432½	450
Svadeshi	2422	2450
JUTE.		
Alliance	770	774
Barnagore	190	193
Budge Budge	669	670
Clive	254	316
Dalhousie	517	530
Delta	632	635
Fort Gloster	900	900
Gourepore	1005	1200
Howrah	49	50½
Kamarhatty	937	922
Kanknarrah	813	840
Khardah	430	465½
Kinnison	970	985
National	438	433
Standard	671	684
Union	820	864½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	101	104
Bengal Timber Trading	433	433
Burn and Co.	327	327
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	200	200
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	160	160
Howrah Oil Mills	46	49
India General St'm.	167	167
Indian Iron and Steel	110 88	110 88½
Marshall Sons and Co.	193	201
Titaghur Paper	375	386

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 434.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

If the Paris Conference had displayed a greater understanding of the Near Eastern question or had been more successful in its handling of it during the last nine months, most people would have been inclined to be less critical of its second excursion into the realm of definite action. A few weeks ago it administered in a most inconsiderate manner a public rebuke to Roumania for carrying to their logical conclusion the military measures which led to the downfall of Bela Kun and freed Hungary from the red terror of Bolshevism. It has now announced that it cannot recognise the Archduke Joseph as the head of the Hungarian Government for the purpose of either concluding peace or of holding the elections which are to decide the future constitution of Hungary. The reasons given for this embargo are that the Archduke is a member of the Hapsburg family, which, through its policy and its ambitions, is in great measure responsible for the calamities from which the world is suffering and will still suffer for a long time, and, further, that elections held by a Government of which he is the head would either not represent the Magyar people or, if it should express the wishes of the country, "nobody would admit it."

There is much to be said for the contention about the holding of elections, especially in view of the manner in which elections are "made" in South-Eastern Europe. At the same time, the Archduke Joseph has been ill-advised in retaining or in using for official purposes his Imperial title. On the other hand, the wisdom of shutting the door to a member of the Hapsburg family as potential head of the future Magyar State may well be open to question. A Hohenzollern could be ruled out of order in Germany, because Germany remains in extent very much what she was before the war. The Austria-Hungary of pre-war days has completely disappeared, and to pretend that the future Magyar State of nine million people, whether under a Hapsburg or not, is going to be the danger-spot in Europe that the Dual Monarchy was is foolishness. The Paris Conference can hardly wish to claim a reversion for the rulership of the Magyars for Bela Kun and his heirs; and if the country is unable to produce a strong man outside the Hapsburg family, it would seem the negation of sound statesmanship to forbid his election. The Conference's communication to the Inter-Allied Mission in Budapest does not specifically state that it will not recognise the Archduke Joseph if he should be placed at the head of the nation by popular vote, but there can be little doubt that such a verdict would be a rebuff, in view of the way in which the message is worded.

No one in Great Britain is likely to hold a brief for the Archduke Joseph, but the dispassionate onlooker will be tempted to believe that in the present welter in Europe any man of action, not of Bolshevist leanings, is preferable to the studied flabbiness which is in danger of doing duty for statesmanship these days. Moreover, it is not complimentary to the Allies' Peace Settlement to pretend that a single individual at the head of a small State is going to be able to set the nations again at one another's throats. There is, in our opinion, far more to be feared from one act of injustice in connection with the Peace Terms than from the power of any man, whether constitutionally acquired or not, provided that the Allies remain true to themselves. It would certainly be a mistake to apply the doctrine now enunciated by the Conference in regard to the Hapsburg family to the Bulgarian Royal House. Neither in character nor in manner does King Boris resemble ex-King Ferdinand; nor has he had at any time the least sympathy for his father's policy or methods of government. To demand his removal from the throne on the strength of his relationship to the former King of Bulgaria would be an injustice to a capable ruler of marked promise and a disservice to the Near East and to the Allies. The peoples of South-Eastern Europe are not yet ripe for the republican form of government; they take their politics more seriously, perhaps, than Westerners, and with the nation divided into so many bitterly hostile camps they appreciate having someone on the spot who is above politics but can yet be appealed to on political and other subjects.

The news that Prince Carol has definitely renounced his claim to the throne will surprise no one who has been in close touch with Roumanian affairs. His morganatic marriage gravely compromised his position as Heir-Apparent; but it was hoped that the separation or divorce would be accepted by both parties and would save the necessity for interfering with the succession to the Crown. Prince Carol, however, has been cast in a different mould. He refused to give up seeing his wife, and it was generally recognised that he could not long fill the position of Crown Prince. An announcement to the effect that he contemplated a long tour abroad prepared people for the formal renunciation, which is the wisest course to adopt in all the circumstances. The whole incident has given rise in some Roumanian circles

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to the hope that it will have the effect of steadying the morals of a small section of the population, which had succeeded in gaining too much notoriety for itself.

At long last there is some prospect of the Fiume question being solved. At all events, a memorandum giving details of a possible solution has been submitted to President Wilson, and it is understood that if it meets with American approval, Italy will accept the arrangement proposed. According to this scheme, "the so-called free port and the port of Barossa, with its wood deposits, would be ceded by Italy to the League of Nations for ninety-nine years"; the "accompanying port and railway facilities necessary to the service of the hinterland" would also be administered by the League; while Italy would retain "the remaining small portion of the port . . . as a national Italian port," and the greater part of the city and territory of Fiume. The plan has obvious defects, but if Italy and Yugoslavia are content to accept it, it would be better by far than any entirely one-sided settlement, which could not fail to leave behind a feeling of rankling injustice. How soon the League of Nations will be in a condition to take over such a responsibility as that proposed for it by this project remains to be seen.

French comment upon the situation in Syria, and the future of that country, continues to be marked by a certain nervousness and occasional irritation, but upon the whole the disposition to hold Great Britain responsible for whatever is amiss is happily less in evidence. On the other hand, the fear expressed in these columns a fortnight ago appears to be in a fair way to be justified, for the French Press shows symptoms of uneasiness regarding France's interests and rights in the Near East. In view of conditions brought about by the war, this may be perfectly natural, but it is none the less regrettable, and unless Paris and London give the matter prompt attention it may do real harm. As far as Syria is concerned, the most obvious course to follow would be to let the country decide its own fate, either accepting the report of the American Commission or else taking a plebiscite under Anglo-French auspices—or Franco-American auspices, if that be preferred by France. If this were suggested officially, France would surely not insist upon the letter of the Anglo-French Treaty of 1916.

One thing is certain: Great Britain has no desire to accept responsibility for Syria, and she does very strongly desire to do nothing that can wound French susceptibilities. At the same time she cannot ignore the Emir Faisal, King Hussein of the Hejaz, and the Arabs. She must, indeed, now more than ever pay careful heed to Arabia and its complicated and very fickle politics. The recent severe fighting between Ibn Saud and King Hussein's forces serves to remind us that surprises may still be looked for from the Arabian desert; and though we may truthfully say that Emir Faisal owes us a great deal more than we owe him, we cannot forget that he also has fought side by side with us, and, as an Ally, may naturally look to us for help in the heavy work that lies before him.

The strong element of uncertainty to which reference is made above lends Arabia and Arabian politics a fascination that is lacking in most countries and policies—though these are often uncertain enough also—nearer home. Thus Ibn Saud's sudden move against King Hussein is interesting not because it was unforeseen—for plenty of observers did, in fact, foresee that it was likely to come, if once the Nejd leader found himself strong enough to make it—but because it shows that now, as ever, the personal factor is of enormous value in Arabian politics, and that the Ishmaelitic tradition is by no means yet dead. It is interesting also as showing how the old puritanical spirit that inspired the Wahibis has survived in the Nejd; and as indicating that while King Hussein's qualifications appeal undoubtedly to the Hejaz, it would be a great mistake to imagine that his prestige—to say nothing of his authority—holds good throughout Arabia. It would be too much to hope that tribal feuds and sheikhly jealousies should be laid aside at once at the wish of European statesmen; but it would be foolish to accept the theory that the Arabs never will be able to unite until it has been tested under modern conditions. Meantime it is to our interest to limit the rivalries of the more important chiefs and leaders as far as possible, and to work steadily for an Arabia united in spirit if not in form.

An Inter-Allied Commission, consisting of three generals—British, French, and Italian—and an admiral—American—has begun an investigation of the situation arising from the Greek occupation of the Smyrna district. Unless we are mistaken, it has never been announced who asked for the appointment of this Commission; but there can be no doubt that, if it conducts its investigations in a thorough way, it should serve a more useful purpose than many other commissions which have been called into being by the war and the peace. It is to be hoped, however, that the inquiry will not be long-drawn-out. The present state of affairs in regard to Smyrna and its district is about as unsatisfactory as it can be, and if it has to continue until the Commission has concluded its labours and presented its report, we shall all hope that that body will be as expeditious as possible over its work.

A book, entitled "Germany and Armenia: 1914-1918," which has just been published in Berlin, throws a lurid light upon the internal policy pursued by the Young Turks and approved by their German friends during the war. The book is edited by Dr. Lepsius, president of the German Armenian Society, and, being based upon official reports and published with the authority of the Wilhelmstrasse, its authenticity can hardly be questioned. The main lines of the story it tells are already only too well known, as far at least as concerns the massacres of the Armenians; but the particulars it gives of the relations between the Germans and the Turks of the Committee ring are extremely valuable. A few highly-placed servants of the Kaiser had the courage to protest against the unspeakable horrors which were perpetrated by Enver, Talaat, and their fellow-criminals; others seem to have made half-hearted appeals for a cessation of the worst atrocities. But it is as clear as day that official Germany must be held guilty at least of allowing the massacres, if not of actually encouraging them. As Baron Kress von Kressenstein, German High Commissioner in the Caucasus, wrote in a dispatch to the German Foreign Office: "History will not, and cannot, admit that the two great Christian Empires of Central Europe were not in a position to impose their will upon their Asiatic ally."

At the moment the future of Armenia does not look sufficiently cheerful to tempt us to forget the gloomy facts just referred to. It is recognised on all sides that the new Armenia must have a protector, and a powerful one, if it is to weather the fresh storms that it is bound to encounter, but competition for the post on the part of the Great Powers is distinctly not keen. Indeed, unless America makes up her mind to step into the breach, the outlook for Armenia will be a very poor one. And, according to recent reports, it would seem to be very problematical whether America will, after all, accept the responsibility. The Washington correspondent of *The Times* wrote recently: "If anything in the extremely muddled and inchoate situation can be certain, it is the prospect that the Senate will refuse to allow the President to undertake responsibilities in Armenia, Constantinople, or elsewhere." Perhaps, however, a change of view may be brought about by the report of the American Commission which has been conducting investigations in Turkey.

If America has really made up her mind not to accept any foreign responsibilities at all it will prove a bitter disappointment to those Egyptian "Nation-

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alists "—and others—who have been hoping that the great Western Republic would lend a ready ear to their arguments—and turn a deaf one to the other side. It may be argued, of course, that the refusal to accept a mandate for any part of the Old World would not necessarily imply a lack of interest in European or Asiatic problems. But it is safe to say that a merely theoretical interest in their concerns would fail to satisfy the self-appointed representatives of the "oppressed" nationalities who desire to present their "cases" to the American Senate. These gentry will have noted with satisfaction that some hard things have been said in the Senate regarding the Anglo-Persian Agreement. Fortunately, American opinion as a whole is less likely now than formerly to be led away by the desire to "twist the lion's tail."

M. Davidovitch, the new Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, has submitted his programme to the Skupshtina, by whom it has been accorded a favourable reception. One of the most pressing problems confronting the new Cabinet, as M. Davidovitch reminded his audience, is that of "stemming the continually incoming flood" of Austrian paper currency and of ridding the country of the "stupendous quantities" that have already found their way into it. In order to cope with this difficulty, the National Bank is to be reorganised and the scope of its operations is to be extended. Two other topics touched on by M. Davidovitch were the expropriation of large land-owners, which is to be proceeded with more rapidly, and an extension of the suffrage. A reference to "such of our brethren as are not yet united to us and are persecuted for their love of us" will probably arouse misgivings iu the minds of those who remember how, in the past, such expressions, used by Balkan statesmen, were apt to give rise to trouble, or at least to fan the fires of trouble.

Most people will agree that the members of the Joint Committee on Indian Reforms have acted wisely in deciding to take a month's holiday and meet again at the beginning of October. The evidence has covered a very wide field, and while it is true that most of the witnesses, or, rather, advocates, have adhered closely to their briefs, and said nothing that could not have been foreseen, we must remember that it is nearly all new to the majority of the members, and that some time may fairly be given for its assimilation. The official forecast is to the effect that the first week of October will suffice to bring the evidence to a conclusion, and that "several further weeks" will then be devoted to the consideration and amendment of the Bill; that brings us well into November, and, of course, no forecast can yet be made of the reception which the amended Bill will be accorded by Parliament.

The public in this country have been allowed to know very little about the proceedings in the Joint Committee. We have no doubt that in this matter the Press has correctly appreciated the taste of a community intent on making the best of its long-deferred holiday, but it is well to make plain that the Committee have had the benefit of singularly little current criticism, and their responsibility to England and to India is consequently all the greater. The results of their labours will have to be judged by critics who have not watched their proceedings from day to day, and there is a possibility that the verdict may come as an unpleasant surprise to the men who have done the work. More probably the public will acquiesce, for, as we have said before, they have hitherto declined to take an interest in the details of the new constitution; they have said that something must be done, and are likely to accept the decision of the Committee as to the lines on which action shall be taken.

Outside the Press we hear a certain amount of criticism regarding the selection of witnesses. Apparently the Committee have found it desirable to relax the restriction originally announced granting a hearing only to representatives of organised interests, and we notice the names of some witnesses who appear to speak only for themselves; Lord Carmichael, for instance, did not apparently claim to represent anyone, and his particular views are certainly not those of men who have been recently Heads of Provinces in India. It is in regard to this class of witness that criticisms are heard; suggestions are made that in order to be called a man must be either a delegate or a dyarchist, and while they may be due merely to pique, their currency is all the same unfortunate. We confess we should feel increased confidence in the Committee, if we heard of the appearance before it of some of Mr. Montagu's out-and-out opponents, apart from those who speak for the Indo-British Association.

At the same time it is right to recognise that the Committee have cast their net fairly widely; the divergent views of Liberals, Congressmen, and Home Rulers, of Brahmins and non-Brahmins, of Moslems of various types, of officials, lawyers, and journalists, and all the rest make fine confused feeding, and even then there remains the question of Burma to complicate a business which is very far from simple. The information which reaches this country regarding the position of Burma leaves this question obscure. On the one hand we have the Administration declaring for ultimate separation, and warning the people against the allurements of a "mess of Indian pottage"; on the other we have heated assurances that this Indian pottage is precisely what Burma yearns for, and we are probably justified in concluding that the country has not yet made up its collective mind.

Speaking for ourselves, we regard this question of Burma as a great though not immediate danger. Indian politicians, "thinking big," and hypnotised by existing administrative arrangements, regard Burma merely as an Indian province, and treat the idea of separation as a new threat of "partition." Burma undoubtedly feels the pull of the great peninsula on the west, but at the same time possesses all the elements of distinctive nationality, though they have not yet been fully realised by the national consciousness. To yoke Burma to a self-governing India may well result in the development of another of those subject-nationalities which are almost the greatest plagues of the modern world, and there is much to be said for an immediate separation, which should leave the smaller country free to develop on her own lines. The practical and sentimental obstacles to this course are, however, serious, and we question whether our present statesmen are inclined to face them.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 10.

An Educational Experiment.

An interesting experiment is being tried in the direction of educating officers and men in a regular college course. A similar course was started about a year or more ago in France, and the Zeitoun Education School opened under Major Pollard six months ago. The success that has attended the school has been surprising, both in the number of pupils and in the rapidity of their progress.

At the end of last month a party of Corps Commanders were invited to inspect the school and attend a conference to be held immediately after the visit was over. The school occupies a series of temporary buildings. The party first listened to a short address by Major Pollard on the objects and methods of the teaching. They were then taken round in turn to hear and watch lectures and the practical demonstrations accompanying them. The first hut was occupied by agricultural students, who were learning the mysteries of germination; principally with the practical aim of distinguishing good seed from bad. The men each had drawings made by themselves, and apparently most of them had seedlings also of their own sowing. The next lecture room was devoted to engineering, and here a demonstration of the working of various types of turbines was in progress, with determination of horse-power, etc. In the next lecture room the instructor was giving a simple explanation of various political factors, such as franchise, tracing its growth from the death of feudalism up to the inclusion of women.

This was followed by a visit to the chemical laboratory, where certain elemental facts were being illustrated. In the English course the instructor was Sergeant Roberts, who traced the origin and growth of the English language from its source, coupled with a sketch of the Aryan family of tongues. Business Methods were being explained in the next room, especially with regard to checking stocks and sales; and in the following shed another sergeant-instructor was expatiating on various forms of S, St, and Str in shorthand. The inspection terminated at ten o'clock with the Art School, having occupied about two hours, with one hour between for breakfast.

The conference was taken up with discussion of any points that suggested themselves, and some useful results were arrived at. Perhaps the least satisfactory feature of the situation was the extreme difficulty of obtaining and retaining capable instructors from amongst the N.C.O.'s. Of ten or twelve who had gone home lately on leave with the express understanding that they were to return on expiration, only two had come back.

The object of the course, which in order to pass in all subjects should take about six months, is the obtaining of a certificate which dispenses with matriculation at London University, and is accepted by many public institutions (such as the Institute of Chartered Accountants) as an ordinary pass degree. It is hoped that later on, when enough instructors can be procured, fifty or sixty pupils may every six months obtain the "Special Army Education Certificate," to the effect that they have passed an examination "in the advanced standard" in English, arithmetic, or elementary mathematics, and history or geography, and in optional subjects selected from those above mentioned. This certificate is signed by the respective instructors under whom the pupil has worked, and countersigned by the Principal Education Officer. Major Pollard, who is at present occupying this position, is about to visit the parent establishments in France in September, and on his return the Zeitoun School may be expected to crystallise into the permanent establishment it aims at becoming—in effect a University.

More Strikes.

After a period of very enjoyable freedom from labour and political demonstrations and manifestations, Cairo was disagreeably surprised to wake up on the morning of Sunday the 10th and find that all the tramway services were suspended. The good people of Zeitoun, Heliopolis, and Abbassia were obliged to spend their day in their own gardens, unless they cared to pay four or five shillings for a cab each way to town and back. Similarly, Cairenes could not travel out to their pet Sabbath promenade in the Zoo, or out to the Pyramids, and had to content themselves with such amusements as those afforded by the cafés and tea gardens. But even these were destined to fail them, as at four o'clock, with Napoleonic decision and promptitude, the waiting staff of twenty-four of the big café restaurants and bars also went on strike. Their object was comparatively a modest one, as they only asked for £6 a month instead of £4; but their strike seems to have come as a total surprise to their employers. The proprietor of one of the biggest cafés, the "Parisiana," considered discretion was the better part of valour, and gave in at once, with the result that his was the only one of the "struck" establishments that remained open during the "apéritif" hour so beloved of all Orientals. Upon what principle the strikers decided, however, puzzled the public considerably, for they found a place like the "Phœnix Bar" doing a roaring trade, whilst the "Obelisk" Restaurant, almost next door, had all its iron shutters down. About 6 o'clock the twenty-three café owners went round to their fellow owners to beg them also to shut down as they themselves had been compelled to do, but this request did not appeal to the business instincts of those who were still untouched, and they were either "out" or not to be found when the unhappy twenty-three asked to see them. Their turn, however, probably will come in its own good time, for now that the Egyptian employee has tasted the sweets of rebellion against his "natural foe" and "tyrant," in the person of the "bloated profiteer" who pays him, he is not likely to stop until he is shown that the limit has been reached. So far there is a great deal of minor inconvenience to the public at large, but very little ill-feeling against the strikers, who are only playing their own game as best they can. The same public has been so mercilessly fleeced by all the purveyors to their needs and pleasures since the war began that it has very small sympathy now for the shrieks and growls of the fat and prosperous employers of labour who are now being tackled and made to stand and deliver some of their too arbitrarily earned fortunes.

And More to Follow?

The Nationalists seem to be trying to claim that the repeated strikes are a sign of discontent against the British Protectorate, but this is somewhat ridiculous, as the British authorities, and particularly the Military, are the last to suffer in any way from the strikes, which are directed almost exclusively, so far, against foreign companies and foreign employers of labour. The happy result (for the waiters) of the Groppi strike naturally leads to numberless imitators, and it is only surprising that when the Groppi strikers obtained £15 a month the much harder-worked staffs of other, less opulent, establishments content themselves with anything less.

To all appearances the tram and café waiters' strikes of to-day are only the precursors of a good many more struggles of the newly formed syndicates to redress their wrongs or obtain their rights, which we may expect in the immediate future.

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BELGRADE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, August 11.

The Ministerial Crisis.

The Ministerial crisis is dragging out slowly, this being the eighteenth day it has lasted, and it is by no means certain that it may not last many more yet. This is very unfortunate, for it means that all important business is shelved; the ex-Ministers, who are carrying on the routine work, decline to accept any responsibility, and leave everything over for the new Cabinet, which will find a nice little accumulation of arrears upon assuming office. It is also extremely unfortunate that there should be every appearance of disunion at home, when it is so necessary to present to the world a united front while the destinies of the young nation are being settled in Paris. All parties unite in deprecating this confusion, and insisting upon the necessity of a strong united line of policy abroad.

But it is a mistake to take these crises too seriously; the personal equation plays a dominating part in Serbian politics, and parties are held together more by personal likes, or rather dislikes, than by differences of principle. As a matter of fact, it is very difficult to define the difference between the bitterly hostile Radicals and Democrats, for they both seem to have the same programme, and each party accuses the other of stealing its thunder. The chief disrupting element appears to be the attitude of the individual to the ex-Prime Minister, M. Stoyan Protitch, who is certainly a strong man. The first rumours of the impending crisis began with whispers that M. Pribichevitch, Minister of the Interior, was going to resign. To the relief of the public this did not take place, but, as we reported two weeks ago, Dr. Koroshets and Dr. Gostinchar resigned on the grounds of incompatibility of temper, which made co-operation with the Prime Minister impossible. No sooner was that crisis averted than the Prime Minister himself brought about the present state of affairs, justifying his action on the grounds that he could no longer work with the Minister of the Interior, and implying the same against the Minister of Communications. Since then the party and the independent Press have been making all manner of attacks upon different Ministers; but there appears to be a prevailing impression that M. Protitch has made a mistake. It may be that he was beginning to find his position untenable, and that he provoked the crisis as a tactical move; but as his party is not the strongest in the Skupshtina, it seems very likely that he will lose his position, which is, perhaps, his real motive.

Present Position of Parties.

According to the very latest information the distribution of seats in the Skupshtina is as follows:—Democrats, 113; Radicals, 69; Narodni Klub (Croat Nationalists), 29; Dr. Koroshet's group of Christian Socialists (Slovenes), 20; Socialists, 13; Montenegrins, 10; Independent Radicals, 6; Liberals, 9; Bunjevaks and Slovaks, 9; nondescript, 18; and "Wild Man," 1. This curious list is culled from the independent *Pravda*, and leaves one wondering what is a Bunjevak, and, above all, what is the programme of the Wild Man. But it seems pretty clear that it is the attitude of the miscellaneous assortment which will hold the balance of power and play in Belgrade the rôle that used to be played by the Irish Party at Westminster; though it is but a question of time for them to become absorbed in the larger and more formed parties, when Serbian politics pass out of the present incoherent stage and crystallise out.

The suggested solutions are that either the Democrats should form a *bloc* supported by the oddments, including Dr. Koroshets, and leave the Radicals in opposition, or that a Coalition Government should be re-formed. The Radical *Tribuna* came out the other evening with the following prognosis, that the Government be again entrusted to the Radicals; which means that M. Protitch should again be President of the Council, and that portfolios should be distributed four to the Radicals, four to the Democrats, and two to the Starchevists of Croat Nationalists, the Independents (a dying party, a legacy from the smaller politics of the old kingdom), and to Dr. Koroshets' group respectively; and one each to the Socialists, Independent Democrats, Radicals, Dissidents, Liberals, and Veljkovitch's group. This suggestion is rejected by the Democrats, who maintain that as incompatibility of temper prevented them from working with M. Protitch in the past, such a solution could at the best be temporary; it would be, in fact, simply asking for trouble. They desire a final settlement, so that the important and vital work of consolidation can proceed unhampered by party factions.

On Thursday the President of the Chamber, who has the reputation of being an independent-minded Radical, after canvassing the leaders of the different groups, was received by the Prince Regent, to whom he recommended that the task of forming a Government be entrusted to Dr. Davidovitch, former Minister of Education, a Serb with a high reputation, as leader of the Democrats—the strongest party. The Prince accordingly sent for Dr. Davidovitch and entrusted him with this task, requesting him to spare no effort to produce a firm and stable Government capable of dealing with the manifold and difficult problems which lie before the young State. Since then Dr. Davidovitch has been kept busy, but it looks as though some days must lapse yet before he can announce success. He has interviewed the leaders of the other groups. Dr. Koroshets will support any party that makes for solid work in the general public interest; but the Narodni Klub will not sell its support cheap, and will probably made demands that cannot be granted. The latest news is that the Radicals have agreed to join the coalition provided that the former Minister of Religions (Dr. Alaupovitch) and Minister of Communications (M. Vulovitch) are not in the Cabinet, and that M. Pribichevitch has some other portfolio than the Interior. It is hardly likely that the Democrats will accept such an ultimatum, which they designate as impossible.

Party Aims.

The chief lesson for the outsider is to learn to see these crises in true proportion. The main groups—that is to say, the Democrats, Radicals, and Dr. Koroshets' party—are all united in wishing to see a strong united Yugoslavia under the sceptre of the Karageorgevitch dynasty; the Socialists themselves hardly seem to want more than the solution of the agrarian question at the expense of the large landowners, without compensation—that is to say, a policy of frank confiscation; while the other parties are agreed upon the necessity of dividing up the large estates among the peasants, but always subject to compensation to the former owner by a sinking fund. The policy of the ten Montenegrins is not generally known, but it is probably parochial without being anti-patriotic; for the anti-Serb Montenegrins are now mostly in Italy and Switzerland. They are conducting a fairly vigorous Press campaign from Geneva, whence their paper, *La Libre Serbie*, in Serb, is full of violent and savage attacks upon the Serbian Government in general, and upon the Radical party in particular. This paper was banned in Macedonia, but a few copies found their way into Salonika, all the same.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The French Mission to Syria has arrived at Marseilles from Beyrout.

An offer of seven lakhs of rupees has been refused for a big ruby found at Mogok (Burma).

Of 400 Serbian doctors who were practising before the war there now remain less than a hundred.

The kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes proposes to withdraw from circulation all Austrian crowns.

M. Albert Eid's collection of Egyptian postage stamps has been purchased for £4,000 by the Sultan of Egypt.

Telegraphic, telephonic, and railway communications will shortly be restored between Yugoslavia and Hungary.

General Liman von Sanders, after his release from internment in Malta, has left on board the British yacht Ivy for Venice.

The installation on the *gadi* of the new Bhavnagar ruler, His Highness Maharaja Shri Krishnakumarsinhji, took place on August 1.

In Eastern Macedonia the 1919 and 1920 classes of conscripts, hitherto under deferred classification, are being called up on September 14.

When Field-Marshal Sir H. C. O. Plumer paid his first visit to Gozo (sister island to Malta) on August 19, the whole population turned out to greet the new Governor.

A strong protest against the cession to Greece of the island of Cyprus has been forwarded to the Colonial Office by the Executive of the British-Israel World Federation.

The Sultan's representative in the Spanish zone in Morocco has published a Royal Proclamation declaring Raisuli a rebel, and ordering confiscation of his goods and chattels.

A correspondent in Switzerland writes:—The death is announced in Constantinople of General Shakir Pasha, ex-Minister of War, and son-in-law of General Avni Pasha.

Parties of Moroccan insurgents, having cut the telegraph wires, attacked the French blockhouse at Zolzit, south of Taza, but were driven off. Seven of the garrison were killed.

Special food trains have been organised by the Roumanian Command, and freedom of navigation on the Danube has been given to all ships that assist in revictualling Budapest.

M. Lutaud, a former Governor of Algeria, and two other persons fell during an ascent near Bonneville, Haute Savoie, on August 21, owing to the breaking of a rope. They were seriously injured.

At the final meeting of the Ladies' Emergency Committee of the Navy League recently held at 13, Victoria Street, the grants made included £500 each to the Sailors' Home and Recreation Hut at Malta, and a similar institution at Alexandria.

The Athens correspondent of *The Times* states that the censorship on postal and telegraphic correspondence with Great Britain has been abolished, except on letters addressed to Egypt and other places where military operations are being carried on.

In India the condition and prospects of standing crops are generally satisfactory. Distress is disappearing in the United Provinces, and the test works in Shahpura State, Rajputana, have been closed. Distress is still severe in Hyderabad, where the rain is insufficient.

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BUSREH LETTER.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Busreh, July 11.

For the last month or two in Busreh there has not been a great deal of news to chronicle. Of course, the signing of the Peace terms at Versailles must, I suppose, be considered the most important event of the past month. The news came to the public at Busreh about 10 p.m. on the night of Saturday, June 28, but it created very little stir in the town. The Busreh Club, it is true, did not close its doors till a somewhat early hour next morning, and during Sunday all the vessels on the river were dressed in honour of the occasion, but otherwise everything went on as usual. Doubtless the official celebrations will be held later; in fact, in Baghdad the date has been fixed for July 19.

Three Fires.

Considerably greater excitement has been aroused by the outbreak of several large fires which have occurred of late. The first took place about 9 p.m. on May 29 in the neighbourhood of Ashar Barracks, and was not of great extent, though, amongst other damage, a quantity of date wood belonging to Messrs. Asfar and Co. was destroyed.

The second fire was a much more serious affair. This time the fire broke out about noon among the buildings situate between the Custom House and the Whitley Bridge, Ashar. Many of the buildings were of light construction, and proved most inflammable; and it was a matter of days before the fire was finally extinguished, though it was entirely under control before evening. While it lasted it presented a tremendous blaze, and at one time threatened to involve a considerably larger area, as a *mehala* anchored in Ashar Creek took fire, and also some light structures on the south side of the creek. Luckily these latter fires were quickly dealt with, and kept within a limited area.

Some heavy losses were sustained by some of the merchants, many of whom were not covered by insurance; but although one sympathises with them to a certain degree, one cannot help realising that the clearance effected by the fire in this locality is an excellent thing for the future good of the town.

A third fire, also of considerable extent, broke out about ten days ago at Maaghill, and involved the I.W.T. Stores, where large supplies of ships' stores were destroyed, and some slight damage done to one of the wharves.

Future of the Port.

Busreh is already beginning to think of the near future, when it is to be hoped the necessities of war will no longer be the one vital element in its existence; and, among other questions, that of the institution of a Port Trust has already come up for consideration.

Some authority of this nature is certainly wanted, and should prove extremely useful, but at present no details are available.

EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

Th following have been selected for appointments in the Egyptian and Sudanese Civil Services:—

Egypt.

In the Ministry of Finance:—M. R. K. Burge, H. H. Gardiner, J. H. Hall, F. R. V. Jameson, A. J. King, C. C. C. Oulton.

In the Ministry of the Interior:—E. C. D. S. Carter, S. M. Campbell, W. J. Henn, A. R. I. Mellor, G. V. Pearse, J. C. Penney.

Sudan.

To proceed abroad immediately:—D. J. Bethell, E. S. Fiddes, P. Ingleson, D. H. Kitchin, M. W. Parr, J. Ryan.

To spend a probationary year at a University:—G. C. Allchin, I. M. Bruce-Gardyne, B. K. Cooke, G. B. Crole, D. Newbold, A. S. Redfern.

Egypt.

In the Survey Department, Ministry of Finance:—A. P. Mitchell, J. C. Gurney.

In the Customs Department, Ministry of Finance:—L. Henshall.

ZIONIST COLONISATION AND PALESTINIAN LANDOWNERS.

At meetings held last week at 77, Great Russell Street, Professor Alfred E. Zimmern and Dr. Chaim Weizmann (president of the English Zionist Federation) reported the results of their recent visits to Palestine.

In the course of his remarks, Dr. Weizmann said that he and his colleagues were convinced that the political and other conditions in Palestine would allow to grow up there within a measurable and definite period a Jewish population, speaking Hebrew, with Jewish institutions, industry and enterprise, which community would ultimately develop into a Jewish state. One condition of this development was that Palestine must not be politically merged with Egypt, Syria, Arabia, or any other country, but must stand as a definite territorial unit with such boundaries as would enclose all the natural resources that legitimately belonged to Palestine. Of these natural resources the chief was water. At present the power of the country to absorb a Jewish population was extremely small, nowhere near what was needed for the realisation of Zionist aims, but the power of absorption might be enormously increased. A first necessity was that Palestinian soil must be rendered accessible to Jewish colonisation. At present Palestine was in fact a nearly empty country; nevertheless, there was but little land there which had not an owner, and laws must be made which, while not dealing unjustly with present owners and occupiers, must make the uninhabited country available for cultivation and close Jewish settlement. There were some small tracts which had no owner, and these would probably be handed over to a Jewish Council that would be set up for the development of Palestine. Most likely they would not be handed over free, but would be charged with some part of the public debt. The land in question, although without an owner, was not always without tenants, and the rights of these tenants must be respected—if there were no other reason for not despoiling them there was the fact that the Jew wished to live on good terms with his neighbours. He did not wish to make an enemy of the whole Mohammedan world. A second category of land might be described as half-owned. For example, in the whole of the south of Palestine there were few villages, and, except Rephaim and Gaza, no towns. But during part of the year much of the land was used as grazing ground by tribes who had wandered over the country since the time of Abraham. This partial use of the land by these border tribes was incompatible with its close settlement and thorough cultivation, and they must be induced to remain beyond the Jordan—being compensated for the disturbance. A third category of land consisted of waste lands. Even dunes and marshes had their owners—especially was it the case that when a marsh was drained an owner turned up from somewhere. But the country would be surveyed, these titles regulated, and the land made accessible to improvement and cultivation. The most difficult category of land was the fourth, that belonging to the effendis. The effendis were rich and had no need to sell, but could hold their land while Jewish immigration increased its value. These gentlemen could only be tackled by legislation; but such legislation could be obtained, for the democratisation of the world that was going on produced but little sympathy for the great landowner, especially when he did not work his own land. The development of the country would benefit all its inhabitants, Arabs as well as Jews.

The Secretary of State for India announces that it has been decided to issue to officers of the Royal Indian Marine, both regular and temporary, a gratuity for war service on the same conditions generally as those announced by the Admiralty for officers of the Navy, regular and temporary. The gratuity is now payable in the case of officers still on the active list. It is not payable to any officer whose first commission is dated February 11, 1919, or any later date. In the case of regular officers the gratuity will be at the same rates as for officers of similar rank in the Navy, and for temporary officers it will be based on the pay of corresponding ranks in the R.N.R. and R.N.V.R., and not on the Indian pay of the appointment held. Officers who have retired, and the legal representatives of officers who have died or have been killed during the war, should apply for a form of claim to the Secretary, Military Department, India Office, London, S.W.1.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Persia.

In view of the importance of the Anglo-Persian Agreement, and in accordance with our custom of giving the opinions of all sides, we print the following extracts from an article in the *Nation* of August 23:—

Two consequences follow from this over-smart performance. The French are exceedingly annoyed. They have never hitherto displayed much interest in Persia, though they may have felt flattered by the wish of the Persians (which we have vetoed) to engage French educational experts. It is hard to believe that "Pertinax" and the *Temps* are really distressed by this outrage on a little nationality—though to be sure we all have a surprising capacity of sympathy for the victims of our rivals. It may be, of course, that the French are somewhat perturbed by the possible consequences of so many wounds dealt to Moslem pride. They have taken Morocco and Tunis, and they want to take Syria. We have made the Sultan of Turkey our prisoner, and the King of the Hedjaz, the prospective Caliph, is our creature. And now as a climax we extinguish what was left of the independence of the last Mohammedan State. On the whole, however, we imagine that the French Press is retaliating against us for our supposed reluctance to carry out the Secret Treaty which makes over Syria to France. Our troops still hold it. We are supplying arms to the Arab Prince Feisul, backing his claims to Damascus, and also arguing for the maximum extension of the Jewish "national home" in Palestine. Our experts (while taking Mesopotamia and Egypt for ourselves) talk Arab nationalism when the French press their claims. They even hint broadly, and probably truly, that outside the Lebanon no one wants to see French rule in Syria. Inevitably comes the retort that the Persians no more desire our protection than the Syrians call for the French. This quarrel, we imagine, will be settled on the usual diplomatic principle that two wrongs make a right. It is known technically as the doctrine of compensations. The French will grow callous about Persia when we cease to deplore the hard fate of Syria.

The other consequence of this transaction will be more enduring. It has exposed the vanity of the hopes, or shall we say, of some of the hopes, that were reposed in the League of Nations. If we can, without consulting the rest of the civilised world, assign this great region, with its high though fatally impractical civilisation; if we can escape in Persia even the few limitations implied in a formal "Mandate"; if we can shut the door of the World's Court to any weak suitor whose case runs counter to our interests, we have succeeded in demonstrating that the League of Nations means nothing but the consecrated hegemony of three or four Great Powers. We, by self-interest, the Americans by weakness and incapacity, are destroying the ideal for which both profess to have fought. From crisis to crisis, always in Russia, largely in Hungary, and now in Persia, idealists repeat the warning yet hopeful phrase, "The League of Nations is passing through a test." It takes a series of tests to extinguish so great a hope.

Armenia, Turkey, and Germany.

The Times of August 27 printed some extracts from the book recently published in Berlin, "Germany and Armenia: 1914-1918," by Dr. I. Lepsius. The array of official documents adduced in this book "conclusively shows," says *The Times*, "that from the Imperial Chancellor in Berlin down to the lowest grade official in Anatolia, the whole of the German Foreign Service knew day by day what was happening in Armenia." And in a leading article it refers to the confessed knowledge of guilt:—

It is but just to say that some of the diplomatists and soldiers were disgusted by the senseless barbarity of their allies. The Ambassadors made academic protests. Enver, with true Turkish humour and a just appreciation of the position, begged them not to impede the "unification" of Turkey. Talaat met inconvenient expostulations by the reminder that Turkey had abolished the Capitulations with Germany's consent, and that foreign interference in her internal affairs was most improper. He did not deny the massacres—over 20,000 women and children were slaughtered outside Erzerum in four days, and 55,000 corpses were buried at Meskene alone—but he pleaded "military necessity."

But German responsibility for the Armenian atrocities was far more complete than its concealment. For, says *The Times*:—

The truth was known in Berlin so far back as 1915. "The Committee," the German Ambassador wrote home in that year, "insists that the last remnants of the Armenians shall be devoured," and he explained that their policy of "Turkification" meant "to expel or to kill everything that is not Turkish," and to destroy or appropriate other people's property. "Herein," he adds, "for the moment, and in the childish repetition of French Liberal phrases, consists the vaunted new birth of Turkey." So "the many-headed hydra of the Committee, with its chauvinism and its fanaticism," was allowed to go its way unchecked. The Germans—who so often posed in the war as the champions of the altar and the throne—were under no misapprehension of the real purpose of their ally in what Dr. Lepsius describes as "perhaps the greatest persecution of Christians of all time." Forcible conversion to Islam was, as always, a feature in the Turkish attack upon the Armenians. The Germans acquisced, because "in the East creed and nationality are synonymous." They knew, too, that the Turks fully intended to destroy the existence of the Armenian nation, but that design could not greatly shock the heirs of the "Frederician tradition" as practised in Poland and Denmark. . . .

But far from dissociating themselves with such enormities, the Germans accepted the official Turkish version of the facts.

The *North German Gazette*, the semi-official organ of the German Government, published the Turkish official denials of the massacres which the German Ambassadors reported, and rebuked the Allied Press for its slanderous suggestion that the Government of Germany's ally could have had anything to do with whatever "excesses" might have been committed. . . . Ludendorff, indeed, did protest against the Turkish invasion of Armenia beyond the districts assigned to Turkey at Brest-Litovsk. His protest, however, was made exclusively upon military grounds. Hindenburg concurred, and "as a Christian" added a plea that the populations of the Caucasus might be spared. Enver treated the plea with contempt. His brother, Nuri Pasha, assured Baron von Kress, the German High Commissary at Tiflis, that "any little accidents" which might have occurred would be repaired. That is all that Germany, with full knowledge of the facts, and with power for a long period to give commands to Turkey, obtained for the nation who were being deliberately extirpated by the ally she directed, financed, armed, and led. Her own High Commissioner warned her of the judgment her conduct must bring upon her. He had the courage to tell his Government in a despatch that "the responsibility for the annihilation of this ancient Christian people would lie for ever upon Germany and Austria." "History," he went on, "will not, and cannot, admit that the two great Christian Empires of Central Europe were not in a position to impose their will upon their Asiatic ally, at least . . . where the life and death of a whole people are at stake." That is the judgment on the attitude of Germany and of her allies in Armenia from official German lips. We cannot imagine a condemnation more terrible or more just.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

It was with very real regret that I learned of the death of Dr. Leonard W. King. I could not claim the honour of his friendship, but I had met him a few times in connection with matters Assyriological, and I always found him particularly courteous and willing to help a duffer with unfailing patience. Moreover, he struck me as a man of much energy and singularly little affectation. Unlike many Assyriologists, he never seemed to wish to impress you with a sense of his own importance, his own great learning, his own wonderful theories. Perhaps this was because his position was assured; he was our greatest living Assyriologist, according to sound Continental opinion; his work is likely to endure; and he did "not advertise," because he did not need to do so. But he *did* work, and in pursuit of his work he was always ready to take risks if necessary. The copying of the Behistun inscription of Darius, for instance, was no light task, accomplished, as much of it was, while swinging dizzily over the cliff edge—and Dr. King was no featherweight to dangle in such giddy fashion. But he took the experience as part of the day's work. He was emphatically a *man*; and the world is the poorer for his loss.

***

A lady who had travelled in Mesopotamia told me, some time ago, of two ball games that she had seen the Arabs play. I never saw either of them myself, but I dare say some of our soldiers who have served in those parts may have done so; and it would be interesting to know whether the games are at all common. In the first game, two men threw the ball to and fro, just as English children do; but when one of the men dropped it he had to take on his shoulders a third Arab, who then had to do the catching. When number three dropped the ball he changed places with number one, and so on. In the second game, one man squatted low on the ground, leaving just room for a ball to pass between his feet, and two others then rolled a ball to and fro, making it pass between the squatting man's feet. The latter was not allowed to move, but when the ball touched him, he changed places with one of the throwers—or trundlers. Neither game strikes me as wildly exciting. But, then, the half-settled, *Ma'dan*, Arab is not a very brainy person, of course.

***

The appearance in last week's NEAR EAST of M. Mosconas' letter on the subject of St. George reminds me that Australia claims to possess the bones of the original and only genuine saint. The relics in question were discovered in the course of the War, at Ludd, lying, I think, under a mosaic pavement, and were exhumed and transported to the Antipodes by their discoverers. Just what the evidence in favour of their authenticity may be I cannot pretend to say, but there was lately some talk of their being sent to England and buried in Westminster Abbey. The Abbey authorities, however, set their faces against the proposal, and there the matter dropped. In my humble opinion it is just as well. To prove that the bones referred to were actually those of "St. George" would be an impossible task; though, no doubt, plenty of the 'ologists would undertake it, if thereby they could secure a little publicity for themselves. And anyway, who cares whether the bones are "genuine" or not? To me the memory of St. George is precious because, rightly or wrongly—very likely wrongly—it is associated with my country. It is the idea—and the ideal—that one cares for. As for the bones, it seems a pity that they were ever disturbed.

***

My attention has been called to a paragraph in the *Daily Express* upon the subject of goats' milk. The writer sings the praises of this drink with real enthusiasm, and wonders why its value "has not been recognised earlier in this country." I, too, like goats' milk, and have memories of drinking it with gusto in Arab tents, and, for that matter, in the saddle outside Arab tents, as one travelled on the fringe of the Syrian desert. Drunk thus, fresh from the goat, it is delicious, with a pleasing flavour and a creaminess that is never found in the milk you buy in England. But I am told that the old prejudice about "Malta fever" being produced by drinking goats' milk has got a firm hold in this country; and that, perhaps, accounts for so few people keeping goats, even in these days of outrageous prices for milk and cream. I do not know whether the "fever" theory has any backing in fact; but I do know that it is sometimes a terrible job to get enough milk from a goat to make it worth while to keep one. Of course, many goats yield richly, and their possessors are lucky; but I have known people keep three or four goats—in one case six—and still find it hard to get half a-pint a day!

***

The *Express* writer introduces into the middle of his little essay in praise of goats' milk a reference to "*yoghourt*" (more correctly, *yaghourt*). I wonder whether he is under the impression that this is soured goats' milk. In any case, it need not necessarily be goats' milk, but can be prepared from the milk of cows, buffaloes, or even—I believe—camels. It is a delicious and very healthy food. In Mesopotamia I took vast quantities of it, as did all my companions; and though some of them did not take to it at first, they all became firm supporters of the *yaghourt* habit in time. One man used to like it with date juice, eating it in the same way as one eats there the cream and date juice or grape juice. And those are dishes of which I still retain pleasant memories. As to *yaghourt*, it can be obtained over here still, although the *Express* writer seems not to be aware of the fact. If he will look through the pages of THE NEAR EAST he will find there an advertisement that will tell him where to go for the treat.

CORSAIR.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

THE FUTURE OF SYRIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—What thoughtful and well-intentioned Syrians aim at is to form their own Government—neither Mohammedan nor Christian, but national.

They will need protection from surrounding subversive elements, but for the rest they hope to manage their own affairs to the entire satisfaction of their friends and benefactors, as well as of the League of Nations. This need to provide for future protection does not arise for the moment, as the British troops now in the country cannot be withdrawn until a stable government can assume the responsibility for peace and order.

Were the latest solution put forward by *Le Temps*, to withdraw the British troops from all Syria, and to allow the French to send troops to the Lebanon and the Syrian northern coast, adopted, the resulting failure would be put to British account, and added to Syria's already heavy misfortune!

No part of Syria is at the moment in need of special French protection, as Emir Faisal is anxious to prove how good a pupil of the best Arabian school he is in governing the country, with the help of *all* Syrians.

The only thing to be done now is to acknowledge this Prince as head of Syria's Government, and to let the country get to business. This stagnation and uncertainty are very bad for all concerned.—I am, etc.,

A. SEFI.

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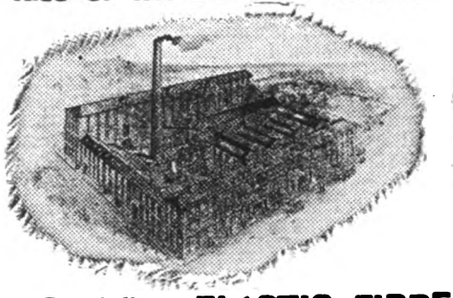
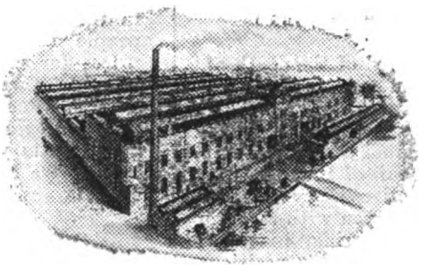
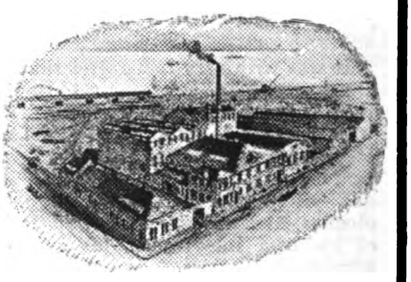

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AN EPIC OF THE MIDDLE EAST.*

Professor Seeley opined with perfect truth that we owe to ancient Hellas everything that sweetens and adorns our life—the blind forces of Nature alone excepted. His judgment coincides with that of Professor Gottheil, of Columbia University, who, in an introduction to Dr. Emil Kraeling's "Aram and Israel," affirms that "whatever we are and whatever we may possess comes to us from the eastern half of the Mediterranean Sea." The conquest of the Aramæan race included vast territories still known as Mesopotamia and Syria; the latter being a fertile and populous tract bounded eastwards by the inhospitable desert. Syria served as a bridge or corridor for caravans bringing the wealth of Asia to North-Western Africa and Europe.

Dr. Kraeling's narrative begins with the third millennium B.C., when the Assyrian or Aramaic hegemony dawned on Eastern Asia, and ends with its fall in 606 B.C. His materials are the cuneiform inscriptions unearthed from the ruins of countless palaces and temples. Modern research enables us to trace the migration of this conquering race; but in appraising their value we must make allowance for the tendency shown by official chroniclers to exaggerate a monarch's successes and preserve a judicious silence regarding his failures. The Old Testament is another mine of information. Its reference to the heathen tribes which fought with the Chosen People is trustworthy when the writer describes events within his own knowledge, and not so when he is dealing with tradition. He has no interest in exaggerating the exploits of Gentile Kings; but his judgment is often affected by religious bias, and he consistently ignores events which have no direct bearing on the fortunes of Israel. The Old Testament cannot be made the basis of a history; its record is important only in so far as it confirms the testimony of monuments.

Dr. Kraeling follows the progress of the Aramæan race from its cradle in the Arabian highlands. He describes its lusty prime, when the Assyrian Empire stretched from the Euphrates to the Mediterranean, and its final collapse at the commencement of the sixth century B.C. He lays stress on the fact—which is not, as he affirms, "without analogy," but rather a commonplace in history—that the conquered race should force its language on its conquerors.

Aramaic, he writes,

> became the necessary means of communication between the Iranian east and the Semitic west. It succeeded eventually in entirely displacing the Hebrew and Canaanitic. From the Persian Gulf to Cilicia, from Edessa to Petra and Syene on the Nile, the Aramaic became the language of the common people. And it mantained its supremacy even against the inroads of Hellenic civilisation, until, finally, the great quest of Islam brought its rule to a sudden end. But withal, its importance to the world was then consummated. It had been the language of Christ and His Apostles and of the early Christian Church. Without it the expansion of Christianity in the Orient would have been unthinkable, just as it would have been unthinkable in the Occident without the Greek. This then is the historical debt which the world owes to the Aramæans.

Genius, according to Lord Macaulay, is the "capacity for taking pains." If we accept this definition we may well credit Dr. Kraeling with a spark of the divine fire. His book is a monument of patient research, and exhibits all the virtues with most of the vices which characterise Teutonic scholarship. But history in its modern sense is much more than a catalogue of dynastic happenings, which fill the reader's soul with weariness and make him long for a touch of the constructive imagination which would clothe these dead bones with vigorous life.

F. H. S.

THE CROWN OF ADVENTURE.†

It is not given to all those who partook and suffered in the war to have their memories perpetuated in words, but it may be said that the spirit which formed and was developed by the experiences described in this book is typical of the British Army. Others may not have had the same fortunes, may not, indeed, have the skill to relate such things as are here given, but the attitude towards the great adventure which all undertook was universally the same. Those particular eight officers who escaped from Yozgad, in Asia Minor, to Cyprus, are extremely fortunate in having their story told by two such skilful authors as Capts. Johnston and Yearsley, but it is not the art of narrative which makes this epic tale the best war-story yet published in English: it is rather the fact that it is supremely British in its matter and writing, which makes the book ring as true as gold. Sufferings and kindnesses are merely hinted at, and it is more from the lines which are unwritten that one knows what these men—heroes rather—endured. Incidents that gave rise to bright humour or dull despair (of which incidents the Turks supplied many) are told with a simplicity so artless as to move the heart. Naturally, the authors being what they are, the humorous incidents are more numerous than the other kind. Here, for instance, is a finished pleasantry:—

> "The gendarmes were, for the most part, remarkably well mounted, and in charge of them was a benevolent old gentleman of the rank of *bash-chaoush*, or sergeant-major, who was for ever holding forth upon his friendship towards the English, and his utter inability to understand why we were not fighting side by side in this war. The sergeant-major talked much to us, punctuating his remarks with 'Sánom' (My dear). He was jovial, he was pleasing to look at, he was interesting. He had been through several Turkish wars, and he discussed the Great War with more intelligence than many of the Turkish officers we had met. One day, as two of us were marching beside the horse he was riding, the dear old man pointed out a deep ravine some few hundred yards to our right. His face lighted up with pride of achievement and pleasant recollection. 'Do you see that ravine?' he said. 'Well, there I helped to massacre 500 Armenians. Allah be praised!'"

It is not really fair to give extracts from this volume, which consists rather of a prolonged adventure than of a series of adventures. It is impossible adequately to describe the book, and the reading of it alone will give a correct idea of its worth. That such an idea will be gained we do not doubt for a moment, for this story will be read as long as English temperament remains what it is.

WAR IN THREE CONTINENTS.*

Many survivors of the war have succumbed to the temptation of writing their experiences in it, particularly those who were called to service in many lands. But it is not a fact that wide experience can compensate for the lack of intense adventure, and of war-books we prefer that kind in which the writer concentrates upon and really discovers to us something of one particular front. In this book, however, we have the ordinary things written about Malta, the Suez Canal, Aden, Bombay, Bareilly, Cairo, El Arish, and the rest, and to make these things appear less dull than they really are, extraordinary charm of writing is necessary. New things can be said of places familiar during the war, but they are not to be found in this little book. We are aware that these reminiscences are unpretentious and claim only to represent facts as superficially seen; but a modest purpose does not always justify publication.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Honourable Gentleman and Others." By Achmed Abdullah. (London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. $1.50 net.)

"Charousek's Games of Chess," by Philip W. Sergeant. (London: G. Bell and Sons. 7s. 6d. net.)

"In Kut and Captivity with the 6th Indian Division." By Major E. W. C. Sandes, M.C., R.E. (London: John Murray. 24s. net.)

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* "Aram and Israel." By Emil G. H. Kraeling, Ph.D. (New York, Columbia University Press, 1918. Price $2.)

† "450 Miles to Freedom." By Captain M. A. B. Johnson, R.G.A. and Captain K. D. Yearsley, R.E. (London: Blackwood. 7s. 6d. net.)

* Reminiscences of a Territorial in the D.C.L.I. on Service in Europe, Asia and Africa in the Great War." By Nemo. (Plymouth: Bowering and Co.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. August	1919. August		1337. Julheggia.	5679. Elul.
29	16	Friday	3	3
30	17	Saturday.....	4	4
31	18	Sunday	5	5
September 1	19	Monday	6	6
2	20	Tuesday	7	7
3	21	Wednesday	8	8
4	22	Thursday	9	9

Prince Paul of Serbia has left London for Paris..

Mr. Herbert E. Clark and family have left Lausanne for Jerusalem.

We understand that Mr. Alfred Silley leaves England for Constantinople on September 2.

General Sir E. A. Altham, Quartermaster-General, is leaving India shortly on account of ill-health.

Colonel R. Rossetti, the newly-appointed Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, is taking up his duties this week.

Mme. Nikolas Pashitch, wife of M. Pashitch, chief of the Serbian Peace Delegation, left London on August 26 for Paris.

M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, will pay a fortnight's visit to London after the Treaty of Peace between the Allied Powers and Bulgaria has been signed.

A correspondent writes:—Mirza Hussain Khan (formerly Muin el Vizareh) arrived in London from Paris on August 19 on the dispersal of the Persian Peace Delegation.

Mushawr el Memalek, on instructions received from the Persian Cabinet at Teheran, has arrived in Constantinople from Paris to consult with H.I.M. the Shah.

The Shah's younger brother, the Valiahd, has arrived in Teheran from Tabriz (where he had been Governor of the Province of Azerbaijan) to assume the office of Regent during the absence of H.I. Majesty from Persia.

The marriage was celebrated on August 21 at St. Mark's Church, Surbiton, between Algernon Shairp, of Colombo, Ceylon, and Gertrude Ethel Brander, M.B.E., of Surbiton.

The Countess of Stradbroke has arrived at Henham Hall, Suffolk, from Egypt for six weeks, when she will return to Cairo to join Colonel the Earl of Stradbroke, who is in Egypt.

The engagement is announced between G. K. Thornhill, Ceylon Government Survey Department, and Marjorie Gladys, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Bolden, 18, York House, Kensington.

General Hoare Nairne, Military Attaché to the British Legation at Athens, has handed to General Paraskevopoulos, Commander-in-Chief of the Greek and Allied Forces in Macedonia, the insignia of the Order of the Bath.

A correspondent in Switzerland sends us the following news:—The residences of Prince Abdur Rahim, Princess Muniré, Princess Kadrié, and Princess Yussuf Izzedin of Turkey have been destroyed by fire in Constantinople.

Turkhan Pasha, President of the Provisional Government of Albania, having resigned the leadership of the Albanian Delegation at the Peace Conference, the new delegation is constituted as follows:—President, M. Bumci; delegates, M. Gurakugi, Dr. Fourboulis, Mehdi Bey Frasheri, and Mehmed Bey Konitza.

A garden party was given at Seraglio Point, Constantinople, on August 3 in aid of the Turkish refugees from Smyrna. The fête was arranged by Princess Chivekiar of Egypt, Mme. Chukri Pasha, Mme. Hamdy Bey, Mme. Ismail Jenani Bey, Mme. Edhem Bey, Reshid Pasha, ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and others.

The engagement is announced of Nicholas Robin Udal, Assistant Director of Education, Sudan Government, youngest son of J. S. Udal late Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, to Margaret Ruth, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roderic Oliver, of Orlestone, Kent.

The marriage was celebrated on August 19, at the Parish Church, Oswestry, by the Rev. D. R. W. Marsland, Assistant Priest, between Selwyn Barrett Glascodine Simons, the South Wales Borderers (24th Regiment), son of the late Charles Edward Glascodine Simons, M.B.C.M. (Aberdeen), D.P.H., Edinburgh, The Hollies, Merthyr Tydfil, and Ruby Eileen Dowling, daughter of the late Robert Henry Dowling, India.

The marriage was celebrated on August 7, at Christ Church, Lancaster Gate, W., by the Rev. C. E. Woodruff, uncle of the bride, between Major Walter Kingsmill Cook, Indian Army, son of the late Surgeon Major-General Henry Cook, M.D., I.M.S., and Mrs. Alicia Anne Kingsmill Cook, of Grey Cliff, Bonchurch, I. of W., and Joan, daughter of the late Rev. A. W. W. and Mrs. Woodruff, of North Waltham Rectory, Hants.

The marriage took place on August 23 at the Parish Church, Chipping Barnet, between William James, eldest son of Lieut.-Colonel Tarleton, late 54th Regiment, and Vida Helene May, second daughter of Mr. F. W. K. Yeoman, late of the Indian Public Works Department.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in September, between Eric Oswald Anderson, C.B.E., of Rangoon, Burma, and Cecil Violet Mary, widow of Mr. Arthur D. Stafford, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, and elder daughter of Mrs. Lionel Bigge, Clevelands, Exmouth.

The engagement is announced between Captain Kenneth Darlaston Yearsley, R.E., youngest son of the late Rev. R. O. Yearsley, M.A., and Mrs. Yearsley, of Wolverton, Chatsworth Road, Brighton, and Norah Rose, elder daughter of Mr. and the late Mrs. Henderson Webb, of 78, Dyke Road, Brighton.

An engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place next month, between Percy C. P. Heath, eldest son of the late Lieut.-Col. Lewis Forbes Heath, I.S.C., and Mrs. Heath, Failand, Paignton, and Adria Frederica, younger daughter of the late Ross Porter and Mrs. Porter, Marchwood Park, Marchwood, Hants.

The King has given permission to Mrs. Ironside, widow of Mr. William Allan Ironside, Additional Member of the Indian Legislative Council, to enjoy the style, title, place, and precedence to which she would have been entitled if her husband had been a Knight Bachelor, which dignity would have been granted him had he survived.

The engagement is announced between Lieut.-Col. Hugh Drummond Pearson, R.E., D.S.O., attached Egyptian Army, second son of the late D. R. Pearson, M.D., and Mrs. Pearson, of Beckley, Sussex, and Blanche, youngest daughter of the late Lieut.-Col. E. E. Grigg, Commissioner of Kumaon, and the late Mrs. Grigg.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in India early in October, between Captain John H. Innes, M.C., 2/8th Gurkha Rifles, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. S. Innes, Pollokshields, Glasgow, and Marion Alice, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Murray, 1, Queensborough Gardens, Glasgow, W.

The marriage arranged between Geoffrey Swinford Laird-Clowes, Egyptian Civil Service, only son of the late Sir William Laird-Clowes and of Lady Laird-Clowes, and Dulcie Evelyn, eldest daughter of George Glass Hooper, of 23, Kensington Court, W.8, and Bude, Cornwall, will take place at Bude on Wednesday, September 3.

The engagement is announced of Capt. Clement Abraham, M.C., Indian Army, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Abraham, and nephew of Dr. Phineas Abraham, 66, Harley Street, London, to Miss Ivy Frances Salaman, younger daughter of Mr. Edmund V. Salaman and the late Mrs. Salaman, Egerton House, Egerton Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.

A marriage has been arranged between Mr. Eric Evan Broadway, K.O.S.B.'s, only surviving son of Mr. A. Broadway, of Jhang, Punjab, India, and Gwendolen Mostyn, only child of the late Major C. M. F. Watkins, R.E., and of Mrs. Watkins, Heath End House, near Farnham, Surrey, and will take place at Hale Parish Church on September 2.

Mrs. Walter Tibbits left London on August 23 for Cairo, where she will be joined later by Major Walter Tibbits, who was detained by the late war in Afghanistan. She is travelling to Egypt as the guest of the Government of Australia, by direction of Lieut.-Gen. Sir John Monash, Corps Commander, Australian Imperial Force, in recognition of services rendered to them.

Professor Patrick Geddes, an authority on civic and town planning, has been engaged by the International Zionist Commission for the planning of the new Jerusalem and its proposed University, in co-operation with Dr. Weizmann. He will leave at once for Palestine, and prepare a report on the Zionist colonies there. While in Palestine he will organise a department of sociology and civics for Bombay University.

The marriage was celebrated on August 20, at the Parish Church, Okehampton, Devon, by the Rev. H. Milner, Rector of Belstone, between Edmund Burd, Major, Indian Army, second son of E. P. Burd, and Esther Mary, eldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. G. V. Burd, Okehampton.

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The marriage was celebrated on August 21, at St. Barnabas Church, Pimlico Road, S.W., between Mr. L. K. M. Powell, 19th Bengal Lancers, son of the late Henry Watson Powell, of the Mercers' Company and Australia, and Beryl, only daughter of the late T. F. Ricketts, M.B., F.R.C.S., and Mrs. Ricketts.

An occasional correspondent writes from Evian-les-Bains:—

H.H. Prince Aga Khan is the guest of Aix-les-Bains. In an interesting foursome, played on Aix-les-Bains golf links, the Aga Khan and his partner, the world's champion, Mr. J. H. Taylor, were beaten by Capt. the Hon. E. Fitzgerald and Will Armour, the Aix Club professional. The conditions were handicap play, the Prince and Taylor giving a *bisque*.

H.H. Hon. Lieut.-Col. Singh Bahadur, Maharaja of Kapurthala, G.C.S.I., and the Princess of Kapurthala have arrived from Paris at Evian-les-Bains, and are with their suite at the Royal Hotel. The Maharaja, who used to play tennis at Evian-les-Bains before the war with the late Capt. Wilding, champion of the world, has accepted honorary membership of the Evian Tennis Club, and given one prize for gentlemen's singles and two prizes for handicap mixed.

On the occasion of the return of the 30th Infantry Regiment to Evian-les-Bains, its pre-war station, the Maharaja entertained, at the Casino Municipal, the colonel of the regiment and some departmental authorities.

Other Oriental guests at Evian-les-Bains are:—Prince and Princess Mirza Assad Khan, from Teheran; the Persian Minister Plenipotentiary at Stockholm; and Sabri Bey, from Cairo.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

General Nairne, Military Attaché to the British Legation at Athens, has informed M. Adossides, the Greek Governor-General, that the King has conferred upon him the Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his services to the British troops in Macedonia.

The King has been pleased to give directions for the appointment of Michel' Angelo Refalo, Esq., LL.D., C.B.E. (Crown Advocate), to be the Chief Justice and President of his Majesty's Court of Appeal for the Island of Malta, and also to appoint him to be Vice-President of the Council of Government of that island.

At the request of the Hellenic Government, the Anglo-Hellenic Educational Foundation have selected candidates for posts as teachers of English in certain commercial schools in Greece, and have recommended the Hellenic Government, through the Greek Minister, to make the following appointments:—Athens, Capt. G. C. T. Giles, B.A., Camb.; Patras, F. S. Read, B.A., Lond.; Volo, A. A. Elder, M.A., Edin.; Pyrgos, F. W. Kuhlicke, B.A., Lond. The appointment of a teacher for Salonika has not yet been finally settled.

OBITUARY.

DR. LEONARD W. KING, LITT.D., M.A., ETC.

A correspondent writes:—The news of the death of Dr. Leonard William King, of the British Museum, at the early age of 49, comes as a shock to all who knew him, although he had been ill for some fifteen months. He was an outstanding figure in the little company of distinguished archæologists and scholars to whom the scientific world looks for leadership in these branches of learning. Dr. King's chief interest was in Assyrian and Babylonian archæology and history, and he threw the whole force of his mind into their minute and exhaustive study. His published books on "Babylonian Magic and Sorcery," and "The Letters of Hammurabi," will long be standard works of reference not only for their complete mastery of subject, but for their clear and vigorous literary style. The lectures on "Legends of Babylon and Egypt in Relation to Hebrew Tradition" (Schweich Lectures, 1918), lately published in book form, were equally comprehensive and vivid. He conducted the British Museum excavations at Nineveh for over a year, until sickness obliged him to return to England; and he also made a special journey into Persia and recopied the great inscription of Darius cut in the rock at Behistun—a notable achievement whose result was published afterwards by the British Museum. Dr. King succeeded the late Colonel Sir Charles Watson as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund, bringing to that society the whole-hearted service of his wide learning and experience; he was also an excellent man of business (by no means always an attribute of the scholar), and no one could more courteously, yet effectively, reclaim a discussion which had wandered from its original lines. He gave the impression always of being one who was completely master of himself and of everything he knew; he spared no effort of mind or body in the pursuit of knowledge; he was never satisfied until he had fully grasped a subject to its smallest detail; and to everything he took up he brought the full power and interest of an extraordinarily vigorous, alert, and reasoning intellect. His keen enjoyment of work, his vivid interest in whatever claimed his attention, his sense of justice and fair play, made him an inspiring head and a most helpful colleague; and though his extreme quickness in grasping a problem, however new, and his strength and capacity for work made him sometimes impatient of slower brains, the impatience was kept well under control, and he was extraordinarily kind and generous to his subordinates, and never too busy to give a helping hand. During the war Dr. King was engaged on confidential work for the Government, and early in 1918 he was asked to undertake some work abroad of a delicate and important nature. No one better fitted for such a task could have been chosen, but unfortunately, before he could start, he was taken ill, and was never again well enough to resume full work. His loss will be increasingly felt in the world of archæology.

The death occurred on August 20 in London of Thomas Henry Olney (of Ceylon), son of the late Herbert Olney, of New Zealand; and Mrs. Olney, of Wadhurst, Sussex, aged 27.

Colonel Elliot Alexander Money, C.B., late of the Indian Cavalry, died on August 20. Born in 1843, he entered the Army in 1860, commanded the 3rd Bengal Cavalry from 1891 to 1894, was D.A.G. in India from 1894 till 1897, and afterwards officiated for two years in command of the Allahabad, Assam, and Agra districts.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 1919.

NEW INDIA AND THE WORLD.

The discussions now proceeding on the reform of the Indian Constitution are being conducted almost entirely from the self-regarding standpoint. Here, at least, reformers of all schools find a spot of common ground; they think solely of India, and do not pause to consider the effects of their proposals on India's relations with the world at large. Their attitude is natural, and indeed inevitable in the circumstances, but India is not an isolated entity, and in many other countries—in Canada and Australia, in the United States and Japan, as well as throughout Eastern Europe and Western Asia—practical men are asking how they will stand under the new regime. They know the nature of the present administration, usually cumbrous and slow to move, often uninspired, but always honest and deserving of trust, and they desire to know whether they can count on a continuance of these conditions, or whether changes are to be expected which will necessitate a readjustment of their mental focus. What, they ask, will be the character of a definitely Indian administration in its dealings with men of other countries? Will it be efficient and vigorous? Will it be honest? Will it be fair? No final answers to such questions as these can be offered at the present stage, but the conditions by which the answers will be governed may be stated with some degree of confidence, for the spirit of an administration is an expression of the mental and moral outlook of the men by whom it is controlled, and its nature can be inferred from a study of appropriate data. We have accurate knowledge of the spirit of the purely Indian administrations of earlier times; we can estimate the effect of the influences which have been more recently at work, and we can watch their operation day by day in departments already controlled by Indians, and more clearly in several hundreds of Indian States in very different stages of development. Making use of these data, we can indicate the lines on which answers to the questions we have stated must be sought.

In the first place, it is practically certain that an Indian administration will be very highly centralised. It is true that advocates of devolution may be found among the ranks of politicians, but Indian politics are just now highly artificial, and when we turn from them to examine the institutions actually at work, we find everywhere the same conditions, reluctance of superiors to entrust wide powers, and reluctance of subordinates to exercise responsibility. There will be no lack of vigour, for administrative vigour is in the blood, but the driving-force will be at the centre, while the local agencies will be marked by a strict adherence to form and routine, and by a tendency to refer for orders all matters which are not clearly covered by existing regulations. There will, in fact, be an abundance of red-tape, probably more than now, and there will be strong inducements for foreigners to establish relations with the centres rather than the outposts of the administration; the outposts will elaborate and hesitate, but the centre will usually be prompt to act. So far we believe that there is little difference of opinion among those who have made a serious study of the problem. The second question, that of honesty, must be approached with somewhat greater hesitation, since there is no doubt that bribery was universal in India before the English period, and unfortunately it cannot yet be said to be extinct, though its scope has been very greatly curtailed. Some authorities hold that under an Indian administration the institution would quickly regain much of its old position, though its operation would be adapted to the times, and offerings of coined gold and silver would be replaced by the less crude, but not less injurious expedients rendered possible by the developments of modern commerce and finance. The danger must be admitted to exist, but, on the other hand, it is beyond question that English influences have in this matter produced a very remarkable effect. The best Indians of to-day hate the idea of bribery as strongly as the men of almost any other nation, and in quite recent years this new attitude has spread downwards through the ranks of the administration to such an extent that senior British officers look back with astonishment on the conditions which prevailed in the earlier years of their service. The change is, as we have said, by no means complete, but we believe that, so far as it has gone, it may be regarded as permanent, and that for the future India will comprise an element absolutely opposed to the whole tradition of corruption. If, therefore, the new constitution should bring this element to the top, and this event is by no means improbable, we might expect to find an Indian administration permeated at the centre by the spirit of honesty, though we could not count on a similar influence throughout the whole; there would be corruption, as there is now, but it would be actively discouraged, and it is quite possible that a strong Minister could take more drastic measures for its repression than are open to the existing bureaucratic Government. It is also possible that the working of the new constitution might result in the re-establishment of the old evil tradition. For ourselves, we think the former alternative is more probable, but the question cannot be answered with certainty until some experience has been gained of the operation of institutions of which the form has not yet been finally determined.

There remains the last of the questions we have asked, whether an Indian administration will be fair, and here we must regretfully admit that the world has recently been given grounds for a pessimistic conclusion. The tendency of certain Indian politicans to ignore facts and cling to preconceived ideas can, when translated into practice, lead only to unfairness, and this tendency has of late been very much in evidence. To take the most conspicuous instance, we have just been provided with the spectacle of an Indian gentleman, occupying a seat on the Viceroy's Executive Council, who views the past and present of India through such a dense medium of prejudice that fact becomes indistinguishable from fiction, and the very form of justice disappears; and we may say at once that if India is to be administered in this spirit, her case will be desperate indeed. Such evidence, however, is not conclusive, though we admit that it is disquieting. We must reckon with the possibility that some branches of an Indian administration may be inspired by prejudice rather than by justice, and also that such an attitude may command a measure of popular support, but we are equally bound to recognise the existence of very many Indians of position, to whom that attitude is as repugnant as it is to us. Should such men be called to power, the world might safely count on equitable treatment, and it would be premature to draw a pessimistic conclusion from symptoms which may be no more than the froth produced by a period of active fermentation. In regard then to fairness, as to honesty, the future depends on the practical working of the new institutions; if they bring to the top the best in character that India possesses, the prospect may be viewed with reasonable hope, but the possibilities of a different result cannot as yet be definitely ruled out. For the time being, the destinies of India will be in the hands of the leaders rather than the masses, and should the leaders fail to rise to their opportunity, a period of discredit among the nations must ensue. That they may prove equal to the occasion is the aspiration of all who have the good of India at heart.

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THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE.

VOX POPULI.

There is little doubt in the minds of those who know Palestine well that the great desire of the people as a mass is for British rule. It has become a truism that Britain understands the East, and that the East trusts her as it trusts no other Western country. The elasticity of British rule, which confers self-government as soon as the people governed are able to bear the responsibility, appeals most strongly to the East, which, while easily moved on the surface, is at heart very slow to change. For years Palestine has longed for Britain to take her over, either by direct annexation (regardless of political obstacles) or else by joining her to Egypt. The people have had a long and varied experience of practically every European nation, but only one has become to them a test of probity and uprightness: "On the word of an Englishman it is true!" Every European coinage is current in Palestine, but only one never fluctuates in value—our own. Among European imports British coal and British steel—before the war, at least—still held the first place; though Jewish shops, by selling cheap inferior knives and scissors of wretched quality, called "English," but undoubtedly made in Germany, were doing much to shake the credit of Sheffield in the eyes of the natives. During the war the people preserved a wonderful belief in the power and the will of Britain to help them. They waited three years for deliverance, and when at last it came they rejoiced doubly that it was wrought by British arms. Many, indeed, had hidden their best clothes "for the day the English come."

These statements, of which I am very sure, are based on personal knowledge of Palestine before the war, extending over a period of many years up to July, 1914. It may be asked, "Have not the people changed in their views at all, especially as so many of the generation that looked to Britain for deliverance must, unhappily, have perished?" It will be best to let the people themselves answer this; and I will, therefore, quote literally from some of many letters written by Syrians in Palestine, whose spontaneous expression of gratitude for what Britain has done for them and their land needs no comment. All clues to the identity of the writers are, of course, suppressed, and I would also ask any who recognise their own words to forgive this use of them; but at a time when the fate of Palestine is being decided anything that shows the unmistakable feeling of its people on this vital matter is surely permissible. The creed of each writer is mentioned, as this is always a matter of moment in Palestinian problems and politics.

From a Moslem, in Switzerland, December 1917:—

"Many things happened during these two years. Many things have also changed. One thing did and will never change in me: my sympathy and feeling for the British nation and her Allies. In order to prove it to you, I must confess that at the news of the delivery of Jerusalem by the British troops I was so glad that I could not help myself from shedding tears. It is not necessary to tell you here (for you know and you are sure of it, because you lived amongst us) that most of the educated Arabs consider the British and the French nations as their best friends; on the contrary, the Germans and the Turks their greatest enemies. The British and the French nations are loved and honoured by the Arabs; the Turks and Germans are hated. The victories of the British troops in the East have naturally increased the feelings of the Arabs for the two noble and generous nations. The occupation by British troops of the two ancient towns, Baghdad (the city of the Khalifs) and the Holy City, far from afflicting us, rejoices us over all measures. The British troops who are fighting there against the Turks and Germans are fighting for us. They are therefore considered as our liberators and not our oppressors, the defenders of our liberty and our legal claims. We are sure that Great Britain will help us in every way to consolidate an Arab kingdom. She had already and is helping us in supporting the right claims of the King of the Hejaz, who on his part is helping the British troops in the East with all his might and all his resources. My best wishes and hopes are the victory of the Allies, who are fighting for Right, Justice, and Liberty."

From a Church of England Syrian girl, January, 1918:—

"I feel so glad and relieved now since the English troops have entered Jerusalem. I feel so glad to hear the troops speaking English, instead of hearing Turkish and German. I have been working in Turkish hospitals before the English captured Jerusalem, and I looked after many of the English prisoners that were wounded. We did all we could for them. As they could not eat the food that was given them, I used to feel awfully sorry for them, and did give them what little I had for my meal. As I think you would know, we have had it very hard, so that we could not do to them as we would like to have done; but what we did we had to do it all in secret."

From an Orthodox Church Syrian, January, 1918:—

"It does seem strange to be able to write English letters again freely. The last three years were simply terrible, and to think of what we had to go through is exactly like a nightmare. Now I do not feel obliged to have my windows closed with thick curtains to prevent those dreadful spies from peeping through into the room to see what one is doing, or with whom he is sitting. Everything has changed from oppression and persecution into liberty, and we now feel that we can breathe, so to speak, the air of freedom. We really do owe a great deal to those that have rescued us."

From a Moslem, in Europe, February, 1918:—

"I have read and heard in Egyptian, English, and French newspapers about the cruelties, the atrocities, done by the Turks in Syria and Palestine. They requisitioned all the people, rich and poor, possessions, sheep, horses, camels, up to the most necessary provisions, even beds and houses. Not contented with all these requisitions, the Turkish Government pretended that a party of young Arabs in connivance with the enemy was working against the Government and to throw off the detestable yoke of the Turk. Upon this pretence they executed more than 200 of the most educated and intelligent of the Arabs. Their families and many others have been exiled without pity, their properties sequestrated. All this roused in my heart pity for my countrymen, and increased my hate to the Turk. And as soon as Jerusalem was delivered an idea came to me. I thought if only I could relieve my countrypeople who suffered during the war, and especially under the hated Turks. Now, as our country is partly delivered by the British troops, the British nation will not leave these unfortunate people to die of hunger. Can I not appeal to it? But I am far from England. The only way is for me to write to the British Ambassador at—— and ask him if he will be good enough to help me in this work. For my idea was to create a Committee of Relief for the unfortunate of Palestine. To my great surprise, he answered me that such a committee is already working in England."

From an Armenian woman, March, 1918:—

"Oh, how sorry I was in the war. I pray every day to God to bring us the English. He brought us the English and defeated the Turkish flag. Now is everybody free. Free is a dear word. Never you can know how we have been troubled under the Turkish Government; he massacred many, many Armenians, but in Jerusalem was not so bad as in other places."

From an Orthodox Church Syrian, April, 1918:—

"I hope you will not think that over three and a-half years of imprisonment and tyranny and tribulation under the dirty Turks were likely to make us forget you all. How often during these three and a-half years I wished myself in Egypt, so that I could be in touch with my friends, and, better still, away from the savage Turk."

From a Church of England Syrian girl, April, 1918:

"We have had such bad times here. Everybody is so much relieved since the British took hold of the land. One feels to be in safe hands that are Christians not in name only, but in deed too. They are doing all their best to help the people. The Relief Fund is to be put in the hands of the Americans now. I have no favour for them whatever."

From a Church of England Syrian girl, April, 1918:

"It was simply grand to see the British take Jerusalem. The day they came in was a great festival to us all. It was so exciting to see them as they were coming in; the people clapped and shouted "Hurrah." They really saved our lives. We had so much to suffer in every way. We had hardly anything to eat. If you could see what a change the British made here; you can see now everybody happy, but before you could never see anyone smiling; there was such a sad look on everybody's face. So many people died in the country, as there was so much sickness, typhus, and cholera. Many people died of starvation, and some were killed by the Turks because they were of some importance, and were thought to be in favour of England or France. I can never forget the debate we had one evening (at school before the war), and how everybody wished the English to have rule over this country. I was in a Turkish hospital working, and I took care of the English prisoners of war. I did all my best to help them. I looked after sixteen of them. They were captured in a place before Hebron was taken, and they were only 99 against many more, and they fought very bravely."

From an Orthodox Church Syrian, June, 1918:—

"You cannot imagine the great ecstasy the people had when the English came into Jerusalem. They felt they were freed from the Turkish yoke. All the deserters that were in hiding came out, with their faces pale from being shut up, but rejoicing."

From a Church of England Syrian girl, May, 1918:

"Now I am very glad to say we have got rid of the Turks and of their rule; they have been very cruel to us. I wish

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those big-headed Germans would move out of the Allies' way; things would be done much smoother without them. My brother is still at Constantinople working with the Turks. We are very anxious about him; you see, a Turkish soldier without money is worth nothing, and it means starvation, for they hardly give them any rations."

From a Church of England Syrian, June, 1918:—

"Thank God we are all well, though we passed through great distress during the Turkish rule. Now, you can imagine how glad we are in being under the rule of the British Government. The day we saw the British troops entering Jerusalem was surely a great day to us; faces were beaming with joy, and we were so happy that really I cannot describe it by writing. We are very thankful to the great British nation for the trouble they are taking in improving and ameliorating the situation of our city, for helping the needy and poor, and opening orphanages and schools, so as to make all happy and content. We surely appreciate the work they have done in this short time. We pray daily for their victory."

From an Orthodox Church Syrian, September, 1918:

"Everybody here (Jerusalem) seems to believe that our country has by a mysterious miracle escaped the *German culture*. Practically four years of slavery, despotism, fanaticism, terrorism, and no end of sins, all through German organs. . . . I only wish I could relate to you verbally stories of my four years of captivity. Oftentimes in my prison cell I sang St. George's old and favourite song:

Hard times, hard times,
Come again no more.

Thank God, we can now say no more hard times, but joy and prosperity awaiting us. . . . I for one will do everything in my power to help the British soldiers, who were our rescuers from the clutches of despotism and anarchism. Whatever little I do for them I find it insignificant compared to the gigantic and most dangerous work they have cheerfully achieved for our sakes, and, to tell you the truth, we do not deserve such a sacrifice."

From an Orthodox Church Syrian, in the Sudan, February, 1918:—

As you are no doubt aware, the way for return to Palestine was opened some two months ago. The news I received from home is extremely painful. All males from 16 to 50 years of age were compelled to join the Turkish colours. . . . The news that Palestine is to be given to the Jews fills the heart of every Syrian with fear. It is out of the frying-pan and into the fire. The few Turks who came to Syria could be easily competed with, but what with the Jews! It requires the whole universe, as one body, to compete with them. I hope that what has been heard about this is only a rumour. No one can tell what the Jews are except those that have seen them in Jerusalem. I don't think any Syrian would submit to being governed by the Jews, unless forced by the Great Powers to do so; and this I hear said by every Syrian about. They (I mean the Syrians) prefer to quit their country for good if the rumour proves to be true."

From a Church of England Syrian, December, 1918:—

"Everything is so changed since the English took our city; you cannot imagine the difference. They are helping us all they can. There is only one thing that troubles our minds, and that is what some people say, that the British are going to give over our country to the Zionists to have. Truly, I cannot believe this, for everyone knows what the Jews are with the Syrians, and that they will take everything from the poor Syrian peasants, and we shall have no place in this country. This makes us really very uneasy, and we can hardly believe that the British Government, who have done so much for us, will take our country and give it to the Jews."

From a Church of England Syrian, June, 1918:—

"The Special Commission delegated by the Conference to come to Palestine and Syria and examine the sentiments of the inhabitants as regards the future administration of the country have already arrived at Jaffa. . . . It is now understood by all people that the advice and assistance of a mandatory power is decided, and not as a great number of the self-conceited and narrow-minded Mohammedans thought at first, that they would be able to govern themselves without the assistance of any of the Great Powers. As regards the wishes of the people, they are divided as follows:—

"1. Some desire to have England as the Mandatory Power; and these are the Greek Orthodox, and, of course, all Protestants, and a portion of the Mohammedans.

"2. Others wish to have France as the Mandatory Power; and this party is chiefly composed of the Roman Catholics.

"3. Some Mohammedans now express a desire that Palestine should be united with Syria, and that the United States be the Mandatory Power."

These letters, from individuals of every class and creed in Palestine, explain the general feeling of the country more definitely than any foreigner could express it. They are voluntary declarations of trust and confidence in England, of desire to be ruled by her, and of genuine anxiety for the future of their country: as such, they merit our sympathetic and careful attention. If, through any international greed or jealousies, or through the complexities of high politics, Palestine is reft from the keeping of England, who, under God and at great cost and sacrifice, has been the liberator of the Holy Land, the whole vexed problem of Palestine will merely have been suppressed for a few years, not settled; and it will inevitably spring up again (and possibly very soon), to drench the East in misery and blood. There can be no lasting peace for the world until the question of Palestine is freely and truly and rightly settled. The people of Palestine know that England is willing and glad to help them through the years of anxiety and weakness and difficulty; the past eighteen months have shown them that English rule is even broader and more just and sympathetic than their brightest hopes had pictured it; and (for they are an acute and intelligent people) they know very well that they can never as a people attain their full stature and excellence save under England's fostering care.

ESTELLE BLYTH.

CHESS.

The final positions in the Hastings Tournament were quite in accordance with expectation. Senor Capablanca, with the fine score of 10½ out of 11, was first by the margin of a point above M. Kostitch, who failed to do more than draw with Sir G. A. Thomas in the penultimate round. The closing stages of the tournament were chiefly interesting for the struggle between Sir G. A. Thomas and Mr. F. D. Yates, holder of the English championship, for the third and fourth prizes, and with the former drawing his last two games, Mr. Yates, who started badly, was able to draw level with him at 7, as the result of winning in the last round.

It is too early yet to say with certainty what modifications will be introduced into English chess as the result of the tournament, but, judging by the play in the last few rounds of the contest, it seems probable that Capablanca's style is going to have a pronounced influence in the future. The Cuban, it may be pointed out, does not depend upon sudden and rapid attacks to attain victory; on the contrary, the secret of his success is to be found in the fact that his play is always correct. His aim is positional advantage, and it is characteristic of him to map out the definite course of action almost from the start.

As regards the openings used at Hastings, the various Queen's openings seemed to enjoy the greatest favour, no doubt because only by their use is it possible to avoid the numerous irregular replies by Black. The Caro-Kann defence was played without success on a number of occasions, and it may as a result decline in popularity, at any rate for a time.

The game between Senor Capablanca and Sir G. A. Thomas, which had a dramatic ending, was as follows, the former having first move:—1, P—K4, P—K4; 2, Kt—KB3, Kt—QB3; 3, Kt—B3, Kt—B3; 4, B—Kt5, P—Q3; 5, P—Q4, B—Q2; 6, Castles, B—K2; 7, R—K, P x P; 8, Kt x P, Kt x Kt; 9, Q x Kt, B x B; 10, Kt x B, P—QR3; 11, Kt—B3, Castles; 12, B—Kt5, Kt—Q2; 13, B x B, Q x B; 14, Kt—Q5, Q—Q; 15, R—K3, Kt—K4; 16, R—KKt3, P—KB3; 17, P—KB4, Kt—B3; 18, Q—B3, R—B2; 19, P—B5, Q—KB; 20, Q—Kt3, K—R; 21, Kt—B4, Kt—K4; 22, Q x P, R—Kt.; 23, Q x RP, R x P; 24, R—QKt3, R x BP; 25, QR—Kt, P—R3; 26, Kt—Kt6ch, Kt x Kt; 27, P x Kt, R—K2; 28, R—Kt8, Kt x Kt; 29, Q—R8 (*a*). Resigns (*b*).

(*a*) A mistake. R x R was the only move when the play would have continued. Q x R; 30, Q—R4! and Black is left without resource.

(*b*) R x RP would have drawn. If 30, Q x R, then R x R; if 30, R x R, then Q x R; if Q—Kt7, then R—R5, 31, Q x P, R x P, leaving Black a pawn ahead, though with nothing but the draw, in view of the position of his King.

The following is the game between Senor Capablanca and Mr. F. D. Yates, the former having the move:—1, P—K4, P—K4; 2, Kt—KB3, Kt—QB3; 3, B—Kt5, P—QR3; 4, B—R4, Kt—B3; 5, Castles, B—K2; 6, R—K, P—QKt4; 7, B—Kt3, P—Q3; 8, P—B3, Kt—QR4; 9, B—B2, P—B4; 10, P—Q4, Q—B2; 11, QKt—Q2, B—Kt5; 12, P—Q5 (*a*), P—Kt4; 13, Kt—B, P—R3; 14, Kt—Kt3, R—Q; 15, P—QR4, P—Kt5; 16, P x P, P x P; 17, B—Q3, B—QB; 18, B—K3, Kt—Kt5; 19, QR—B, Q—Kt; 20, B—Q2, Q—Kt 3; 21, Q—K2, Kt—Kt6; 22, R—B6, Q—R4; 23, B x RP, B—Q2; 24, B—Kt5, B x R; 25, B x Bch, K—B; 26, Q—B4, Kt x B; 27, Kt x Kt, Q—R2; 28, Q—K2, P—R4; 29, Kt—B5, B—B3; 30, Kt—B4 (*b*), Q—B4; 31, P—QKt3, Kt—R3; 32, Kt x Kt, R x Kt; 33, Q—K3, R—B; 34, R—QB, B—Q; 35, Q x Q, P x Q; 36, Kt x P, K—K2; 37, R x P, P—B4; 38, R—B4, B—R4; 39, B—Kt5, R x R; 40, Kt x R, B—B2; 41, P—K5, B—Kt; 42, Kt—K3, R—R2; 43, Kt x Pch, K—B2; 44, P—K6 ch, K—B3; 45, P—K7, R x P; 46, Kt x R, K x Kt; 47, P—Kt3, B—B2; 48, K—Kt2, K—Q3; 49, B—K8, P—R5; 50, B—B7, K—K4; 51, K—R3, B—Q; 52, K—Kt4, P x P; 53, BP x P, K—B3; 54, B—K6, K—Kt3; 55, P—Q6, K—B3; 56, B—B5, B—Kt3; 57, P—Q7, B—Q; 58, P—R4, P x P; 59, P x P, B—B2; 60, P—KR5, K—Kt2; 61, B—K4. Resigns.

(*a*) Shutting off the Queen's Knight.

(*b*) It will be noted how the attack concentrates on the weak pawn.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Sir William Garstin's description of the damage done to the Egyptian Delta Light Railways in the recent disturbances brings out very clearly the organised character of the attack on the lines. As Sir William says, the destruction of communications was evidently one of the chief aims of the rioters. Fortunately, they were foiled in their attacks on the main railway workshop at Mit Ghamr. Detailed figures of the losses incurred are not yet available, but the approximate estimates are £47,200 for damage to property, and £46,000 for loss of earnings since the commencement of the riots, a total of £93,200. As I pointed out recently, the past year's earnings were only affected by the outbreak to a comparatively slight extent, and the effect on the current year's working can scarcely be other than pronounced, seeing that it is not merely a case of direct consequences, for which compensation will no doubt be made in due course. To say nothing of the time it will take to carry out the construction work entailed, there is the dislocation of the country's trade and commerce to be taken into consideration.

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On the subject of labour unrest in Egypt Sir William, whose speech was read in his absence by Mr. Montagu Sharpe, makes some remarks which are particularly apposite and interesting at the present juncture, when the country is threatened with a strike movement on an extended scale. He points out that the labourer in Egypt is aware that his fellow workers in other lands are clamouring for shorter hours and increased pay, and that prices of food and necessities have risen by over 100 per cent., and in his view these two causes are sufficient to account for the existing state of unrest, but he fears also that there is little doubt that Bolshevik propaganda has reached the East and has had some effect.

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As regards the general outlook Sir William was far from optimistic, stating that the current year might possibly turn out to be one of the "lean" years. "I think it best," he said, "to point out to you plainly that we have anxious times before us in Egypt. In that country the future at present seems as uncertain as it does throughout the world. Nevertheless, I have always had the greatest confidence in the future of Egypt, and even in the darkest times I have never varied in this respect. The country has such recuperative powers and has so quickly recovered from bad times in the past that I feel certain it will quickly recover prosperity in the future—provided that any recurrence of the recent events is assured against, and that law and order are maintained."

***

The capture of Odessa and the retreat of the Bolsheviks to the interior opens up the prospect of the speedy resumption of trade with the whole of the vast markets of South Russia, if matters continue to go well, as there is every indication that they will. I need scarcely urge the importance of these markets for British manufacturers and exporters. Before the war British trade with that region was very considerable, particularly as regards agricultural machinery, and there is no question that in the future commercial opportunities there will be greatly increased. But if this country is to obtain its share of the trade, the market requires the most careful and immediate attention. In this connection I would call attention to what our Constantinople Correspondent says regarding the present requirements of these markets. Agricultural machinery he puts first among the openings, and other commodities required include all kinds of clothing and colonial produce.

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An illustration of the absolute necessity of increased production is given by the same correspondent, who points out that there are many complaints at Constantinople of orders to British manufacturers being turned down with a statement of regret that the market cannot be considered for some time. It is too deplorable for words that manufacturers should be still adopting this attitude towards the Near East markets. The fact is, I fear, that many of them are content with the home market, which is equal to absorbing vast supplies, and are neglecting foreign markets. This is a most short-sighted policy, for the home market could be regained at any time, but the time to enter foreign markets is now or never, and I would impress upon manufacturers that this applies particularly to the Near East markets, where there is an urgent demand for goods of every kind, and where permanent trade will go to those who enter the market now.

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According to the Indian mail papers just to hand an enormous deposit of coal has been found at Namtu, in the Southern Shan States, Burma, twenty-five miles from the Burma Railways line. No details are given as to the quality of the coal. Obviously this addition to India's extensive coal resources, if it proves as considerable as it is believed to be, should be of very great value in connection with industrial developments in Burma.

***

Silver continues its upward movement and the time cannot be far distant when there will be a further change in the sterling exchange value of the rupee from 1s. 10d. to 2s. The metal now stands at over 61d., and a comparatively small advance will now place it at the value at which rupees would be turned out at a loss.

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His many friends will learn with deep regret of the death at Teheran last month of Mr. David Brown, deputy manager of the Imperial Bank of Persia in that country. Mr. Brown, who, I understand, was to have succeeded Mr. A. O. Wood, C.B.E., on the latter's retirement this autumn from the position of chief manager of the bank in Persia, had won for himself a great reputation by his knowledge of local finance, and his understanding of the workings of the mind of the Persian. His death is a great loss to British trade in Persia.

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During what may be called the war period there is no question that the manufacturers and exporters of Japan have succeeded in gaining a remarkable hold on the Indian market. In 1916-17 Japanese exports to India were valued at Rs.13 1-3 crores, for 1917-18 at 18¼ crores, and for 1918-19 at no less than 33½ crores! In other words, in the last trade period there was an increase of roughly 150 per cent. on the figures of two years ago. At the same time the United Kingdom's exports to India were gradually decreasing, and from Rs.87¾ crores in 1916-17, fell to Rs.81¾ crores in 1917-18, and to only Rs.77 crores in 1918-19, or little more than double the figures for Japan. These changes, due wholly to war conditions, will doubtless only prove temporary if British manufacturers cater for the Indian market with characteristic thoroughness. But here, again, everything depends on the factor of production.

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The openings for British trade in Roumania, where the inhabitants are so keenly desirous of developing trade relations with this country, have been the subject of constant reference in these columns. In a recent British Consular Report from Bucharest a list is given of some of the goods that are at present in greatest demand in the country. The list includes jute manufactures, agricultural machinery, industrial machinery, electrical lighting installations, ironmongery, drugs and chemicals, cotton piece goods, boots and shoes, coal and coke, paints and varnishes, wearing apparel of all kinds, waterproof coats, etc. Here alone would be a fairly comprehensive list of requirements, but the goods mentioned are merely illustrative of the market position, commodities of almost every kind being needed.

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Constantinople Business Letter

Trade in South Russia.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, August 5.

The British Chamber of Commerce in Constantinople reports that the Russian sugar monopoly has been temporarily abolished and replaced by a duty of 300 roubles per pood on lump and 200 roubles per pood on sand sugar. Sugar is now free for import sales subject to duty, and sells at about 900 roubles per pood for the fine without duty. Lump is about 200 roubles the pood dearer. Customs duties have now been replaced by a general 10 per cent. *ad valorem* tax. Goods subject to duty do not pay this tax. Trade is declared free, and permits are only required for the export of foodstuffs, etc.

With the prospect of business opening up in Russia if all goes well with the volunteer armies in the near future, the following information as to requirements may be interesting:—First, agricultural machinery and gardening tools are required. Tractors from 15 h.p. to 60 h.p., and tractor ploughs to suit; reaping machines with binders; binder twine for American reaping machines; ploughs, single-furrow and double-furrow, of the Rudolph Sack type; scythes, saws, forks, spades, etc., are all in demand, and will sell readily if they are of the style of thing suited to the country. Clothing of all kinds is badly needed, especially strong boots and ready-made clothing for soldiers; but women's and children's clothing is also needed. Colonial produce: coffee and cocoa; matches; drugs and pharmaceutical preparations, such as aspirin, veronal, etc., are all in demand.

The Russian Commercial Attaché in this city announces that commerce with Novorossisk is absolutely free, and there are no fixed prices or any obligation to sell to the Government or any particular individual. Exporters should apply to the Comité Commercial, Rue du Quai, Maison de l'Ecole Réale, Novorossisk, for information and assistance with regard to the Customs formalities.

The Turkish Customs.

I announced in a previous letter that the Allies had not pressed their demand for the re-establishment of the pre-war system of *ad valorem* Customs duties instead of the present system, whereby goods pay duty according to their weight, which was established by the Germans. The Turks might have known that anything established by the Germans would not be likely to benefit anyone else but the Germans—except by accident. Yet they clung to the German system. A Turkish paper took up the matter, and demonstrated in a special article on the subject that the revenue was suffering heavily, and estimated the loss at no less than 97 per cent. of the sum that would be collected on an *ad valorem* basis. The Ministry of Finance became alarmed, and has set a Commission to work to investigate the matter. British business men whom I have questioned on the subject are quite satisfied with the present system. From their point of view it is a pity that the subject was ever raised.

A Chance for British Typewriters.

One of the greatest handicaps to office work at the present moment is the scarcity of typewriting machines and accessories. So far as I am aware, there were never any British machines on the market here before the war, and the Americans easily held the field. But at present there is plenty of room for a British machine to obtain a footing which would be permanent. I have seen an "Imperial" machine, which, with a French keyboard, would, I feel sure, find a ready sale. Ribbons, ink-pads, and all sorts of accessories are badly needed.

Wasted Opportunities.

It is unfortunate that there should be so many complaints of orders to British manufacturers being turned down. "We regret that we cannot consider your market for some time," is the sort of thing that is getting far too common. By the time those manufacturers decide to consider this market they will find that someone else has been more wide awake, and then their consideration will be useless. As long ago as January the Federation of British Industries advised its members to make every effort to establish and maintain the predominance of British trade in the Near East, even at the expense of the home trade. The F.B.I. pointed out that it would always be much easier to recapture the home market than to drive out a competitor from a foreign market. To dispose of our surplus production we must have foreign markets. At present it is true that there may be very little surplus production, but all the world knows that increased production is a matter of life or death for us, that being the only way to repair the frightful ravages of the war. What will be the use of increasing our production if we are going to neglect to secure the necessary outlet for it? The matter is worth more than a passing thought, and here in the Near East there is certainly a great opportunity for establishing a sure, steady, and profitable outlet for our surplus production, but we must get at it now, or we shall find ourselves forestalled in the bad old pre-war style.

JAPAN'S TRADE IN THE NEAR EAST.

By Victor L. Trumper.

The life-and-death struggle which Europe has been engaged in has given an opening for Japan to make a bid for markets which previously she would have had no chance of obtaining. Without in the least minimising the value of Japan's share in the war, the fact remains that the war has given her a place amongst the world's producers which nothing else could have done in a generation. While Europe has been manufacturing implements to carry on the war, Japan has been attempting to supply the Near and Far East with those goods which they would ordinarily get from Europe. Of course, there is one thing that Japan is, and probably always will be, pre-eminent in, and that is the numberless small articles which go under the comprehensive name of "curios." These, as every one knows, may consist of anything which quaint ingenuity may suggest, whether it be a doll or a door mat, a fan or flytrap. No European nation could possibly compete with them in this.

Previous to the war, Japan supplied matches to the Far East and also to India, but practically none were seen in Egypt. However, with the normal supplies from Sweden cut off, Egypt felt the match shortage, but was soon flooded with lucifers from Japan. Happily for Europe the matches were of exceptionally bad quality, and so everyone gave them up when others were obtainable; but had they been even fairly good no doubt Japan would have secured a good entry into the Near East match trade.

However, perhaps the most serious thing for the British manufacturer is the cotton piece-goods trade. For many years Japan has been making cotton cloth, of comparatively poor quality, it is true, but still just what the average native wanted. In India and the middle East, these competed with cheap German goods, but, of course, during the war this and all other competition, except local Indian manufactures, was eliminated, which gave Japan a tremendous pull over her erstwhile trade rivals. Another great factor was that Japan could import the raw cotton to feed her mills from China, free of war risk, in any sort of a vessel, large or small, while the rest of the world had to run the gauntlet of submarines. Is it any wonder that cotton piece-goods from Japan began to be seen in the Near East markets?

One often hears the sayings that the goods are cheap and nasty, and that nothing can touch the British manufacturer for quality, both of which may be quite true, but which do not touch the point at issue, namely that a vast proportion of buyers cannot afford anything except a low-priced article, and that the trader that supplies them with that gets the business.

For many years before the war, the State-aided ship-yards of Japan were building ships for their own lines, but the shortage in the world's tonnage owing to the submarine war induced them to start shipbuilding on a large scale. Many of the "standard ships" which we heard so much about were built in Japan. They were expensive; they will probably not have a long life, and in many ways were faulty; but the fact remains that they served their purpose in replacing the world's tonnage, and compare pretty well with other standard ships turned out under Government supervision. No doubt in the future, when shipbuilders will be asking for orders, instead of as now, shipping companies begging for ships, prices will come down, but by that time the Japanese will probably have acquired considerable experience; and perhaps British shipyards may have a four-hour day, so possibly Japan will have to be reckoned as a permanent competitor in two essentially British industries, namely, that of cotton manufacture and shipbuilding.

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The Mineral Resources of the Near East—III.

Persia, Abyssinia, and India.

By John Kirsopp, M.I.M.E., F.G.S.

Persia.

The mineral wealth appears to be great, but mining, owing to the general absence of good roads, and the lack of enterprise, is but indifferently prosecuted. The minerals of the country belong to the Government, and are leased out to private persons. The Ministry of Mines has no account of production, etc. There are fine coal deposits near Kerman, and in the province of Khorasan, and much iron ore of good quality exists on the slopes of the Elburz range and elsewhere. A wide oil area exists in the lower valleys of the province of Kermanshah, near the Turkish frontier, extending south from Kerkuk in Turkey to Shuster in Persia, and even to the island of Ormuz. The principal oilfields are situated in the province of Kermanshah. Petroliferous fields have been exploited by the Anglo-Persian Oilfields Company. Rich deposits of copper ore are known, and there are mines to the south of Kerman, and also in the Turbat and Gabzawar districts in the province of Khorasan, but they all require better means of communication in order to develop them properly. Salt is obtained (by the process of evaporation in tanks) from the salt water which collects in the oil wells of the province of Kermanshah, and small quantities are exported from Bunder Abbas and from Lingah. The turquoise mines near Nishapur in Khorasan were a decade ago, and less, annually let for £4,800, the concession for which is sold annually by the Government, but the mines are not worked in a scientific way, and although the value of precious stones exported from Khorasan and Seistan was £2,752, in 1912-13 it was only £316.

Afghanistan.

Although this country is known to possess mineral wealth probably to some considerable degree, no mining or exploration work has taken place, as the country is very largely inaccessible by its great distance from the sea, its inhospitable sands, and the bold mountain fastnesses that interlock it. The transit trade is, however, considerable by camels and horses, between Kabul and Peshwar.

Arabia.

The Arab is not a miner by nature, and there is little or no working for minerals on the great Arabian peninsula, probably fully one half of the country still remaining unexplored. Iron, copper, and lead abound, and although little is known as to mineral resources, it is certain many forms of precious stones (emerald, carnelian, etc.) are found. In days gone by, according to Burton, gold mines were worked in the land of Midian, and an attempt at gold mining has, within the last couple of decades, been made in the Hadramait. In 1908-9, 909 metric tons of salt were exported mainly to Zanzibar and India from Muskat, and during 1909-10 875 metric tons. During each of these two years £33,976 value of pearls were also exported. Pearls valued at £1,227 were exported, chiefly to India, during the year 1912-13. The pearl banks along the Persian Gulf extend above 200 miles, give employment to many thousand men, and are reputed to yield an annual product valued at about £300,000.

Abyssinia.

Gold, iron, and lignite have been discovered, and there are various unworked concessions. Traces also of copper have been found in numerous places. Finds of coal have been reported, but these have turned out to be lignite or obsidian. Gold is obtained from the Wallega, Shankalla and Benischongul districts, and is also washed in the Baro River (which is navigable to Gambeila), and exported from Adis Abeba and Harrar. The amount of gold exported annually is valued approximately at £50,000. The gold is seldom exported in dust, but usually in small rings, and sometimes in small ingots. Up to the present no auriferous quartz has been found in sufficient paying quantities. Iron ore is worked in the districts of Entoto Hamasen, Damot, and Agomeder, which is smelted locally and manufactured into knives, swords, spears, agricultural implements, mule bits, cart axles, etc., for the local market. No steel is made. Lignite is found at Tégullet, Bulga, and Debra Libanos, and other places. The Tégullet outcrops were worked by the Government, in a small way, up to 1910, the amount of lignite transported to Adis Abeba for use with the Government traction engines being about 10 tons a month. These works are now, however, practically disused. Salt is found in various parts of the country in sufficient quantities to supply the needs of the native population. Rock salt is abundant in Arusiland. Salt is produced in large quantities from Lake Alel-bad (near the Eritrean frontier), Lake Assal (Danakil country), and the Arussi and Borana districts in the south. In the last named a lake and two wells produce in the one magnesium sulphate, and the other two edible salt.

India.

The total value of minerals produced throughout India in 1912 amounted to £9,264,274. This total may be compared with that for 1909, amounting to £8,243,814, the increase in value being due to a greater production chiefly in coal, clay, corundum, manganese ore, mica, stone (miscellaneous), tin, tin ore, and wolfram. Since the years mentioned, a great increase has taken place in the value of minerals produced.

The resources of India as a coal-producing country are immense, and very large areas rich in mineral fuel have not yet been touched. The total output in 1912 was 14,706,339 statute tons, an increase of nearly two million tons over that of the previous year, and by 1916 the output had risen to 17,254,339 tons. Bihar and Orissa are the great coal-producing area, while other regions are Bengal, the Central Provinces, Rajputana, Hyderabad State, the North-West Frontier, and Baluchistan. In 1912 97.23 per cent. of the coal raised was obtained from the Gondwana system, and 2.77 from beds of tertiary age. The coal raised in Rajputana is lignite or brown coal. Among the most important coalfields are Raniganj, Giridih, and Jharia, in Bihar and Orissa. Very little coal is used for household purposes, the bulk being consumed in railway locomotives, as bunker coal for the steamers, and in steam raising at the mills. The average output per person employed in 1912 was 111 tons.

Petroleum has been obtained from oilwells in Upper Burma for more than 2,000 years, the yield in this province during 1912 being 245,335,209 gals., out of a total production of 249,083,518 gals. for the whole country. The chief producing districts are the Yenangyaung fields in Upper Burma, where rich sands have been struck at greater depths. A greatly increasing supply is also being produced in the Minbu district (Assam), where nearly four million gals. were produced. Various ores of iron, viz., magnetite, hematite, limonite, and clay ironstone occur abundantly, and show a constantly increasing output, due to the operations of the Tata and the Bengal Iron and Steel Companies. The country ranks as one of the world's greatest producers of manganese, the chief deposits being in the Central Provinces and Madras. The ore is of high quality, yielding from 51 to 54 per cent. of metal, and occurs in enormous quantities, no mining being necessary at present, as there are plenty of exposed deposits, many of which are hillocks above the surface of the surrounding country. Most of the manganese raised in India is exported. Gold occurs and is worked in several provinces, viz., Mysore, the Nizam's Dominions, Burma, Punjab, Bombay (Dharwar), Madras, and the United Provinces, the greatest production, however, being obtained from the quartz veins of Koar, Mysore, and the Anantapur fields of Madras. Small quantities of gold are washed from river sands in very many parts of the country, and dredging is carried on at Myitkyina in Burma, where also a small quantity of platinum is obtained. Copper ore is known to exist in several provinces, and is being worked both in Singhbhum and Sikkim, but the industry is still in the prospecting stage. The ruby mines of Mogok, in Burma, yield the whole of the output of rubies, sapphires, and spinel in the country at the present time, which is a satisfactorily increasing one. The Myitkyina district, in Upper Burma, yields jade and a small amount of inferior amber. Garnets are mined in Rajputana. Mica is both quarried and mined to an increasing extent, principally in the provinces of Bihar and Orissa, and Madras, but a small quantity is obtained in Mysore and at Ajmere and Merwara, in Rajputana. A large quantity of the poorer grade mica is used locally for ornamental purposes. A small amount of samarskite was extracted from the mica mines at Nellore in 1912, with a view to its possible employment as a source of radium salts.

Tin ore exists in and is obtained by washing some of the gravels in Burma, and working for tin has now been taken up seriously in the Tavoy district of Burma. Magnesite occurs as veins in the altered olivine rocks in the Salem district of Madras, and near Seringala, in Coorg, Mysore State, but the industry is only a small one. Slate quarrying is carried on at Monghyr, Bengal, and also in the Kangra Valley, and at Rewari, Punjab, and a large quantity of slate of an inferior quality is also obtained in the United Provinces. Large quantities of granite and gneiss (for building and ornamental stone) are being worked in the Thatôn district (Burma). White marble is obtained from the Makrana quarries in Marwar (Jodhpur State), Rajputana.

The sources of the salt supply are (*a*) rock-salt mines and quarries of the Punjab, Kohat, and Mandi State, (*b*) lakes and wells of Rajputana, wells and springs of the Punjab and Upper Burma, (*c*) evaporation of sea water in Bombay, Sind, Madras, and Lower Burma. The production fluctuates with the seasons, the greater part of the production is made from sea water. Saltpetre, or the nitre of India, is obtained from a natural efflorescence from the soil, especially from the province of Bihar. The crude earth is purified by solution, filtration, evaporation, and crystallisation, the area over which saltpetre is manufactured being estimated a couple of decades ago at 232,314 square miles. There is a large export of refined saltpetre from Calcutta. Soda salts, or the carbonate and the sulphate of soda, are also manufactured in very many districts from the surface soil, or from saline efflorescences in like manner to saltpetre.

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Engineering Notes.

Canada and the Near East.

Canadian agricultural engineers are preparing, according to recent reports, to act in co-operation with each other in order to secure European orders for farm implements and threshing machinery. The chief desire is the fixing of a price basis for the export trade; and it has been reported that representatives of the leading farm implement factories have conferred with the Canadian Trade Commission at Ottawa in order to arrange for the extension of export trade in farm machinery, and preliminary plans were proposed by which foreign business could be secured to better advantage by the Canadian industry. It has often been stated that competition for foreign trade has been very keen in the past, not only between Canada and the United States, but also between individual Canadian firms, and that this competition has been detrimental to the interests of Canadian producers. A proposal, therefore, has been made that the agricultural engineers should organise on much the same basis as the various other groups in Canadian industry for the securing of export orders. These are expected to be extensive from those European countries that were importers of Canadian implements and machinery before the war. In place of competition, it is suggested that the manufacturers should unite in maintaining a single selling agency, the expenses of which will be distributed *pro rata* among the various members of the group. The question of credits has also been dealt with by the combine, and among other things the Canadians hope to arrange a plan providing for a fair price being fixed which will make it impossible for the foreign buyers to undersell.

As is known, Canadian engineers, before the war, were doing considerable business in agricultural engines and machinery in Russia, particularly in Southern Russia and the Levant, although they were competing in those regions with the Americans more than with anybody else. The Greek engineering markets have always been of much interest to Canadians. Hence, apparently, their prompt decision to approach officially Greece as soon as the above arrangements between Canadian engineer manufacturers were settled. Thus, it appears, the Canadian Government, according to reports from Athens, approached the Greek Government and proposed to supply Greece with various kinds of agricultural and industrial machinery and implements on credits—such credit to represent a value up to 500 million francs. Moreover, the Canadian Government stated that the supply of such goods could be extended on credit also to private individuals, on condition that a federation of the Greek Banks should be formed and would give the necessary guarantee. These terms were, it is said, particularly acceptable, and the National Bank of Greece has undertaken to invite all the Chambers of Commerce to a meeting on the subject.

Study the Buyers' Needs.

An experience recorded in the West of Scotland Iron and Steel Institutes Journal gives an apt illustration of the value of adapting products to the needs of foreign customers.

In South Africa, the Kaffirs use an implement which is known as a Kaffir pick, which really is a flat spade in the shape of a heart. This is used as an axe, as a pick, and as a spade. A sample of it was brought home to this country, and reproduced here. The writer says that he would have defied any man to detect the difference between the two, but still the English article would not sell. At length, a representative was sent from home, and, going up-country, found that the Kaffir uses the pick for one purpose of which nothing was known. That is, he takes it out of its shaft and uses it as a cattle call, and the representative found his firm had not got the right note. The discovery put them on the right line, and with the reproduction of the correct note they have built up and retained an enormous trade.

Heat by Radiation.

With the present scarcity of fuel, and the not unjustified fears that conditions will be worse during the approaching winter, the question of fuel for heating and other domestic purposes is apparently occupying the attention of the public in many districts of the Near East. Charcoal and wood, the usual fuel for domestic purposes there, is already at a price unheard of before. In the meantime, the question apparently creates a certain amount of argument as to the best and most economic methods for heating houses during the winter. Evidently opinions differ considerably in some cases. Some modern engineers are in favour of the old methods, and are upholding the preference of the gas fires over the modern "European" systems. According to one of them, none of these systems of electric heaters, steam pipes, batteries, or gas fires is so pleasant as the old-fashioned open fire. This criticism is generally dismissed as displaying some ignorance of scientific principles, but it is really based on a sound foundation. Steam pipes and other heating fixtures warm a room by heating the air by conduction. For this purpose their temperature has to be raised to about 150 deg. Fahr., so that the air in their immediate vicinity is at that temperature, and falls to 55 to 60 deg. at the remoter parts. It is an established fact that a room is quite comfortable if kept at a uniform temperature of 55 deg. Fahr. A good fire will maintain the temperature, but, being so localised, it usually fails to warm all parts of a large room. A new system, however, may be of interest to many who prefer heating by radiating. It is a system of warming whereby the action of a fire is imitated.

THE NEW SYSTEM.—The principle is that if pipes carrying steam are embedded in plaster, which is a semi-conductor of heat, they transmit the high temperature heat at the small area of their own surface to the wide surface of the plaster, where it is radiated into surrounding space. Thus, a pipe at 150 deg. Fahr. is made to diffuse a gentle heat of about 55 deg. Fahr. This device may be made up in the form of tubes bent backwards and forwards, and supported on an iron frame embedded in panels, which may be placed at intervals in a room, or may be set back in recesses in the wall. This is called a "hot panel." Another form is the "hot border." In this arrangement, half-inch steel pipes are laid about one inch below the floor, running round close to the walls. Alternately, the pipes may be built into the cornice round the ceiling. The only danger with the latter device is that an unequal contraction of pipes and plaster may take place, causing cracks, but this can be avoided by selecting plaster of about the same coefficient of expansion as the metal.

INDIAN FAMINE FIGURES.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agricuultural Department, dated August 22:—

Our telegram dated August 15. Condition and prospects of standing crops generally satisfactory. Distress is disappearing in the United Provinces and test works in Shahpura State, Rajputana, have been closed. Distress still severe in Hyderabad, where rain insufficient. Diminution of rain necessary in Central Provinces and Central India. Numbers relieved:—Bengal: relief works, 3,830; test works, 302; gratuitous relief, 18,402. Bihar and Orissa: Relief works, 1,071; test works, 3,007; gratuitous relief, 46,982. Feudatory States of Orissa: Test works, 8,737; gratuitous relief, 30,199. United Provinces: Test works, 801; gratuitous relief, 12,980. Ajmer-Merwara: Gratuitous relief, 411. Central India: Relief works, 5,100; gratuitous relief, 7,700. Central Provinces: Relief works, 8,731; test works, 7,636; gratuitous relief, 41,383. Bombay: Relief works, 18,339; dependants, 9,406; village works, 1,621; test works, 429; gratuitous relief, 70,931. Hyderabad: Relief works, 28,000; gratuitous relief, 32,000. Madras: Relief works, 33,853; test works, 817; gratuitous relief (incomplete figures), 89,439.

YUGOSLAV FINANCES.

A Reuter message from Belgrade, dated August 19, states that in order to solve the financial problem a special inquiry will be undertaken and strict measures will be adopted to prevent the importation of Austrian crowns into the country. This measure is connected with the proposal to found a national issuing bank for the whole kingdom, which would have the task of withdrawing from circulation all Austrian crowns.

The traffic returns of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the eleven days ended July 31 amounted to £E10,336, making the total for the year £E66,960. The figures for the corresponding period of 1918 were £E9,683 and £E90,484.

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PERSIA'S TRADE OUTLET.

Openings for British Enterprise.

We give below some interesting extracts from a despatch from the British Legation, Teheran, published in the *Board of Trade Journal* :—

In the earlier stages of the war Persia does not appear to have suffered any great loss. There was, naturally, some dislocation of trade, and the Turkish incursions to Tabriz and Kermanshah inflicted local damage. But the disturbance to trade which occurred was probably fully compensated by the eager demand abroad for opium and foodstuffs, and by the high prices paid for supplies and transport by the foreign forces operating in the country. On the other hand, since 1917 the country has suffered severely. The retiring Russian troops did great damage, and the later occupation of Azerbaijan and the rich plains of Urumia by the Turks caused these districts to be harried and depopulated. Much Russian paper-money, at present almost without value, was accepted in payment for supplies and is still in Persia. There is, however, a brighter side. Persia has not incurred any unusual military expenditure during the war, and has received very liberal assistance from Great Britain in meeting the loss of public revenue resulting from internal disorder, and has obtained very high prices for supplies, transport, and labour required by the British forces operating in the country. The greatest calamity to Persia was the drought and consequent famine throughout the country in the winter of 1917 and spring of 1918, followed by influenza in the autumn of 1918. The population was greatly reduced by hunger and disease, flocks and herds were much reduced in numbers, and from shortage of forage great numbers of beasts of burden were lost. The harvest of 1918 was excellent, and that of 1919 is most promising, and though prices of foodstuffs remain high employment is active, and there is no longer a real distress.

Country without Stocks.

Agriculture and a great number of trades have lost heavily from interruption of trade with Russia. Before the war imports from Russia amounted to krans 350,000,000 (£6,000,000), of which one-third was sugar; and nearly another third was cotton tissues; exports to Russia amounted to krans 300,000,000 (£5,000,000), raw cotton accounting for one-third and grain and dried fruits for another third. A great part of this trade is at present suspended. It will doubtless be resumed in course of time with Russia or with other countries, except perhaps exports of raw cotton, which derived advantage from fiscal arrangements in Russia which may not necessarily be continued in future. Khorassan and other parts of Northern and Central Persia have prospered on cotton grown for export to Russia—50 million lb. per annum—where it was admitted at a duty of 40 kopecks per lb., nearly 2½d. per lb. less than the duty paid on cotton imported to Russia from other countries. The present condition of Persian commerce is that the country is without stocks of foreign commodities necessary to it, or to which it will revert as soon as they are obtainable, and that despite losses from internal disorders and famine, it is quite able to pay for these imports. Moreover, the country has been traversed by foreign forces which have improved roads and shown to the people the advantages of mechanical appliances. There are indications that an increased demand will arise for tools, implements, machinery, and engineering works. Finally, Russia, the largest customer of Persia, is at present disorganised, and the former trade with that country is seeking new outlets. Home manufactures have been substituted to some extent for textile and other commodities which Persia has been accustomed to import, but has not since been able to obtain in sufficient quantities. Many commodities, such as sugar, tea, metals and their manufactures, drugs, mercery and ironmongery, Persia has not been able to produce, and must obtain from outside.

Communications.

Nearly the whole foreign trade of Persia at present passes through the Persian Gulf. It cannot, however, be expected that the whole of this trade will remain with the Gulf routes after other routes have reopened, for the northern provinces, which are now the most cultivated and populous regions of Persia, are more accessible by present methods of transport from the Black Sea than from the Persian Gulf. In 1913 the cost of transport from Mohammerah to Ispahan was about £22 per ton, and from Enzeli to Teheran about £20 per ton. The best access to these northern markets in normal times is from Batoum by rail to Tiflis and Tabriz, or by rail and steamer to Astara, Enzeli, and other Caspian ports. Foreign goods have not hitherto been allowed transit to Persia through Batoum, and if in the future reasonable terms of transit should be accorded it must be remembered that few Persian traders are at present acquainted with forwarding agents or transport charges on this route. Other European countries will be in as good a position as Great Britain for trading with Persia by the Black Sea route.

The South may be able to retain much of the trade which has been diverted to it, for we have improved our means of access to the commercial centres of Persia. Indian commerce now has railway facilities via Nushki right up to the Seistan border. The roads from Bandar Abbas to Kerman, and from Bushire to Shiraz, have been made practicable for wheeled traffic. The port of Busreh has been improved, and ample rail and river communications with Baghdad, and on to the Persian frontier, will be available. A metal road has been constructed from the frontier to Kermanshah.

The traffic on all routes from the Persian Gulf to the interior has been interrupted for longer or shorter periods, but the Mohammerah-Ahwaz-Ispahan route has suffered least from interruption. At the date of this report all these routes are open to traffic, but safety of merchandise on these southern routes is not well assured, especially in Ispahan and the Central Provinces, where open brigandage is still rife, and the Baghdad-Kermanshah route is much preferred, although transit charges in Mesopotamia are very high. The present charge of transport from Ahwaz to Ispahan is the equivalent of £145 per ton, and from Ispahan to Teheran £66 per ton. In 1913-14 the cost was £20 per ton from Ahwaz to Ispahan, and £13 per ton from Ispahan to Teheran.

Foreign Trade and the Exchange.

The latest statistics available on the trade of Persia are those of the Persian Customs Administration for the year ending March 20, 1918, which indicate a decrease in foreign trade compared with the previous year.

The following table shows the value in krans (and the equivalent in sterling at the ruling rate of exchange in each year), of the total imports and exports :—

Year ending March 20.	Krans.	Rate per £	£ Sterling.
1914	1,103,000,000	54	20,000,000
1915	895,000,000	54	16,000,000
1916	841,000,000	54	15,000,000
1917	928,000,000	40	23,000,000
1918	806,000,000	30	27,000,000

The increase in sterling equivalents is due to the great fall in the kran rate of exchange on London, resulting mainly from the great rise in the gold value of silver. During the year to March 20, 1919, the average rate of exchange was krans 27 per £ sterling, and since the beginning of the present financial year it has been krans 26 per £ (telegraphic transfers on London).

A great reduction in quantity of commodities imported is shown when one compares the figures for the years ending March, 1914, and March, 1918.

	1914. cwt.		1918. cwt.
Sugar	2,500,000	..	960,000
Cotton tissues	420,000	..	235,000
Woollen tissues	8,700	..	2,200
Tea	90,000	..	30,000

In 1918 the value in krans, at the port of entry, of sugar had increased by 100 per cent., cotton tissues by 10 per cent., and woollen tissues by 30 per cent. In 1914 340,000 tons of foreign goods were imported of a value of krans 630,000,000 (£11,700,000) and in the latter year only 250,000 tons valued at krans 470,000,000 (£14,500,000). The value in krans at port of entry of most imports has increased in spite of the favourable exchanges. The further great increase in inland charges has raised the actual price paid by the consumer to three or four times pre-war prices.

Similarly the quantity of commodities exported has greatly diminished during the last two years of the war. Exports of raw cotton, silk, wool, carpets, rice and other grain, dried fruits and nuts have been reduced to a third or fourth of former quantities. Exports of opium have been maintained, and exports of petroleum, a new industry not yet fully developed, have greatly increased during the last few years. The kran prices of most of these articles have fallen, with the exception of opium and foodstuffs, which have risen. The severe drought and famine in 1917 accounted for a decrease in exports of foodstuffs. A comparison of the exports, excluding petroleum, in the years ending March, 1914 and 1918, shows that in the former year 240,000 tons of Persian products exported were valued at krans 410,000,000 (£7,600,000) and in the latter year only 105,000 tons valued at krans 195,000,000 (£6,500,000). Evidently the increased war prices obtained abroad have counterbalanced the fall in exchange.

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Near East Markets.

Egyptian Crops.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in July:—

Cotton.

The crop has improved since last month in Lower Egypt. In Middle and Upper Egypt it is almost normal. The weather improved during the second week of the month, when an appreciable rise of temperature took place. A general shortage of water, especially at the tails of canals, has been felt in a varying degree in practically all provinces during the period under review. There is a diminution in the attack of "wilt" and the damage done under this head is not appreciable. The cotton worm attack has increased in most parts of Lower Egypt but has done very slight damage with the exception of the province of Behera, where the number of attacked leaves per feddân towards the middle of the month was three times as large as that of last year, and damage has been done in isolated areas where fields have been neglected. The examination of green bolls shows a steady improvement in the pink boll worm attack, which is now less severe than during the corresponding period in any of the last three years.

Millet (Sefi).

The weather has been generally favourable, although the heat is reported to have caused some shrivelling of the leaves and damage to the plants in Minya. Water has been sufficient on the whole, although somewhat scarce at the tails of canals. Slight attacks of stalk borer are fairly common, but have caused no damage. The crop is doing well, and its prospects are generally satisfactory. Harvesting of the early sown fields will begin in the first week of August. The area under this crop in Asyût is considerably less than last year.

Sugar-Cane.

Weather favourable; water supply on the whole sufficient. The stalk borer attack is not serious. The plants are healthy and the crop is doing well.

Rice (Sefi).

The favourable weather prevailing has accelerated the growth of the plants. Water supply is reported to be sufficient in the rice zones of Behera and Sharqiya, barely sufficient in Gharbia, and short, though not to a serious extent in Daqâhlîya. No damage of importance has resulted from the rice worm attack and the crop is on the whole doing well at present. Preparations for the sowing of *Nili* rice on limited areas have commenced in Behera and Gharbia. In Fayoum the sowing of this crop has been proceeding since July 10.

Ground-Nuts.

Weather favourable; water supply sufficient. The flowering is general, and the crop is in good condition.

Maize.

A fairly large part of the land assigned for this crop was watered before the removal of the prohibition of *sharâqi* irrigation. Watering and ploughing of land for sowing are in active progress. But it is not expected that the crop on the whole will be an early one. One of the reasons was the reduced number of working cattle. The plants on the early sown fields are quite healthy. The system of cultivation on ridges appears to be gaining ground.

Buareh Notes.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

The date crop is coming on well and promises to be a fair average one this year, but with labour at its present price and freights as they are now it is hardly likely that the public will be able to purchase them very cheaply. However, provided the control restrictions are largely removed, there should be plenty available when this year's crop gets on the market.

London Produce Report.

Currants.

Except that the shortage of supplies is becoming more evident, there is no change to record in the position. Imports of currants during July amounted to 19,695 tons, making the total for the first seven months of the year 69,423 tons.

Sultanas.

The prospects as regards this commodity tend rather to grow worse, and even if fair supplies were available from the usual centres, which will certainly not be the case as regards Turkey, it is scarcely likely that any considerable quantity will reach the United Kingdom, in view of the great competition that is to be expected, particularly from Central Europe.

Coffee.

A hardening tendency is noticeable due to the influence of the export trade, and prices will, in all probability, advance in the near future. 7,643 bags were offered at auction this week, including 541 bags of East Indian, which brought 153s. 6d. to 155s. for export, and 1,587 bags of Costa Rica, which realised 148s. 6d. to 162s. for good to fine bold, and 150s. for medium. The futures market is little changed.

Sugar.

There has been a steady demand from home manufacturers and for export, and prices remain firm with a hardening tendency. During July imports amounted to 4,719,000 cwt., leaving a substantial balance over the demand, and stocks in hand in London at the end of the month amounted to 7,910,000 cwt. A considerable demand has been noted for the new Java crop, and prices are 3s. to 4s. in advance of those that have been paid for the old crop. Sugar feed for cattle has made £14 10s. per ton, and good cane molasses has realised £11 15s.

Seeds.

Imports of oilseeds in July, included 22,270 tons of cotton seed, 28,736 tons of linseed, and 9,429 tons of rape seed. Prices are nominally unchanged. The quotation for Calcutta to London is £53 for August-September, Bombay £54 10s. The cotton seed market is firmer, and the new Egyptian crop, which will be harvested next month, is quoted for October shipment at £29. Sesame is scarce, though arrivals are taking place at Marseilles.

Oil Cakes, etc.

A fair demand is shown for coconut cake at 420s., and for ground nut cake at 420s. to 460s. Egyptian cotton seed oil has been done at 110s., and Indian at 105s., while buyers have been in evidence for other varieties.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended August 9 were £6.047.

Sudan Produce.

Gum.

The C.E.B. report for June states that the exports of gum during the month were 1,263,911 kilos of hasheb of the value of £E36,235; 20,559 kilos of bleached of the value of £E708; and 144,780 kilos of talh, of the value of £E2,960 via Port Sudan, and 42,669 kilos of hasheb of the value of £E1,213, 10,071 kilos of bleached of the value of £E347, and 18,541 kilos of talh of the value of £E363, via Halfa. The total exports from January to June amounted to 5,503,001 kilos of the value of £E163,954, of which the exports to Great Britain were valued at £E96,369.

Kordofan Province.—The amount of gum sold in El Obeid market during June was 1,935 kantars, as against 18,105 kantars during the same month last year, the average price being £E1,202 m.ms. per kantar of 100 rottles. Arrivals from Nahud were 2,143 kantars, as against 3,202 kantars last year. At Rahad 41 kantars were sold at prices ranking from £E1.100 m.ms. to £E0.950 m.ms. per kantar, as against 46 kantars during the same month last year.

Cotton.

Red Sea Province, Toker.—The total cotton crop amounted only to 9,653 kantars of 315 rottles. The average price for the year was £E7,875 m.ms. per kantar of 315 rottles, and the whole crop was worth about £E75,812. The quality of the cotton was good, and fully justified the price obtained.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

Mr. Arthur Nias, Director-General of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Constantinople, has tendered his resignation for reasons of health, and will retire from this post on November 30. He will be succeeded by Mr. L. Steeg, who has been Director-General Adjoint since 1913. Lieut.-Colonel J. Proctor, who has been connected in various capacities with the bank in London and Manchester since 1910, will replace Mr. Steeg as Director-General Adjoint. During the war Colonel Procter served with the King's Royal Rifles in France, and commanded a battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry in Mesopotamia. He attained the rank of Brevet Lieut-Colonel, and was mentioned in despatches for services in the field.

The returns of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended August 14 were:—Cattle markets, £349; general markets, £482; total for week, £831; total for year, £36,609. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918 ended August 15 were:—Cattle markets, £393; general markets, £433; total, £826; total for year, £32,428.

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BULGARIA.

AREA (1919), 72,192 square miles. The cultivated area in 1912 amounted to 4,077,260 hectares, of which 2,564,588 were under cereals, 129,637, pot-herbs, vegetables, etc., 572,743 pasture, 61,564 vineyards, 7,907 rose-trees. Forests, 2,834,493 hectares.

POPULATION (1915): 4,965,600.

CHIEF PRODUCTS: Cereals (1912), 2,672,038 tons; tobacco (1916), 12,325 tons; otto of roses, 5610 lb.

REVENUE (1918): 481,100,000 levas.

EXPENDITURE (1918): 479,414,011 levas.

IMPORTS (1914), 241,490,000 levas; Austria-Hungary, 63,265,000 levas; Germany, 53,841,000 levas; United Kingdom, 34,475,000 levas; France, 19,526,000 levas; Italy, 15,299,000 levas.

EXPORTS (1914), 154,424,990 levas: Belgium, 36,176,000 levas; Germany, 20,160,000 levas; United Kingdom, 18,917,000 levas; Greece, 15,599,000 levas; France, 12,346,000 levas; Turkey, 11,196,000 levas; Austria-Hungary, 10,779,000 levas.

MINERALS: Copper, Lead, Zinc, Coal.

COINAGE: The unit is the Leva, equivalent normally to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 105 Leva to £1.

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PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT: The Bank owns three great daily independent journals: *Outro, Dnevnik and Zarea*, and also publishes the newspapers *Bulgaria*, and *Rabotnitcheski Westnik*. It purchases and sells all kinds of paper, possesses large stocks of news and other paper, and acts as agent for paper manufacturers.

PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT: The Department receives advertisements, notices and insertions for *Outro, Dnevnik, Zarea* and *Bulgaria*, as well as for other newspapers of the country. Telegraphic Address: "WESTBANK, SOFIA."

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., was held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on August 21, Mr. Montague Sharpe presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. T. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said that he very much regretted that Sir William C. Garstin, their chairman, was not present to take the chair. He had had a great deal to do, and he was overworked, and it was the desire of his colleagues that he should go away and take a good rest. This he had done, and he was sure they would all hope he would come back with renewed health and vigour. The chairman then proceeded to read Sir William Garstin's speech, which ran as follows:—

"Gentlemen, with your permission I will take as read the directors' report for the year ending March 31 last and the accounts circulated therewith. When I last addressed you I spoke hopefully regarding the outlook in Egypt and the prospects of our undertaking in that country. When hostilities were suspended we felt warranted in the belief that we should be able to report to you exceptionally good results of the year's working. This belief was maintained throughout the winter, in spite of rumours of unrest and agitation. It was not until March 10 that the blow fell which shattered our optimism and brought home to us the conviction that a grave situation was arising. On the date in question the first disturbances occurred in Cairo. On March 17 the company's train service was entirely suspended. For some days the wreckage of the company's property continued. It is a satisfaction to know that, as a whole, our native staff behaved loyally—some, indeed, of them behaved splendidly. From our European staff we, of course, expected nothing else, but they one and all kept their heads, and worked in our interests with a courage and coolness that were beyond all praise.

"At one time great anxiety was felt regarding the situation at Mit Ghamr, where our main railway workshops are situated. As a matter of fact, a very determined attack was made upon these shops; an attack which lasted several days. Thanks to the courage and resourcefulness of Mr. McKay, our chief locomotive superintendent, who organised measures for their defence by his staff, the attack failed. He was aided in his efforts by the Egyptian Mamur el Markaz, who formed a vigilance committee of the more respectable inhabitants of the town, but it was mainly due to Mr. McKay's efforts that we suffered no serious damage in this most important centre of our work.

"I have already mentioned that traffic on our lines was entirely suspended from March 17. This suspension was maintained until May 5, when a restricted service was resumed, under the orders of the military authorities. The service was gradually increased, and practically full services were running from the following dates:—Behera district, May 11; Gharbieh district, May 28; Eastern district, May 20. It was not, however, until June 4 that the complete timetable was resumed.

"We have not as yet received the detailed figures of our total losses, but they are approximately as follows:—Loss of earnings from the commencement of riots, £46,000; estimated damage to our property, £47,200, making a total of £93,200. The Egyptian Government has been officially notified that the company is claiming compensation for damage to its property and for loss of receipts owing to the stoppage of the service.

The Dividend.

"We are able to recommend the payment of the full dividend on our Preference shares, namely, 5½ p.c.—this after increasing our general reserve to £40,000. We can then add £3,774 to the balance to be carried forward to the current year's accounts. The directors' report which accompanies the accounts will have shown you that our expenses last year were some £23,863 higher than in the year preceding. It also shows that we carried nearly a million fewer passengers, and that we lifted nearly 50,000 tons less in the shape of goods. These decreases were entirely due to the war, and, in spite of them, our earnings for the year under discussion increased by some £73,523, and our net earnings by £49,660. Rates and fares on all railways in Egypt were raised generally with a view to enabling them to meet the increased expenditure due to the war. You will remember that, under our present modified conditions of working, we are bound to take to account an average of 64 per cent. of our gross receipts for the upkeep and improvement of our property. In the year under review we only expended 55.33 per cent. of our gross receipts upon the above items. We have consequently passed to the credit of our general reserve sufficient to provide for our liability for last year on this account. In this connection I will repeat what I told you last year, namely, that we fully realise that we shall have ere long to face renewal and repair work of some magnitude, which has necessarily been deferred during the war. We shall undertake this work as soon as circumstances permit of our doing so, but there is no doubt that, at all events for some years to come, we shall have to pay high prices both for labour and materials.

Labour Unrest.

"I now come to a matter which has caused the board much thought and a considerable amount of anxiety. I refer to the unrest in the labour world. Egypt has not escaped from its influence, notwithstanding the prosperous conditions generally existing in that country. The labourer in Egypt is aware that his fellow-workers in other lands are clamouring for shorter hours of labour and for increased rates of pay. The prices of food and of necessities have risen during the war by over 100 per cent., and the purchasing power of money has correspondingly decreased. It is small wonder, then, that the workman in Egypt thinks that he is entitled to an improvement in his position. I fear that there is little doubt that the propaganda of the Socialists or Bolsheviks, that have been so extensively circulated throughout Europe, have reached the East and have had some effect there. I have already told you that the board granted an extra war bonus to the staff in the summer of last year. This had a good effect for a time, but during the winter months a certain amount of fresh agitation was reported to us by our general manager. Thanks to the tact and firmness of our general manager, Mr. Smith, to whom great praise is due for the manner in which he handled the situation, no actual strike has as yet taken place among our workmen. A long list of demands for what they assert to be a redress of their grievances has been forwarded by the workmen's committee and submitted to the board for consideration by Mr. Smith. He and his traffic superintendents have studied these claims and given their opinion on each one in detail. The board has very carefully considered them, and has come to the conclusion that the greater portion of these demands are far from unreasonable—considering the existing situation—and that they should be granted. Those which would in any way tend to lower the standard of our discipline must, of course, be rejected. The granting of these demands must necessarily mean a considerable increase in our annual expenditure; but most of them it would be very unwise to refuse.

"I have now to mention a matter affecting this board. The directors are one and all anxious to secure the services of Mr. F. G. Bonham Carter, who, as a member in Egypt of the combined firm of Price, Waterhouse and Peat, has rendered to this company very valuable assistance, and has become intimately acquainted with our circumstances. He left Egypt to join the Army, and has decided not to return to that country. We feel that he will greatly strengthen our board by joining it. To provide for this addition to our numbers it will be necessary to increase the sum allotted for directors' fees—namely, £2,000—by £250. I hope you will then agree to this increase."

The report and dividend were unanimously approved.

The chairman then moved that Mr. F. G. Bonham-Carter, who was recommended by the board for election, should be elected a director. This was seconded by Mr. Walter Home, C.I.E., and carried unanimously.

On the motion of the chairman, seconded by the Hon. W. B. L. Barrington, the remuneration of the board was increased from £2,000 per annum to £2,250 per annum.

The directors retiring by rotation, Mr. Montague Sharpe and the Hon. W. B. L. Barrington, were re-elected; and Messrs. Meredith and Company were re-appointed auditors. A hearty vote of thanks to the board and the staff, moved by Mr. J. W. Cooper, and seconded by Mr. John Stone, and carried unanimously, brought the meeting to a conclusion.

Lord Rathmore, whose death has just taken place, was president of the Council of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin, and for some years, was a director of the Suez Canal Company.

At the request of the Government of India, Sir Hubert Llewellyn Smith, Permanent Secretary to the Board of Trade, is about to proceed to India with a view to reporting on the existing organisation for dealing with trade and the measures necessary to be taken to extend and improve it.

Professor Patrick Geddes, the authority on town-planning, has been engaged by the International Zionist Commission to co-operate with Dr. Weizmann, head of the British Zionist Commission, in planning the New Jerusalem and its proposed university. He is leaving immediately for Palestine and will prepare a report on Zionist colonies in Palestine—in Haifa, Jaffa, etc. Professor Geddes will also, during the cold season, carry out the Indian town-planning work on which he was previously employed.

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TURKEY.

The following are extracts from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

DAMAS, August 9.

Wool continues to arrive from the interior and to be sold at the rate of £E8½ the kilo. There have been no exports of this commodity during the month. It is more and more evident that the shearings of this region are short by 50 per cent. of the production of a normal year before the war.

About 50,000 salted guts have been exported, chiefly for America, and a small part for Marseilles.

The stocks of cotton goods and woollen stuffs are much increased, and are in excess of local requirements. Prices are correspondingly affected, and tend to fall. Prices here are 5 per cent. lower than in Europe, and from 10 to 15 per cent. lower than in Egypt, taking into account the expense of freight and customs dues.

OURFA, August 8.

The harvesting of wheat and barley has been continued during July, and the estimates of the yield are so far confirmed. Agricultural labour is not only very expensive, but also insufficient, and certain villages in this region have not yet been able to get on with the hay harvest. The maize harvest, which falls due within two months, promises to be good; it would have been excellent but for the hot spell which prevailed here during the past month.

The commercial position in July was satisfactory. As regards imports, there have been several arrivals from Aleppo of cotton goods and English manufactures; these goods are beginning to accumulate because of the fall in prices and of the sale at low prices which takes place normally at this time of the year. Colonial produce, and specially sugar, has been also imported on a large scale.

With respect to exports, the embargo on butter having been raised, that article has been the subject of important transactions. The export of wool in large quantities continues to Beyrout and Alexandretta. Other commodities of this district (gall-nuts, skins, gum tragacanth, cattle, etc.) despatched to Aleppo and Aintab, have been readily disposed of at good profits. One might mention specially the despatch of thirty packages of old carpets of all kinds.

Revenues are increasing, thanks to the tithes on cereals, which are beginning to flow in again without difficulty. The provincial exchequer is satisfactorily situated, and the payment of State employees is not subjected to delays.

The cost of living is continually rising. Certain articles of import have increased in price by 100 per cent. since May, while the increase in general is at least from 25 to 30 per cent. on the prices obtaining in June.

FRENCH COMMERCIAL MISSION TO SYRIA.

The mission sent to Syria by the Chamber of Commerce of Marseilles and Lyons has returned after visiting Cilicia, Syria, and Palestine. Information gathered by the mission, says a Reuter message, tends to show that from an economic standpoint the conception of Syria without a hinterland is indefensible, as a littoral without an interior is certain to be reduced to a state of impotency. The mission holds the belief that by the application of modern methods Syria can be made nearly as fertile as Egypt. The reported mineral deposits of petroleum, coal, etc., seem, however, to be a complete illusion.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

ROUMANIA.—S. N. Iancovici, Bucharest, Str. Academiei 6, desires to obtain English agencies. English correspondence. First-class references.

ENGLISHMAN (40), with wide commercial and general experience, knowledge of local industries, in PERSIA, INDIA, MESOPOTAMIA, owing to health desires change employment, similar capacity, or Travelling Representative, Persia preferable.—Box E. G., THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

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LONDON.

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(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

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MORUMS ORIENTAL STORES, LTD.

At the present time when the great scope for British trade enterprise in the Near East is gradually being realised in this country, and projects are being set on foot throughout the regions bounded by Tangier and Teheran, it is interesting to place on record some brief account of an illuminating instance of British initiative and energy in that region—the more notable since it took place during the war when conditions were as unfavourable as they well could be for commercial developments. The reference is to the establishment of Morums Oriental Stores, or, more correctly speaking, the re-establishment of the business formerly known as Steins Oriental Stores, Ltd., by Mr. W. E. Morum, of Messrs. Morum Bros., Aldermanbury, and Mr. Frank Young, of Messrs. Young and Rochester, Ltd., Love Lane, London. Mr. J. H. Perkiman, who spent his life in Egypt, and came to this country in 1912, was helpful to no small extent in the purchase of the business by Messrs. Morum and Young, and his inclusion on the board of directors of the company will undoubtedly prove beneficial.

On the outbreak of the war the Egyptian Government took over enemy controlled businesses, and while the decision was arrived at to liquidate enemy concerns Steins was too large an organisation to be so dealt with, for its termination would have entailed the unemployment of large numbers of men and women, and would also have had no slight effect on the system for distributing wearing apparel and other necessary commodities in Egypt. For nearly two years Steins was kept open under a Controller appointed by the British military authorities in Egypt; and then it was decided to sell it to British or Allied capitalists, and thus it came into the hands of Messrs. Morum and Young.

The enterprise to which Messrs. Morum and Young thus committed themselves in taking over six large stores which had in the past been supplied with goods mainly from Austria and Germany was in the circumstances no light undertaking. The end of the war was not in sight; it was impossible to arrive at any certain estimate of post-war trade conditions in the Near East, and, above all, there was the immediate and most pressing question of meeting the requirements of customers at a time when the problem of obtaining supplies was growing more and more difficult.

This extremely uncertain outlook in no way dismayed Messrs. Morum and Young; they tackled the problem energetically, and in the result achieved the full measure of success which their enterprise so richly deserved. Steins, which from a most romantic beginning—its founder is said to have begun business by purchasing pins or braces or some such trifles—had become a large and flourishing business, was replaced by Morums, which in turn has grown out of all resemblance to its predecessor, its development in war time having been little less than miraculous. The Egyptian side of the business has been extended until Morums Oriental Stores have come to occupy a position in that country which many similar establishments in this country would regard with envy. Outside Egypt, Palestine and Syria present a field of special promise, and here Morums Oriental Stores are now firmly established, and are laying the foundations for great future developments. How it came that branches were opened at Jaffa and Jerusalem deserves to be mentioned. Profiteering in those centres had reached an alarming pitch, and Morums, who had been requested to advance into Palestine and Syria as the troops did, opened stores there, and were successful in putting an end to the profiteering. Naturally, as a result the stores stand high in the favour of the local inhabitants, and the future of the undertaking in those parts is assured. This expansion means the increase in the opening for British goods in the Near East, because Morums Oriental Stores, Ltd., draw their supplies from this country, and already have brought over one million pounds' worth of business to these shores. They are, in short, pioneers of British trade enterprise in their particular sphere, and their progress will mean a corresponding increase in British commerce. It will be remembered that the business was formed into a public company in June this year, with a capital of £500,000, consisting of 200,000 ordinary shares and 300,000 preference shares.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news, received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated August 20:—

Nearly general rain throughout, but more required parts of Assam. Monsoon likely to remain normal during the week. General progress and distribution very satisfactory, but somewhat insufficient Hyderabad and Deccan. Fine weather needed Central India and north of Central Provinces. Floods have done some damage in Burma and to maize in Bihar.

Bombay Cotton Market irregular. Fully good broach quoted Rs.492 August and Rs.524 April-May. New crop transactions commenced August 16. Piece-goods Market steady. Calcutta Jute Market very steady. Hessians slack. Sackings dull; little doing.

Golakgunge Kumargram Alipur Duars Railway survey by Eastern Bengal State Railway, sixty-two miles sanctioned.

THE ATHENS EXHIBITION.

King Alexander of Greece has graciously consented to open the Exhibition of British Manufactures organised by the Federation of British Industries in Athens. The exact date that will fit in with his Majesty's engagements is not yet known, but it is expected that it will be Sunday, October 19. This will be the public "gala" opening, but the exhibits will be arranged and the exhibition open to trade visitors on the date already fixed—October 13 (October 1 O.S.).

Apart from business the exhibition promises to be the great social event of the Athens season. Nothing approaching the exhibition in importance and size has ever been held in Greece, and its novelty, together with the high patronage it is receiving, will make it the daily meeting place of Greek society. This will have its due effect on the business side of the exhibition and will add greatly to the opportunities of exhibitors for making acquaintances and friendships valuable in the future.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market has continued rather firmer but business has been slow in developing, and sellers in most quarters have not met with very much encouragement, there being a tendency in certain sections for engagements to run down. A good deal of uncertainty exists as to the future course of events both as regards prices and financial matters in this country. Egyptian cotton futures in Liverpool have hardened since a week ago chiefly in sympathy with the upward movement in American qualities. There is not any new feature as to the prospects for the crop in Egypt. In yarns made from Egyptian cotton demand continues very quiet. During the last few weeks spinners have met with a very poor turnover and order lists are distinctly lighter than a month ago. There is still plenty of work to go on with however for producers in this department. A fair amount of inquiry has come through in cloth for Egypt and the Near East and small sales in the aggregate total to moderate dimensions, but there has not been any heavy buying. Satisfactory advices are being received as to clearances in the outlets of the Levant. There have been attempts at transactions in cloth for India, but the results have not been very encouraging, most of the offers being impracticable. Some fair lines have been put through for China in grey shirtings and fancies. Business has also been done in standard makes for Java and Singapore. Rather irregular operations have transpired in home trade fabrics. Some manufacturers have been rather more inclined to meet buyers in price. American yarns have been in slightly improved demand, but sales of importance have been isolated. Producers of wefts continue to lose ground there now being plentiful supplies of 42's. Not much has been done in shipping descriptions. Spinners hold big contracts for the Levant.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to June 30, 1919 (new style, January 14 to July 13, 1919):—

—		Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper and Naxos emery.	Piraeus Customs.
Gross receipts Jnne, 1919		Drachmæ. 3,974,152	Drachmæ. 5,093,872
Do. do. 1918		2,632,293	2,160,000
Estimated receipts for 6 months (Law of Control		14,450,000	5,350,000
Actual do. do. 1919		22,767,019	23,053,257
" " 1918		17,945,350	14,244,000
Difference between estimated & actual receipts for 6 months	1919	+ 8,317,019	+ 17,703,257
	1918	+ 3,495,350	+ 8,894,000

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

The removal of restrictions against selling from abroad—except in the case of enemy-owned stock—has caused a good deal of irregularity in our market this week, and some weakness. As a result Egyptian Unifieds and 3½ per Cent. Preference stocks are both 1½ down at 81½ and 69 respectively.

In Bank shares Egypt has given some support, and a very fair business has been done in Nationals, which have remained firm; but Agriculturals are 3-16 down at 5 15-16.

Among Railways Delta Lights are about unchanged at 6 7-8 xd.

In Land shares Foreign Trusts are 6d. down at 14s. owing to small selling from Egypt. Gharbieh Lands have dropped ¼ to 2¼, and New Egyptians are 6d. lower at 22s. Sudan Plantations finish ¼ up at 8¼ after having been considerably higher. Sidi Salems are 1-16 lower at 2 3-8, and Union Foncières are fractionally lower at 3 5-8.

In the miscellaneous group Alexandria Waters are 1-16 off at 11 7-8. Salts and Sodas show a similar decline at 3 after being lower. Khedivial Mails are ¼ down at 5 5-8, but buyers are very scarce.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptians B, after being up to 5 5-8, finish 3-16 lower at 5 9-32. Both Roumanian Consols and Traians close about 9d. down round 20s. and 11s. 3d.

In Greek securities the 1881 and 1884 loans are both 2 points lower at 71. Monopolies have dropped a point at 56½, and "Currant Bonds" are rather inclined to be offered in the neighbourhood of 92 xd.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

A general meeting of Ciments d'Egypte will be held at Brussels on September 1.

The directors of the Jetinga Valley Tea Company recommend a final dividend of 7½ per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, together with a bonus of 2½ per cent., both free of income-tax, on the ordinary shares for the year ended December 31 last.

Madras Railway Annuities.—Registration books will be closed from September 3 to September 30, inclusive.

National Bank of Egypt.—An interim dividend of 8s. per share is payable on September 4.

The British India trade returns for July show that the imports have decreased by £1,732,000 and that the exports have increased by £5,027,000 as compared with last year.

The final general memorandum on the wheat crop of India shows a decrease of 33 per cent. in the area cultivated, and a 24 per cent. decrease in the yield as compared with last year.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON AUGUST 15.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	21 5/16
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	101
" " Div.	Frs.	141
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12 3/4
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E	14½
" priv.	L.E.	4 7/32
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	142½
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	3/8
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3⅜
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6¼
Bonded Stores	L.E.	15 7/16
Unifiée	L.E.	83⅜
Privilégiée		70½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7
Nungovich Hotels	£	7 1/16
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6 3/16
" " Fond.	£	450
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4 7/16
" " Ord		110/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	21½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5¼
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7 3/16
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	109
" Jouissance	Frs.	171
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		32/7½
Egyptian Markets		24/9
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	425
" Div.	Frs.	360
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	329
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 13/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda		57/6
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	720
" Fondateur	Frs.	990
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	417
" 1903 "	Frs.	303
" 1911 "	Frs.	286
United Lands	P.T.	4½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		25/32

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Aug. 20	Price Aug. 27
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	—	—
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	82	82
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	83	81½
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	70½	69
Greek 5%, 1881	73	71
Do. 5%, 1884	73	71
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	57½	56½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	54	54
Do. 5% 1890	71	71
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	65	65
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	66	66
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	64	64
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	82	82
Do. 5% Currant	92xd	92xd
Montenegro 5% Loan	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	82½	82½
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	—	—
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	6⅛	5 15/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17½	17½
Bank of Abyssinia	32/-	32/-
Bank of Athens	72/6	72/6
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¼
British Trade Corporation	11	10¾
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	—
Imperial Bank of Persia	9 1/16	10½
Ionian Bank, Limited	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	7	7
London County and Westminster	16½	16½
National Bank of Egypt	21⅛	21⅛
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	7¼	6 7/8xd
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	—	—
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	—	—
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	68½	68½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	56	56
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	25/-	25/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4¼	4¼
Béhéra Co.	14	14
Do. Pref.	4⅝	4⅝
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	2/9	2/9
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	14/6	14/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	14/6	14/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅜	2¼
New Egyptian Co.	22/6	22/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2 7/16	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	8	8¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	73/-	72/6
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	11 15/16	11⅞
Egyptian Markets Ord.	23/6	23/6
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	3 1/16	3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅝	5⅝
Do. Do. Prefs.	4⅜	4⅜
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	99	99
Chinese 4½% 1898	81	81
Do. 5% 1896	91	91
Argentine 5% 1890	—	—
Do. 5% 1907	87¼	87¼
OIL.		
Anglo-Egyptian B	5 15/32	5 9/32
Anglo-Persian	27/3	27/3
Anglo-Roumanian	12/3	12/3
Roumanian	20/9	20/-
Traian (Roumanian)	12/-	11/3

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Aug. 20	Aug. 27
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	61¾	61⅞
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	59	66½
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
	Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Go. Debs. 1959	—	—
	Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	72	72
	Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938	—	—
BANKS.			
	Chartered of India	77	80
	Eastern	8¾	8¾
	Mercantile of India A.	—	34
	National of India	52	53
MINES.			
	Balaghat Gold Mining	6/3	6/3
	Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	—	—
	Burma Corp.	8⅝	9⅛
	Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	8/10½	10/6
	Champion Reef Gold	4/6	4/3
	Mysore Gold Mining	2¼	2¼
	Nundydroog	17/1½	16/3
	Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	16/-	16/6
	Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	—	—
	Do. do. do.	—	—
OIL.			
	Assam Oil	1 1/16	1 1/16x
	Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	—	—
	Brit. Burmah	2⅜	2⅜
	Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	14 7/16	13 15/16
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	—	—
	Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.	—	—

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES

Continued—

RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	—	53⅜
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	134½	133¾
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	60¼	60¼
Bengal-Nagpur	—	116⅝
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	105⅜	104½
Burma Railways	110¼	110½
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	—	—
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	—	—
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	12⅝	13
Madras and S. Mahratta	—	102¾
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	—	—
Nizam's Guaranteed State	—	71½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	10	9 31/32
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	—	—
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	—	—
Do. Deferred	555	560
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	70½xd	68½
Bengal United Tea Ord.	18⅛	18
British Indian Tea Ord.	8¼x	8⅜
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17½	16 7/8x
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	10/6	10/6
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	6¼	6¼
Consolidated Estates	5⅛	5⅛
Darjeeling Co.	17/-	18/-
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	55/-	56/-
Dooars Tea Ord.	68/-	68/6
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	—	17/-
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	54/-	54/-
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	27/9	28/3
Hewagam Rubber Co.	—	—
Jhanzie Tea Association	10	10
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	22¼	22x
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	19/3	19/3
Lanka Plantations Ord.	—	18/-
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	53/6x	53/6
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	43/9xd	45/-
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14	14
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	28	30/-

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	July 17 Rs.	July 25 Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	68/	68½
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	92	92
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	302	302
Bank of Bengal	1900x	1900x
Bank of Bombay	2090	2125
Bank of Madras	1340x	1340x
Bank of India	132	136
Tata Industrial Bank	66½	66½
COAL.		
Baraboni	20	20½
Bengal	905	905
Burrakur	50½	49
East Indian	38x	38x
Equitable	50½	50
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	70⅝	72½
Standard	66½	65
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	230	290
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	1815	1820
Bowreah	400	400
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatie	662½	662½
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	555	575
Central India	2670	2720
Elgin	1335	1360
Gold Mohur	125	125
Khatau Makanji	1100	1100
Muir	3700	3700
New Ring	120	120
Phœnix	180	180
Svadeshi	450	537½
	2450	2625
JUTE.		
Alliance	774	840
Barnagore	193	233
Budge Budge	670	740
Clive	316	368
Dalhousie	530	593
Delta	635	740
Fort Gloster	900	995
Gourepore	1200	1200
Howrah	50⅛	53½
Kamarhatty	922	990
Kanknarrah	840	862
Khardah	465½	560
Kinnison	985	1050
National	433	482½
Standard	684	754
Union	864½	940
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	104	105½
Bengal Timber Trading	433	433
Burn and Co.	327	327
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	200	228½
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	160	160
Howrah Oil Mills	49	483/4
India General St'm.	167	174
Indian Iron and Steel	110	110
	88½	115
Marshall Sons and Co.	20½	20
Titaghur Paper	386	404

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 435.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Anxiety in France regarding the future of Syria appears to be increasing rapidly, and the most ardent admirer of France would find it difficult to maintain that it is likely to be allayed by the tone of the French Press when dealing with the subject. Many an Englishman on reading what the Paris journals have to say on the matter must have rubbed his eyes and wondered whether we were back in pre-Fashoda, Muskat-gun-running days. That things should have been allowed to come to such a pass is as incomprehensible as it is deplorable. If they are allowed to drift farther in the same direction Frenchmen and Englishmen alike will surely insist upon finding out where the responsibility lies, and upon the responsible parties being called to strict account.

In re-stating French aims and ambitions in regard to Syria, the French Press has done a real service to the Alliance, for good understanding is no less necessary to friendship than good will. In regard to British desires and intentions, however, we venture to say that Paris appears to be quite needlessly uneasy; while as to the causes of the present lack of enthusiasm for a French mandate in Syria, we have heard reasons which appear to be sedulously ignored across the Channel. This lack of enthusiasm is attributed by Paris either to "British intrigue"—which we take to mean underhanded action taken by British agents with the approval of our Government—or to the "intrigues" of British officials on the spot, apparently acting on their own initiative and responsibility. The former charge may surely be dismissed at once: it was not in order to intrigue against France in Syria (or elsewhere) to-day that Great Britain ranged herself alongside her in August, 1914; and moreover we most assuredly do not desire to saddle ourselves with any responsibility for Syria. The second charge is too vague and of too general a character to be readily met; but if specific instances of any British officials acting improperly, in the manner suggested, are brought forward they will undoubtedly be dealt with in the right manner and the right place, to the satisfaction of our French friends.

It is quite possible that misplaced zeal, or an error of judgment here or there may have given rise to the misunderstanding now rife in Paris, but they would not account for the cooling off of the feeling for France which is noticeable to-day in Syria. The French are naturally and rightly proud of what they have done for that country and its people, but in recent years they have not been the only workers in this field. The Americans, with their great college at Beyrout, have been at least as prominent; and though one section of Syrian opinion has remained strongly Francophil others have either never been Francophil or have become less ardently so of late. During the war there were certain incidents which undoubtedly did not enhance French prestige. To one of these—the discovery of a list of prominent supporters of the "Arab Movement" in the French Consulate at Beyrout—we have already referred. If France wishes to have the whole truth regarding the present state of feeling in Syria towards her she would do well to inquire into rumours regarding the conduct of her troops at certain coast towns and on the march towards Aleppo. She will then be in a better position to estimate at their true value tales of "British intrigue." Meanwhile the comments of the French Press upon the arrest of that very versatile person the Emir Said show how badly Paris requires enlightening on the present state of affairs in Syria.

As recent communications from our Belgrade Correspondent have indicated, the various political parties and groups in Yugoslavia are finding it difficult to lay aside entirely memories of old differences; and the result is a regrettable lack of stability, which may very easily react against the country's best interests. According to telegrams from Belgrade, the position of Dr. Davidovitch's newly formed Cabinet was already regarded as highly insecure at the end of last week, and it was considered quite possible that it might come to grief over the debate on the Budget for September and October. Its life, in fact, appears to be at the mercy of an Opposition which is unlikely to show mercy very long, even if it refrained from administering the *coup de grace* immediately. Under such conditions it must obviously be extremely difficult for the Socialist Democratic Ministers to do their best work for the country. Since the Prime Minister made strenuous efforts to widen the basis on which he constructed his Cabinet, by inviting the co-operation of other parties, and since he failed, it is difficult for outsiders to see what course is now left to him and his friends but to "carry on" as long as possible, and thus place on their opponents the responsi-

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bility for any unpleasant consequences of allowing the interests of party to come before the interests of the nation.

It looks at present as if President Wilson may have very hard work to persuade America to accept what is understood to be his policy for the Near East, and as if Armenia will suffer as a consequence. As far as it is possible to judge from the leading American papers, the weight of popular opinion in the States seems to be against accepting the mandate for Armenia upon any conditions, though here and there there is a hint that it might be done in, say, six months' time. Meanwhile Americans seems to be of opinion that Great Britain should continue to police Armenia—at any rate, until its ultimate fate is settled. But whatever may happen, the United States, we are told by one journal, at least, cannot be expected to take up the burden. For the sake of Armenia we can only repeat our hope that Americans who have a first-hand acquaintance with the Near East will be able to convert their countrymen to that more altruistic spirit which was in evidence a little while ago; but we are bound to acknowledge that the prospect does not look very promising.

That our fears regarding the effect of the abandonment of the Military Courts in Egypt were not groundless is shown by the fact that since their abolition twenty-eight witnesses for the prosecution in the recent murder trials are reported to have been assassinated. Such a state of affairs cannot long be tolerated, even in Egypt, and it would certainly justify the prompt restoration of the Military Courts, which might do what the native officials are either unwilling or unable to do—give the country some sense of justice and security. The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* reports: "The licence indulged in by the Arabic Press here since the abolition of the censorship throws into the shade the wildest days of the *Lewa* and Sheikh Aziz Shawish." Relaxation of control has probably been misunderstood once more in Egypt, and regarded as a sign of weakness. In any case, it can hardly be said to have been attended by the success that was anticipated from it.

A semi-official statement issued last week regarding the punitive operations against the Kurds adds but little to what was already known. Two British columns of two and a-half battalions each were engaged, and apparently several sharp engagements with well-armed bands of Kurds have taken place. Happily, our losses have been slight, while heavy casualties have been inflicted on the enemy. The latter showed that he has not lost the cunning in mountain warfare with which he is usually credited, and the fact that in some parts the fighting was of some hours' duration indicates that he showed plenty of courage, too. It is satisfactory to find our anticipations realised, and to have the semi-official assurance that the prompt action taken by General Marshall "has had excellent influences . . . and has dispelled the widespread belief that everyone could do as he liked, as we had so few troops left in the country." The more swiftly this intelligence spreads through Kurdistan the better for the Kurds.

The difficulty of obtaining passages for the East appears to be increasing rather than diminishing as time goes on, and officials who were unable to come home this year may find some consolation in the statement made by a correspondent of *The Times* that Government servants are spending most of their leave in searching for accommodation for their journey back. Men of business, too, are complaining that important journeys are rendered impossible, and it is significant that offers of a premium for berths already secured are now being advertised for various Eastern lines, a practice which we had hoped to see confined to the Atlantic, where it had its origin. Premiums, of course, mean "stags," those amiable persons who take berths merely in the hope of selling at a profit, and while we have no doubt that the practice is discouraged by the various shipping companies, there can be little doubt that money in astute hands tells. Anglo-Indians devoted so much abuse to the Passage Controller who was established in Bombay last spring that perhaps they deserve on object-lesson, but we trust it will not continue too long, and that the supply of accommodation will soon overtake the demand.

Such time as Anglo-Indians on leave can spare from the hunt for passages seems to be devoted less to the high politics of the Reform Bill than to speculation regarding the future of the rupee, and one hears conversation which recalls the great days of 1890, when American purchases of silver sent exchange up with a bound, and the difference between 1s. 3d. and 1s. 9d. was a matter of days. As has usually been the case, there is a marked difference between the wishes of merchants and of salary-earners in this matter. Men of business want, above all things, stability, and are inclined to blame the Indian Government for failing to maintain a fixity of exchange which scarcely any country in the world enjoys just now; to them the important thing is to fix the rate somewhere, and the precise point is a matter of less moment; but the man who draws a salary in rupees is very naturally hoping that the high rate now reached may be maintained, or even that it may be raised to the old, convenient figure of two shillings.

Such aspirations deserve at least our sympathy, all the more so that this year leave has been something of a disappointment to men of moderate means. They paid heavily for their passages, and when they got home they found that money went a very short way; everything was much dearer than they expected, and the enhanced value of their rupees made but a small set-off against the increased charges which they had to meet, while to most of them the future was clouded by the threat—as yet we believe unrealised—of a big rise in school-bills, the item that bulks so largely in the budgets of those who serve the East. To this large class the difference between a high and a low rupee means primarily the difference between a good and an imperfect education for the children, and we cannot wonder that they are anxiously awaiting the termination of the labours of the Currency Committee, and speculating whether the rupee will be "pegged" at the point to which it has risen, or allowed to sink back to the level from which it started.

We do not, of course, mean to suggest that the Committee should be guided by such considerations as these, or even by the weightier matter of the needs of a Government which has large arrears of sterling expenditure to make up. The requirements of commerce and industry must be the decisive factor, and the Government, like private individuals, must adjust its finances to the rate which results. We have no intention of prophesying what that rate will be; the problem is exceedingly complex, and the adjournment of the Committee pending the arrival of additional evidence from India must be taken as an indication of the difficulties in the way; but we can at least express the hope that on this occasion the various interests may be found to coincide, and that the value assigned to the rupee for the advantage of industry and trade may at the same time bring some consolation to consumers buying in the English market, whether their purchases consist of bridge-work and locomotives, or of sound learning for the coming generation.

THE NEAR EAST.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 16.

The Strike Fever.

The week has been marked by a succession of strikes in both public and private enterprises, and most of these are still in being. Several of them appear likely to be complicated with lock-outs, following the example of the big restaurant owners, who have put up their shutters, and who are supposed to have fixed three months as the duration of their reply to the strike. The public is beginning to get rather tired of these demonstrations; and sympathy is likely to ebb altogether from the side of the men, if they remain as obstinate and unreasonable as some of their leaders would like. It is instructive to see the unemployed in Alexandria flocking to the Egyptian Labour Corps recruiting offices to enlist for five piastres a day and their food—equal, say, to five piastres more, whilst very much the same class of men in Cairo are standing out for clothes, boots, greatcoats, bonuses, and salaries about twice those of the Labour Corps men, for doing half their work. At least, this is how it strikes the man in the street.

The Spirit of Lower Egypt.

The situation in the provinces of Lower Egypt is still far from satisfactory, and Europeans who have to do with the villages, contractors, merchants in cereals, etc., are saying that the insolence they meet with is quite a new thing in their long experience. Rightly or wrongly, they put this down to two principal causes. First, the fact that very few, if any, severe punishments were meted out to the authors of the very serious disturbances in the provinces north of Cairo, in contrast to the executions and floggings which have produced a most salutary effect in Upper Egypt. There the temper of the population seems to leave little to be desired, and to be very different from that of the peasantry in Sharkieh, Behera, Gharbieh, and the northern Mudirias. Secondly, the abolition of Military Courts of Inquiry and the handing over of the inquiry to the Parquet. It is notorious that the disorders were fomented by lawyers and law students; and that the Parquet, which is a part of the same judicial system, should be entrusted with investigating the causes, and determining the responsibilities for the outrages and destruction of State and private property, appears to those who are best able to judge by the results to have been premature and a regrettable error.

Whether these arguments are true, and whether these are the precise causes for the xenophobic spirit in Lower Egypt, would require close examination to decide. But that there is such a spirit abroad little divergence of opinion exists. The Extremists declare that the animus is against the British alone, but any Greek or other foreigner with business amongst the villagers will tell another tale. Often the pretext is insolently made that the stranger is a friend of, or working for, the British, and, therefore, is to be treated with contempt; but whatever his nationality may be, it does not protect him now from contumely, and still less would it protect him from violence of every sort at the first opportunity.

Good (?) Old Customs.

In endeavouring to analyse events in Egypt it should never be lost sight of that, except in one or two of the large towns, the country is still more or less under feudal customs. The Omda, in the majority of cases, lives in a fine house like a castle, and dispenses justice and all the smaller issues of life, if not of death, almost at his own will. If he is on good terms with the Ma'mour or any other high officials, his authority can never be questioned by the fellaheen, however he may abuse it. In the March disturbances things probably really happened as were told me by a landowner describing his own losses:—"The people who loted and destroyed my farm and the railway and Government buildings were usually peaceable enough and good friends. One of them told me that when he found hundreds of fellaheen bent on rioting, he could do nothing else but join in. The Omda of Hamra, for example, would hear that the Ma'mour had spoken in praise of the Omda of the smaller hamlet of Hadra, because he 'came with fifty men and had done good work'—*i.e.*, torn up a railway embankment or some such exploit. This was not to be borne. He immediately called out his village, and, abusing them all as 'sons of donkeys and dogs' to let themselves be beaten by the men of Hamra, led them off at once to do some better deed. Then the Omdeh of Safra would get mad at this, and fly into a rage. 'Are we to have our faces blackened by villages like Hamra and Hadra? Out with a hundred men, and show the world what you are like!' And so on!"

There was very little enthusiasm at first amongst the peasants; but freedom to loot and destroy, and, what is more, to vie with rivals in such work, soon made "patriotism" very popular; until the strong arm of order appeared on the scene, when, as if by magic, nothing remained of the mad fury of the day before but the wreckage. The authors were not to be found, much less recognised amongst the obsequious creatures discovered on the spot by the military.

Now that the military have gone, however, the obsequiousnes has gone with them, and the voice of the Omda echoing the propaganda of the Extremists is again the dominant note. This, at least, is the story that one hears from all experienced observers on their return from visiting the provinces, and so far it awaits public denial.

The Zaghlulites.

The return of several members of the Saad Zaghlul Pasha Delegation has led to very contradictory suppositions. The general opinion is that these gentlemen perceived that they were not making any headway nor were likely to do so, and neither were they playing any rôle in Paris. Therefore, they preferred to come back and resume their business at home. There are, of course, many other rumours, such, for example, as that some of them are laden with Bolshevist money in order to start Bolshevism here. Another story is that one or two of them have determined to "rat" from Zaghlul, and go over to the Government in the hopes of obtaining some post.

There is no doubt in any case that they have not brought back any glory or more material results from their escapade; and their odyssey is being sung by little street boys as follows:—"Shaloo essheeleh: Hottoo elhotta: Rahoo ala jemel: Ga'oo ala 'utta," which being translated freely means: "They took up a mighty burden: And then they laid it down. They marched out on camels: and stole back like gutter cats." But the original Arabic is more expressive.

Reuter's Alexandria correspondent reports that on September 2 a bomb was thrown at the Prime Minister, but that fortunately he was not hurt.

Cairo tramway strikers, who have been out for three weeks, have refused to accept the offer made by the companies, and the Governor of the city has intimated that the cars will be run without them.

The Roumanian Legation notifies all Roumanian citizens and all those born in the provinces or parts of provinces now reunited that the following have to report in writing their legal status, age, occupation, and address to the Military Attaché of the Legation (4, Cromwell Place, S.W. 7), and notify any further change of address: (1) All men of 19 to 45 years old; (2) all officers (active, reserve, retired) up to the age of 60 who are serving or have served in any capacity in the Roumanian Army or the armies of the countries to which the newly-reunited provinces belonged.

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BELGRADE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, August 18.

The long Ministerial crisis has dragged its weary length through three weeks, and was finally settled by the formation of a Coalition Cabinet of Democrats and Socialists, with the assistance of some of the minor groups. Dr. Davidovitch has had his hands full, for he spared no effort to form a complete Coalition of all the parties, but the Radicals resolutely refused to join, or, rather, they made such conditions that Dr. Davidovitch was unable to accept them. These were that M. Stoyan Protitch have the portfolio of the Interior, that M. Pribichevitch have some other portfolio, and that M. Vulovitch, Minister of Communications, and Dr. Alaupovitch, Minister of Religion in the late Cabinet, leave the Government, and that the Radical policy of agrarian reform be adopted.

Party Differences.

The Democrats could not accept these conditions; they could not lose M. Pribichevitch, who leads the Serbo-Croat Coalition, and has worked hard for many years for the dream of Serbian unity, nor would they sacrifice Mr. Vulovitch and Dr. Alaupovitch. As last week dragged on, it became every day clearer that no *modus vivendi* would be found between Democrats and Radicals, although their differences lie more on personal animosities than on principles. The chief differences are that the Radicals, having fulfilled their patriotic function and achieved their ideal of union with their brother across the river, are gradually becoming a purely conservative party. They are opposed to woman suffrage, are in favour of a partial agrarian reform, proposing to spare the German colonists in Dalmatia and the large estates of the Bosnian beys and Croatian landowners and big estates in the Voivodina or trans-Danubian Serbian territories, which would identify them with a Tory agrarian party; and they are accused by the Democrats of favouring a muzzling of the Press and a postponement of demobilisation and of the summoning of the Constituent Assembly for purely party purposes. The Democratic party, on the other hand, propose a radical agrarian reform by dividing up all big estates, subject to due compensation to the owners, and they wish to hasten the meeting of the Constituent Assembly, so as to put the organisation of the country on a proper basis, to expedite demobilisation, to guarantee an entirely free Press, and to give the vote to women who are in Government employment.

Party strife runs high between these two opposing parties, but in the present state of flux of Serbian politics personalities still play a bigger rôle than principles, and there seems to be no fundamental difference between the two except on the question of agrarian reform, where even the Democrats propose to leave estates of 250 hectares, except in the case of specially valuable land, where the maximum for any one owner will be 150 hectares. After a long reign the Radicals now find themselves in opposition, from which their partisans claim they will soon emerge, when the Democrats have proved their incompetence. Certain it is, that M. Stoyan Protitch is a dominating personality, and that the Radicals under Nikola Pashitch and Stoyan Protitch have triumphantly asserted the national cause and brought their country out of subservience to Austria through disaster, to avenge Kossovo, and achieve the union of Yugoslavs which has been the ideal of patriotic dreamers for a century.

The New Cabinet.

On the twenty-third day since the resignation Dr. Davidovitch formed his Cabinet, took the oath, and assumed office. The reconstructed Cabinet does not differ outwardly very greatly from its predecessor, and contains a number of Ministers, many with their old portfolios, such as M. Pribichevitch, Minister of the Interior; Dr. E. Lukinitch, a well-known Croatian lawyer, as Minister of Posts; Dr. Trumbitch, the Dalmatian patriot who is well known in London and Paris, at Foreign Affairs; Dr. Kramer, leader of the Slovenian Liberals, as Minister of Industry and Commerce; Dr. Alaupovitch, a prominent Croat Democrat, as Minister of Religions; and General Sv. Hadjitch as Minister of War. Other members of the late Cabinet who remain in the Government, but with new offices, are: M. V. Vulovitch, who has passed from Communications to Public Works, as befits an engineer; M. P. Marinkovitch, who leaves Mines and Forests for Education; an experienced diplomat, a lawyer by profession—M. Marinkovitch—is a prominent member of the Progressive party that broke away from the old Conservative party in 1906, by way of protest against the methods of the revolution of May, 1903, and have for their motto, "*Rad, Red i Legalnost*," or "Order, Work and Legality"; and the President of the Council, Chief Minister without a portfolio, Dr. Liuba Davidovitch, Minister of Education in the late Cabinet, a post which he has held five or six times. He was a prominent member of the Independents, or *Samostaltsi*, a party which broke away from the Radicals twenty years ago, under the late Stoyan Novakovitch. These two men between them have effected a revolution in education in Serbia; their party is now fused with the Democrats, of which Dr. Davidovitch is to-day a recognised leader, respected for his mental attainments, and popular by reason of his suavity of manner. Whether he possesses that driving force which is so necessary in the present critical stage of the young nation's history remains to be seen.

Three prominent Democrats have joined the new Cabinet. The first of these is Dr. Voja Veljkovitch, one of the richest men in Serbia, formerly a Liberal, and a well-known banker, who is now Minister of Finance, at which post it is hoped his experience in money matters will put some order into the present chaotic state of the country's finances. He is up against a stiff problem, with the burning currency question before him, in which, fortunately, much spade work has certainly been done by his predecessor, Dr. Ninchitch. Then there is M. Milorad Drashkovitch, who hurried from Paris to accept the portfolio of Communications. He is a prominent Democrat, a practical politician, reputed to be a good speaker, and a man of great energy. He will certainly have plenty of scope for the latter quality in his new office. And there is M. K. Timotijevitch, the new Minister of Justice. Like his friend and former partner, M. Drashkovitch, M. Timotijevitch was formerly a lawyer in Semederevo; both were prominent Independents, and both have considerable experience of law and of banking. His scheme for adjustment of the moratorium has been adopted by the Special Parliamentary Commission, and now awaits the justification of the Skupshtina to become law. He has held the portfolio of Justice, and brings ripe experience to the work.

The remaining members of the Cabinet are Dr. Poljak, a prominent Croatian agriculturalist, who combines Agrarian Reform with the portfolio of Agriculture, and the three Socialists, Vitomir, Koratch, and Vilim Buksheg, both Croats, who have respectively the portfolios of Social Policy and Food and Reconstruction; and Anton Kristan, the Slovene, who has Mines and Forests.

In this Cabinet there is one notable omission. Of all the members of the late Government, the one who has made the greatest impression for capacity is Dr. Koroshets, leader of the Christian Socialists of Slovenia. He is taking a well-earned rest for a month or more. His absence will be felt, and it may be true that he will support the Government with his party, and perhaps join the Cabinet after a few weeks' rest.

The strength of the Democrats in the House is 113, which is about the strength of the Radicals, but they have the support of thirteen Socialists, who are of the patriotic type, and of the ten Montenegrin deputies. There are three Dissident Radicals, four Bunjevtsi, or Catholic Serbs from the northern territories, and, oddly enough, eleven members of the Narodni Klub, or Croatian Nationalist party, of which thirteen have sided with the Radicals.

General Prospects.

It will be gathered from this that the bonds of party discipline in Serbian politics are not very strong, especially when we learnt that a prominent Democrat, Dr. Bogdan Medakovitch, is in opposition, on the grounds of agrarian reform, for he is the owner of large properties in Croatia, which he does not want to see divided. The adhesion of these minor groups gives Dr. Davidovitch a strength of 154 in the Skupshtina, which should enable him to carry on the business of Government, especially as all parties are agreed on the fundamental question of national existence and foreign policy. If Dr. Koroshets and his group join the Government, their strength will be assured. But they will want all the support they can get, for there is no doubt that these party bickerings do the country a great deal of harm abroad.

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MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, August 10.

Governors.

All new Governors are applauded, and this is not peculiar to Malta, but the reception which the new Governor, Field-Marshal Plumer, has received has certainly been more than an ordinary one, and this fact is all the more intensified by the knowledge that the new Governor took over the island at a most critical time. His Excellency had the pleasure of receiving the enthusiastic welcome of the inhabitants of the sister island of Gozo last week. Removed as the islands were from the main theatre of the late war, the famous deeds of the new Governor had preceded him, and the people were not slow to recognise his merits. It is hoped that the tenure of office of His Excellency will be long enough to enable him to follow out his own plans as far as the island is concerned. It has hitherto often been remarked that just as soon as the right man has been fixed in the right place he has been removed.

Commissions.

The Committee appointed to inquire into the cause of the recent disturbances and riot has begun its work, and a long process it will be. Up to the present time the proceedings have been but formal in their nature, and hence savour of insipidness, but when such important persons as Major-General Hunter Blair, C.B., C.M.G., the Noble Contino Alfred Caruara Gatto, LL.D., and others are put in the witness-box, surely the guilty pro-Italian party—the real cause of the recent disturbances and present discontent—will learn that to haul down the Union Jack is no trifling matter. Apropos of the riots it should be mentioned that the Court-Martial is still sitting, and is expected to do so until Christmas.

Russian Refugees.

These are still with us, and it is a noteworthy fact that many are willing and anxious to make Malta their future home. The local papers contain many advertisements in which the refugees offer their services in various capacities. In the person of Mr. E. W. Caruaua, the managing director of the Russian-British Commercial and Trading Co., Ltd., of Kherson, and who has just reached Malta, the Russians have a staunch friend, and through him the real state of that country has been made known here. As a matter of interest it should be mentioned that even in April last bread was 10s. a pound butter £1 2s. 6d. a pound, tea £6 a pound, eggs 2s. each, coal £62 per ton. boots £25 per pair. These figures from Mr. Caruaua himself are as authentic as they are staggering. It is little to be wondered at that the Russian refugees look on Malta as a veritable heaven, and all the more to be appreciated as one devoid of Bolshevism.

"Olla Podrida."

His Excellency the Governor has asked H.M. Judges whether they wish to submit concrete proposals for the reforming of the Malta Constitution.

The bulk of the discussion at the cafes, clubs, and casinos is the new constitution. Little hope of a satisfactory conclusion of the matter is held out, and already there are splits in the various camps. The Democratic Party is distinctly peppery.

Despite the economical and political difficulties in the island, there is sufficient humour left to bring out the usual silly summer-season queries. This time it is not related to the size of gooseberries or mushrooms, neither does it deal with the sea-serpent or sharks, but the great query is—whether soup is eaten or drunk!

Emigration. August 15.

The population of the island has increased rapidly during the past thirty years, and up to now there has been no adequate organised system established for reducing this surplus population, but matters have become so bad that the Government has absolutely found itself forced to move. The Maltese would-be emigrant is of capital stuff, but is severely handicapped by his illiteracy and his lack of knowledge of the English language, with the result that he is absolutely debarred from entering some fields of emigration, whilst in others he only fulfils the rôle of a hewer of wood or a drawer of water. Yet a certain section of the people of the island clamour against compulsory education! The reason for this, though patent, had better not be discussed. With a view to improve this deplorable state of things, the Emigration Committee have established a system of evening classes, wherein those desirous of getting a working knowledge may do so. It is admitted that, to accomplish anything tangible, the sum of £100,000 should be provided within the next two years. Here again empty coffers stare the island in the face. As regards the educational effort referred to above, the sum of £800 has been set aside for the current financial year. *Verb. sap!*

Recent Riots and Sentences.

The Commission appointed by His Excellency to enquire into the report on the events of June 7 and 8 last, and the circumstances which led up to them is constituted as follows:—The Senior Judge, the Vice-President of the Chamber of Advocates, Lieut.-Colonel E. W. S. Brooke, C.M.G., D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel W. T. Bromfield. Other local lights were requested to act on the Commission, but ill-health and other reasons were given for not doing so. It should be noted in this connection that the people of the island looked on those killed as martyrs. The findings of the General Court-Martial on the riots are to hand. Thirty-one persons were tried and charged with causing malicious injury to property in a manner prejudicial to the public safety, and the sentences are as follows:—Three not guilty and acquitted; one to seven years' and three to five years' penal servitude; one to four years, four to three years, three to two years' hard labour, one to one year without hard labour, one to six months' and 13 to three months. His Excellency remitted sentences in the case of the last thirteen, and the one for six months. This should serve as a salutary lesson, but the general opinion locally is that the real culprits—the men behind—have escaped scot-free

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Visitors from Egypt.

Cyprus still welcomes a stream of visitors to its shores, chiefly from Egypt. The pity is that the mail steamer does not boast of better accommodation, which is far from being what one could desire in these days. The crossing is hardly a pleasant one, and never has been from the date of the occupation. Heat in the plains is oppressive, and the hill camps offer a welcome refuge and change. Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson occupy "Government Cottage." The usual amusements are available, and many picnics are organised by the English. Many a Greek pilgrim rides up to the great Kykkou Monastery to kiss the ikon of the Virgin and to pray for relief from sickness or trouble. From the summit of Olympus—a favourite excursion—you look across to the snow-clad heights of the Taurus range. It is strange to think that Asia Minor (only some forty miles distant from the northern coast) might be as distant as Canada, or non-existent, for all the news that comes from this neighbouring land. During cereal harvest many labourers used to flock over to earn an honest piastre, bringing carpets, furs, antiques, and other wares for sale. When peace is fully restored this custom will no doubt be revived.

The Island's Future.

Allusion to the threadbare subject of the island's future would be tedious, as nothing fresh can be said regarding "Greek" claims. They can, of course, be stated in a few words, and can be more than fully answered in equally few. In Cyprus the state of suspense, though annoying, does not cause so much positive mischief as it would, and does, in many other regions not far off. But a decision is very desirable. The vacancy in the High Commissionership and the absence of so many of the chief officials (very natural after a five years' deprivation of leave) tend to unsettle affairs and invite sarcastic comment in the Press regarding the "paralysis of the Government machine." Legal work may suffer when one District Judge runs two Districts. The Government Analyst and Lecturer on Chemistry presides over the Post Office, and two of the principal departments are directed by an over-taxed chief with undermanned staffs.

The Turkish community (the leaders and principal body are at Nicosia), though weary of the never-ending Greek agitation, have not been dismayed by the reports of the deputation in London, for they have always kept their heads during any crisis. But they have no doubt felt easier in proportion as Greek hopes have subsided, as has been the case. The Greeks profess to base their petition on "British justice." But the Moslems do precisely the same, relying, and with good reason, on the pledges given by the Imperial Government and successive Ministers, that their case would be fully and carefully considered when the time for settlement arrives.

Prospects of sport and game supply are encouraging. Partridge shooting begins on August 12, the date having been changed several times during the occupation. Game is plentiful, notwithstanding increased cultivation, and the reservation of certain areas has done no little good.

The Postmaster-General gives notice that telegraph money orders are now issued for payment at certain offices in Greece (including Crete). Particulars of the offices in question may be obtained at any telegraph money order office in the United Kingdom. The maximum amount for which a single order may be drawn is £40. Telegraph money orders are also now issued in Greece for payment in the United Kingdom.

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LETTER FROM SMYRNA.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Smyrna, August 15.

British Representatives.

On August 4 General Allenby's representative in Smyrna, General Hanbury, was installed in his post by General Milne, the G.O.C. for Constantinople and the Black Sea. Colonel Anderson, his Chief of Staff, and Major Blake and fourteen officers serve under him.

Following on General Milne's arrival, Commodore Maurice Fitz-Maurice has hauled down his flag from H.M.S. Centaur, on which it has been flying in Smyrna for the past few months. The Commodore has returned to the Mudros base on H.M.S. Tilbury. Captain Harvey, H.M.S. Mimosa remains in Smyrna as S.N.O.

"Advanced British Headquarters" is now the sign on the two principal Armenian houses on the Smyrna quay. These houses were commandeered by the Greek Archbishop, acting under orders from M. Stergiadis, the Greek High Commissioner, and the owners were given only a few hours' notice to vacate the premises, and were ordered to leave behind all their household effects.

The Crops in Danger.

Colonel Anderson and Major Blake have already shown considerable energy and perspicacity in approaching the Turks with a view to inducing them to stop fighting and to return to their vineyards and fig plantations—to harvest the crop, which is in imminent danger of rotting. At Cheena, in the Meander valley the Turkish farmers were inclined to respond to Colonel Anderson's appeal, but the Turkish military element forbade the farmers to return to the plain; and at Sokia, on the Aidin Railway line, both farmers and military refused to return to the farms until the Greek army retired. Nevertheless, it is hoped that by a skilful distribution of British officers the Turkish farmers may be induced to return to their fruit crops, once they appreciate that General Hanbury and his staff are in the country to maintain order.

Cereal crops are entirely lost, and if the fruit crops cannot be saved, this fertile province will have to depend on food supplies from Europe for the next year.

JERUSALEM NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Jerusalem, August 9.

Agriculture.

The Administration of the O.E.T.A. is paying great attention to agriculture, helping the peasants and improving their conditions. It has commenced to give loans to the poor who are not able to look after their lands. This step will undoubtedly make the land more productive, and will redound to the benefit of the whole country.

New Cemetery.

A large British cemetery is in process of construction, and is now nearing completion. It is well and fittingly situated on Mount Scopus (near the Mount of Olives), and will contain, when finished, about 4,000 bodies. All the British soldiers who fell in or around Jerusalem are being transferred to this new spot. Already all those who fell in the Jordan valley have been removed from those burning sands to this, their last resting-place, to remain for ever in the city for whose conquest they fought, but which they never lived to see. Also all who were buried in the Protestant cemetery of Mount Zion during the Turkish *régime* have been transferred to this place. Recently the young girls of the British High School (formerly the German *Talitha Kumi*) have been going once a week to water and tend the plants and flowers which are growing on the graves of the heroes.

W. MORPHY & SON,

Steamship Agents and Commercial Representatives,

ATHENS, PIRÆUS, PATRAS, SALONICA.

JAFFA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Jaffa, August 15.

On handing over to Major-General H. D. Watson, Major-General A. W. Money, ex-Chief Administrator for Palestine, conveyed his most sincere thanks to all the British officers and other ranks, to the civilian clerical establishment, and to the Syrian, Egyptian and other officials who have worked with him so loyally and untiringly in supporting this Administration.

Major-General Watson has served for several years in the Sudanese and Egyptian Administrations; and as he is familiar with the habits and wants of the Near East much is expected of him as Chief Administrator for Palestine.

Jaffa had the great pleasure and honour of welcoming the new Chief Administrator on the 12th instant. The population in general have submitted the following demands:—

1. To forward the construction of a harbour at Jaffa.
2. Instead of the light railway between Jaffa and Ludd, to arrange to bring the Palestine military railway to Jaffa.
3. To help in the immediate delivery of the Government Agricultural Loan to landowners and agriculturists.

As to the last two demands Major-General Watson has promised to do his utmost in gratifying the real needs and desires of the Jaffa population, but as to the first demand he can do nothing to this effect before the destiny of Palestine is settled by the League of Nations.

Major-General Watson has left for Jerusalem.

JERUSALEM: OLD AND NEW.

By Victor L. Trumper.

Probably few people who saw it realised the significance of the small case containing a topographical model of the city of Jerusalem, which was on view recently in the Academy Exhibition. The Holy City has nearly always been inhabited by people who did that which was right in their own eyes, consequently it is the conglomeration of ruin extending from the surface to seventy feet below that we find it at the present day. With the exception of the Jews' Wailing-place, it is doubtful if there is anything above ground which is older than the Christian era, and its twenty-eight sieges and captures have added their quota to the general confusion, while, to crown all, the Holy City has been under Turkish rule, which destroyed the last vestige of any order or sanitation that it may ever have had.

However, all is changed now, and with the advent of a stable and sympathetic rule, Jerusalem bids fair once more to become the "joy of the whole earth," with "living waters" flowing into it, due to the skill and enterprise of the authorities. The next thing to be done was to cleanse the city and remove the superfluities, by which is meant all buildings which have no religious, historical, or architectural values; and to this end a zone is being cleared round the present walls, which will be laid out with paths and shrubs, so that one may "walk round about Jerusalem and tell her bulwarks." Also inside the city walls all fresh buildings are to be absolutely prohibited, and sites where possible cleared where archæological investigations under proper supervision can take place. Jerusalem will then be looked upon as a shrine containing the holy places of the three great religions of the world.

Outside the cleared zone around the walls will be a zone on which no buildings will be erected, except those which have the special sanction of the authorities as being in keeping with the site. Outside this zone, again, is the plan for the new city, which will principally extend along the comparatively level ground to the northward and westward of the present city.

It is probable that nothing has ever been done before along these lines, though the reproof to Shebna, the scribe in Isaiah xxii. 15-16, may refer to the fact that he had hewn out a sepulchre in a prohibited area.

CROWE & STEVENS,

Steamship Agents and Commercial Representatives,

PATRAS, PIRÆUS, ATHENS, SALONICA.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

GREAT BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your number of the 15th inst., with regard to Dr. A. J. Butler's article in the *Nineteenth Century* on "The Fortunes of Egypt," in which he says "it was French capital mainly and French engineering genius which made the Suez Canal, and, during Ismail's reign, French and English influence were much on a balance." This is hardly correct, considering that the Suez Canal shares owned by Ismail Pasha and bought by England were 177,000 out of the 400,000 total of the company. Further, that the concession obliged the Egyptian Government to provide forced labour for digging the Canal, and when the Government found it impossible to do so, it had to indemnify the Canal Company for providing it. The concession gave the Canal Co., gratis, enormous tracks of land that it could not possibly utilise for the purposes of the canal, and the Government had to buy back these grounds from the Canal Co.—for instance, tracts on each side of the fresh water canal between Cairo and Ismailia—besides other details elsewhere, and concerning this canal, for which by the Napoleon award the Canal Co. received 39 millions of francs. Surplus grounds of the concession not required for canal development are still sold to private persons on joint account between the Government and the Canal Co., and not returned to the Government as beyond the requirements for the canal.

Obviously it was Egyptian capital and French engineering genius which made the canal. During the greatest part of Ismail's reign, it was French influence that predominated, although each Power had a Minister or Consul-General at the Khedive's court, not in his Cabinet.

The Canal Co. honoured the memory of Waghorn, the precursor of the overland route, in erecting a beautiful statue of him on the quay at the entrance of the canal at Suez, which can be seen any day.

Tewfik Pasha was eminently everything described in this article. "British domination was due to an irresistible purpose working through the shortcomings of human intelligence for the good of the world." For years every act taken by other Powers to endeavour to get England out of Egypt, brought about exactly the contrary result, and established her more firmly in the country, practically preventing her from leaving it, and obliging her to remain, and so it will always be. Egypt can never remain without guidance from some Power.—I am, etc.,

DIXON PASHA.

Nice, August 25.

THE FUTURE OF BURMA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Permit me to point out that there is no danger of a separation of Burma from India, if danger there be in the transfer of that Province from the India to the Colonial Office. Sir R. Craddock, it is true, for reasons best known to himself, has mooted this subject. But the peoples of Burma have not asked for separation. The people of Burma consider that their progress towards self-government will be best assured in conjunction with India. The Burmese, together with the Chinese and Indians settled in their country, are making common cause for the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms, in other words for the inclusion of Burma in the Government of India Bill. That inclusion is the one point on which opinion is concentrated. The Burmese are not concerned with separation from India, nor will they allow their attention to be distracted from the main point at issue by Sir R. Craddock's allusion to separation.

After all, why should the Burmese desire now a transfer to the Colonial Office? The Government of India Bill will give them a greater degree of self-government than they are likely to get otherwise. Under it the Simla Government remains unchanged. Why should it interfere in Burmese affairs more than heretofore? Supposing that the Bill is altered so as to allow a certain amount of popular control, it is unlikely that the reformed Government will interfere more than does the present bureaucracy. The probabilities are all the other way. Those who by hard conflict have won liberty for themselves are little likely to thwart the free development of others.—I am, etc.,

BERNARD HOUGHTON.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—On behalf of the Moslems of Cyprus, and in justice to them, allow me to express through your valuable columns their unbounded gratitude to the fair and noble-minded Britons who have so honourably advocated the retention of Cyprus under British rule, and permit me to make the following observations on the letter published in the *Times* of July 21 last, under the heading of "The Island of Cyprus."

The Greek politicians seem to strain every nerve to prove that the condition of Moslems in Thessaly, Crete, and Macedonia since they became part of the Greek Kingdom is such that the Moslems of Cyprus would have nothing to suffer under the Greek Administration, in lieu of British rule, and they appeal to every "fair-minded man and critical observer" to agree with them; but, on the contrary, the Moslems of Cyprus and, we firmly believe, any other "fair-minded man and critical observer," on past and present experience, hold quite the opposite view, owing to the fact that the Moslem inhabitants of the countries above-mentioned have suffered a great deal since they came under Greek rule.

In 1878 there were 100,000 Moslem inhabitants in Thessaly; now there is almost none. In Crete, in 1897, there were 90,000 Moslems, and at the present time there are only about 30,000 of them in existence. As regards Macedonia, I quote the following extract from the speech of Viscount de Potier, delivered in Caxton Hall, in December, 1916 (*vide* NEAR EAST, No. 294, p. 173).

". . . Towards the end of the Balkan War, Moslems in Greek Macedonia were made so uncomfortable that many left the country. They sold their non-movable property at absurd prices, and in some cases the money so obtained was absolutely stolen from them by the Greek authorities, so that they landed in Turkey penniless. . . ." Besides the above facts, we have the recent example of the unfortunate landing of Greek troops in Smyrna, which made the Moslems of Cyprus, and we are confident, all "fair-minded and critical observers" shudder at the suggestion of the 60,000 loyal Moslem subjects of His Majesty being handed over to Greece, against their will and the moral and material interests of their country.

As regards the attitude of the Greek inhabitants of the island towards their fellow citizens, it is sufficient to mention that even under the present *régime* they lose no opportunity in taking advantage of their numerical superiority even in trifling matters, which can easily be proved.

It is small wonder, then, that the Moslems of Cyprus face the idea of the cession of Cyprus to Greece with great apprehension and alarm, and that they look to the British nation to avert this calamity, to maintain intact the *status quo* in the island, and to allow its Moslem inhabitants to continue to enjoy the rights and liberties conferred by British nationality in common with so many of their co-religionists, as a reward for their consistent and true loyalty to the British Crown since the occupation of the island by Great Britain.

With regard to the strategic importance of the island, a mere glance at the map will, I submit, prove this. The island has undoubtedly been of much use during the present war, as is well known to the military and naval authorities.

In conclusion, permit me, Sir, to express the unshaken belief of the Moslems of Cyprus in the sense of justice of the British nation, which, we are confident, will not destroy the present peace and prosperity of the island on sheer sentimental grounds, and to add that they are convinced that the principle proclaimed by distinguished statesmen will be upheld—*i.e.*, all territorial and colonial settlements must be in the interest of the peoples immediately concerned.—I am, etc.,

M. IRFAN,
Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, etc.,
. etc., Cyprus.

Nicosia, Cyprus, August 14, 1919.

SOME MEDITERRANEAN QUESTIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The August number of the *United Services Magazine* contains an article entitled "From the Straits to the Levant," by Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Yate, which well deserves a perusal by those interested in Near Eastern affairs. The article, emanating from an authority who has spent many years in the East, is rich in details, and covers many of the Eastern problems at present engaging the attention of the Supreme Allied Council, but it contains several statements to which I, as a Greek, cannot agree.

Commenting on the unrest at present prevalent in the Moslem East, and on the presence of Bolshevist agents in Afghanistan, the writer mentions the cool request of General A. N. Briant Chaninoff, that until such time as Russia recovers herself, Great Britain should become "the mandatory for Constantinople on behalf of Russia." Lieut.-Colonel Yate justly condemns any such move, and it is inconceivable after Germany's greedy ambitions have been frustrated, and her treacherous schemes brought to nought, that Russia, which as an Empire perpetually broke her plighted word, and for her own ends drenched the Balkans in a pool of blood, should be again reconstructed into that artificial union of different tongues and creeds formerly composing her, and, receiving that which she has no right to, be thus placed in a better position to threaten the world anew.

Rather than allow the Russian to have the mandate for Constantinople, Lieut.-Colonel Yate would prefer to give it to the U.S.A. To many this would seem the best solution, but it cannot be denied that the Greeks, who are the most progressive and intellectual element in the city, are somewhat suspicious of the Americans, regarding them as staunch pro-Bulgarians. As the Greeks have a strong claim to the city, both on ethnological and historical grounds, but on the other hand do not form the only element in its population, the ideal solution might be a joint mandate between U.S.A., Great Britain, France, and Greece. This would allow the Americans to continue their good work at Roberts College and elsewhere, Britain could undertake her traditional role of protecting and guiding the Moslems, and France could look after her protegés, the Latin Christians. The Greeks of Constantinople are quite capable of looking after themselves,

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whilst as everybody in the city speaks Greek, which is the business language, Greece should provide the police, especially as she has such fine material in the Cretans.

Touching the Dodecanese, the glories and prowess of the Hospitaller Knights, who held the islands in the Middle Ages, are recounted, and we are told that "what the Order wrought in and from Rhodes from 1310 to 1523, the Greek would never have done." To contradict this somewhat uncharitable statement, we need not go back to the days of Miltiades and the Persian invasion of Europe, but let us confine ourselves to the perpetual warfare of the Byzantine Empire against the Barbarian in the years after Our Lord. Constantinople proved an unassailable barrier to the progress of the heathen hordes, at a time when the rest of the world was in chaos, and the only place where the light of European civilisation shone, and where the newly-born Christian religion found a haven from the storm, was the Byzantine Empire. Let those who abuse the Eastern Empire tell us where we would be at present if Constantinople had succumbed to the barbarian hordes, and left the world plunged in ignorance and Arianism. Constantinople continued to render services to Christianity by being the main obstacle to the spread of Islam, until fellow Christians treacherously assailed her, and so weakened her, that from that day to this the Greek nation has not been able to recover fully.

The Hospitallers may have been guiltless of the sack of Constantinople—they were undoubtedly staunch fighters against the Moslem—and I have no doubt that what they did was in their opinion the correct thing to do in those bad old days; but two blacks do not make a white, and if Rhodes was stolen from the Greek by the Hospitallers for the general good of Christendom, is it not very surprising to me that Christendom benefited little by it in the long run. The Hospitallers, though brave, were too few in numbers to affect the position materially. The Turk no longer having to deal with the efficient and disciplined Byzantine army, but only with the levies of petty feudal states, which were perpetually warring amongst themselves, was able quickly to conquer the Balkans, and then cleared the Hospitallers out of the Dodecanese at his leisure.

Lieut.-Colonel Yate also appears to think that so deep is the hatred of the Greek against the memory of the Hospitaller that were Rhodes to be ceded to Greece, the Hospitaller monuments would be swept away. If the Greeks were at all inclined to wreak their vengeance on the monuments of their mediæval oppressors they would have commenced long ago on the Venetian walls and Frankish castles that fill their land. On the contrary, however, the Greeks take great care of these monuments, and the *manoirs* and *chateaux* of the Villehardouin, the Delaroche Tremouille, and other worthy sires of the Crusades are still in a good state of preservation in the Morea and Roumelia; and Mistra, a huge Crusader fortress full of mediæval relics, is the pride of the modern Spartans. It should be borne in mind that the Latin settlers intermarried with the local inhabitants and in time lost their separate character, so that in some respects these castles may be regarded as native and not foreign.

If the Greek distrusts the Latin it is not because his hatred has not changed, but simply because the Church of Rome has apparently not yet realised that Greece, which gave the world democracy, cannot and will not bend the knee to a Church which has borrowed all the stifling traits of that Empire which produced autocracy. No Church prays more devoutly for Christian reunion than the Orthodox, but we cannot acknowledge the Pope; for we were Christians long before Christianity ever reached Rome. Moreover, the Roman Church has been used in the past to further the political expansion of certain foreign powers in the Near East, and in face of this it is surprising to see the benevolence of the Hellenic Government towards the Holy See, with its propaganda carried out by numerous and polynomastic monkish "educational" orders, which have established themselves in our land after having been expelled from a Catholic State like France. And yet were Greece to expel these dangerous foreign agitators, what an outcry would be raised all over the world!

To prevent the Greek playing the Bosche in Rhodes, Lieut.-Colonel Yate wishes the fraternities which to-day represent the Old Knights of Rhodes to use all their influence "to keep in Italian hands the island which General Elia has administered so well since 1912."

If the extermination of women and children by hunger, the expulsion of all the young men, and the compulsory teaching of Italian in Greek schools is accounted as good administration, General Elia and his colleagues have done extremely well. The Italian nation cannot be blamed for these regrettable incidents; Italians have been found who have vigorously protested against the state of affairs, but it cannot be denied that the Imperialism of the Government of Signor Orlando knew no bounds, and the authorities in the far-off Dodecanese were able to do as they wished. Racial self-determination is not, and never has been, the sole arbiter of national destiny, but if ever a people deserved to be free, if ever they bled to be joined to the rest of their race and expressed their determination to obtain their liberty unequivocally, that people is the Dodecanesian, who have three times in seven years, in the face of the bayonets of the occupying power, voted and proclaimed their union with Greece.

The importance of Cyprus to Britain as a watch station is next pointed out, and the undesirability of the cession of the island to Greece is expressed. Now, the Greek is not so anxious to obtain Cyprus as he is to get possession of Thrace and Asia Minor. Unlike the Turk, whose sole object in life appears to be the re-establishment wherever he goes of those primitive deserts from which his ancestors came, the British have done a lot for Cyprus, and the island has progressed materially under their administration. But because most of the inhabitants of the island are Greek in race, religion, and culture, Greeks feel confident that sooner or later Britain will of her own accord cede the island. The Greeks do not want to receive favours, they want justice. The island might not be so well administered under the Greek authorities as it is under the British, but the Ionian Islands, which enjoyed a much greater degree of self-government, never regretted their cession to Greece, though they have enjoyed in the past a much less able administration than that which Greece possesses at present.

Britain and Greece are natural allies. Both are a mercantile people. The majority of the population of both countries live on or near the sea. The first man to write about Britain was a Greek; one of the first Archbishops of Canterbury was a Greek; the guard of the Emperors of Constantinople was composed of Englishmen mostly; and when Theodore Lascaris defended Constantinople, amongst his troops were English archers. Last, but not least, Byron, Navarino, and Gladstone form the best links of the traditional "entente de cœurs" between Britain and Greece. If approached in the proper spirit an arrangement could be entered upon, whereby the military needs of Britain in the Mediterranean could be satisfied, and at the same time the union of the Hellenic race into a political whole be achieved.—I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER CALLINICOS.

The Greek Church, Higher Broughton, Manchester.

THE MIRACULOUS CURE OF EX-KING CONSTANTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Referring to "Corsair's" sceptical notes in his "Caravanserai" of your issue of yesterday concerning the "miraculous" cure of ex-King Constantine, I beg to point out that "Corsair" made a slight error in his interesting narrative. The Icon he is referring to was brought over from the Church of the Evanghelismos (Annunciation), in the island of Tenos (Cyclades). Two "pardons" are held every year in this island. The first is celebrated on Lady Day, and the second on Assumption Day, and even Turk pilgrims far from Anatolia come to Tenos to offer up prayers before the shrine of "Our Lady of Tenos."

"Corsair" would be interested to know that ex-Queen Sophia, the consort of Constantine de Holstein Glücksbourg, on hearing the miraculous cure, adorned the Icon with her pearl necklace, worth many millions of pounds. The necklace had been given her by the Kaiser, but the *mauvaises langues* of Athens pretended since that the gift to the Icon made in *coram populo* was a "kolossal" bluff, as the ex-queen was seen wearing her necklace as usual some time after she "gave it away."—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONAS.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester, August 23, 1919.

PEACE CELEBRATIONS IN BAGHDAD.

An occasional correspondent writes from Baghdad as follows regarding the Peace celebrations in the City of the Khalifs:—

"The signature of Peace by Germany was celebrated in Baghdad on July 19. A general parade and march-past of the Army of Occupation took place at 6 a.m., followed in the evening by a 'naval review' on the Tigris and a fire-work display.

"For the naval review two or three gunboats and a number of paddle-steamers had to make the best showing that they could, and right well they succeeded, with their illuminations and rockets. In view of the fact that an occasional oil lamp was the utmost in the way of illumination that the city was accustomed to before the British entered, the impression made by the 'display' on the mind of the Arab can well be imagined."

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As half of the School consists of pupils on the £15 foundation, which includes both board and education, a deficiency of about £2,500 a year has to be met by contributions, which are earnestly solicited. Donations of £5 5s., giving one vote for life, or subscriptions of 10s. 6d., giving one vote for the year, may be sent to

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AN ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS AT ALEPPO.

(From a Correspondent.)

"And they shall teach their children's children."

It was a cold, wet, windy evening, such as one frequently experiences in Aleppo during the winter. We had left our "Rolls-Ford" at one of the entrances of the bazaar, beyond which even a Ford could not pass, so narrow was the way; and now, guided by a short, thick-set Armenian boy, we picked our way through the slush and darkness of the alley-way, passing as we did so queues of happily expectant Armenian youngsters, who respectfully made way, and touched their caps to the British uniform as we passed. We had been bidden to a Christmas entertainment which was being given by the British to the children of the Armenian Orphanage, and these youngsters were awaiting their turn to be ushered into the unknown joys which awaited them in their school hall.

At last we were led by our guide into an archway, and, mounting a flight of stone stairs, found ourselves in a large stone-floored hall with classrooms leading off on either side. A gaily-lit Christmas tree stood at the entrance, and at the far end was a raised daïs on which were ranged chairs for the guests of the evening, leaving an open stage in the centre. The entire floor space was covered with serried ranks of children, sized from front to rear, squatting on the floor; and still more were being marshalled in to any spare nook and cranny. Even the windows overlooking the hall were packed with the eager faces of boys, for whom there was no room. Shrill cheers were raised as we were led up to our seats on the daïs, and were renewed upon the arrival of the French *Haut Commissaire* and the Arab Military Governor. At last room had been found for everybody, and the excited chatter of the children was silenced by the headmaster, a little grey-haired old man who, despite frequent imprisonments at the hands of the Turks, had kept the orphanage going through the strenuous years of war. Children's memories are mercifully short, but if ever that man had his reward in this life it must have been that night when he saw the happy faces of hundreds of children whose parents had been brutally massacred in 1915. After a short speech of welcome he announced the programme for the evening, which commenced with a "march past" of the boys of the orphanage, who were the butchers and bakers and candlestick makers, for all are taught a trade, and the food is cooked and the clothing is made entirely by the children themselves. Thereafter followed a varied programme of Armenian songs and dances by tiny tots and children of all ages up to fourteen. One could not help being struck by the extraordinary ability of the very little ones, who seemed advanced beyond their years.

An interval followed, when one hoped that the sacks bulging with toys, which were awaiting distribution at the foot of the daïs, would be speedily emptied. Not so. Much opening and closing of doors and whispering "up stage" betokened theatricals of some sort.

As it was Christmas Eve, and the entertainment was by way of providing a really happy evening to these unfortunate children, who had all experienced the worst horrors of war, we little thought that such a tragic plot would have been chosen. For the drama that was so faithfully enacted before our eyes was the story of the 1915 massacres. Arrogant Turkish officers with fierce, cork-blackened moustaches, strutted and postured, denouncing, in no measured tones, the Armenian and all his works. A mock court-martial was held, and men and women were condemned to death ruthlessly. Then followed the march from condemned cell to place of execution, the laggards being flogged along by the escort. Arrived at the place of execution, the huddled men and weeping women were ranged opposite the firing party. Not one gruesome detail was omitted. At the word of command four rifles cracked, and the prisoners dropped to the ground in horribly realistic attitudes. Some still moved, and the executioners dashed across the stage to complete their work with their knives; to add even more realism, pig's blood had been provided for the final scene.

The scenes which followed were sufficiently revolting, even to those of us who had experienced five years of war. What must they have been to the tiny mites who had but recently seen their own parents murdered before their eyes in similar fashion? As their brains began to grasp the first details of the execution scene, whimperings broke out among the tiniest, and at the exultant rush of the executioners upon their victims a perfect howl of terror—it was nothing less—broke out. And this was their Christmas treat!

Mistresses rushed to their charges, and the first few rows of youngsters were turned bodily round that they might no longer see the horrors which the boys were still enacting with fiendish glee. But upon the earnest request of the guests, executioners and victims were driven, expostulating, from the stage, and the more welcome business of distributing the toys commenced.

Some time later I again met the little grey-haired old man, the producer of the potted tragedy; and I asked him *why*—on a would-be festive occasion—he had produced such a very harrowing plot? "But," said he, "it is necessary to foster in these children the hatred of the Turk."

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

The report that the newsboys in Cairo have struck for an increased commission on their sales comes as rather a cheerful piece of impertinence. One really cannot be angry with these mischievous little devils, but one does wonder who put them up to it. It is quite possible, however, that they have a case—newsboys in this country get one penny in the shilling, I believe, and that does not strike me as being exorbitant. Probably in Cairo the rate is less than that, and the newsboys, full of the discontented atmosphere, will, I expect, back a winner in asking for more. For, in spite of the war, people will have their newspapers; and, in counting on this unwisdom, the boys, who cannot be "locked out," should be able to force the newspaper proprietors to "hand over." It is my secret belief that the regeneration of the world will begin when newspapers cease to be read; but as this seems a very long way off, the Cairo newsboys can persist in their demands with every chance of success. And if they don't succeed, what of it? They'll have had a good run for their money!

***

Those writers who smile at the efforts of Bolshevism in Egypt and in the East generally are not to be taken seriously. In Egypt particularly it is certain that Bolshevist publicists (and secret agents) are doing their nefarious work most efficiently. Their propaganda, for those who care to be told, is most telling. I am surprised therefore to read that the course of training for Soviet journalists which is being opened at Moscow is to be of six weeks' duration only. For it is impossible of course, in that short time to attain such a standard of self-discipline as the profession of anarchistic doctrines imposes. It is not easy in six weeks to crush every feeling of decency and to persuade oneself that it is done in a good cause. The souls of some journalists are small enough, God knows; but the concealment of truth by them is not so offensive as the proclamation of falsehood by Bolshevists. However, the trumpeting of lies is not learned in a day, and we need not fear anything very dreadful from this "six weeks' training."

***

A friend of mine has just had a grievous disappointment. A little while ago he heard that a certain blue postage stamp of the E.E.F. was fetching £8, and as he was in the habit of receiving many letters bearing Egyptian stamps, he began to picture himself taking a few weeks' holiday by the sea with wealthy munitioneers, scavengers, and other newly rich. Oddly enough, none of the blue stamps came along. There were yellow, green, and other colours, but no blue. And meanwhile my friend learned that it was not every blue that fetched the fancy price. In fact, all sorts of rumours reached his ears, and sapped the foundations of his belief, so to say. Then, in the way these things do happen, three blue E.E.F. one-piastre stamps fell into his hands; two dark blue and one light; and he flattered himself that one or other was likely to prove a winner. So off he went to a well-known dealer, and asked, with as offhand an air as he could assume, what the value of these things might be. He had heard they were worth £8. Was that correct? "Humph!" said the dealer. "Some one-piastre blues are catalogued at £8, but as to being worth it, that is quite another question." And he turned to his trade catalogue. "Yes," said he, and showed the entry. "But it is the narrow rouletted variety—not the kind you have. And even if you offered me a narrow rouletted, *I* should be very sorry to give you £8 for it. But it would be worth it if"—a pause—"you met a mug." My friend's interest in philately is less marked now, and the rich munitioneers and others must rub along without him by the sea.

Corsair.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A SERVICE VIEW OF INDIAN REFORM.*

This brochure was well worth publishing, and though it comes too late to be of much service in moulding general opinion, we hope that some, at least, of the members of the Joint Committee now sitting may find leisure to study it as it deserves. Mr. Barker contributes some appropriate introductory matter, but in the main the papers contain the views of some comparatively junior officials serving in the Central Provinces, and are marked by that liberal spirit which prevails so widely among the Indian services, though its existence is ignored by their hostile critics. Like so many practical administrators, the writers are opposed to the official scheme of dyarchy, and they contribute some acute observations to the mass of criticism which it has to face, while on the constructive side they urge the maintenance of a unified executive containing an increasing popular element. In essentials their scheme resembles that which has been put forward by the heads of provinces, and it is open to most of the criticisms offered in the Government of India's recent despatch. For ourselves, we think its main weakness lies in its failure to make clear to the masses what is really happening. In the first stage of the unified scheme we should have an Executive comprising two official and two non-official councillors, acting as a whole: where the two sides differed, policy would be decided by the Governor's casting vote, and we should often have the non-officials defending before the Legislature measures to which they themselves were opposed. Such collective responsibility might be an excellent experience for the Councillors, but it would be incomprehensible to the electors, whose education is the most important point of all. In the first years of the experiment what is wanted is a single Minister telling the Legislature, and through it the electors, that he has done this, or will not do that, and submitting to their verdict on the clearest possible issues: the dyarchy at least offers that prospect, and surely it is a more hopeful beginning than to have Ministers defending a Governor's casting vote with which they entirely disagree. Some of the other suggestions put forward by the writers are less open to such criticism, and in particular there is much to be said for their plea that the Legislatures should consist of two chambers from the start, instead of a single chamber and a rather shapeless adjunct, such as is contemplated in the official scheme.

The writers' outlook is occasionally somewhat provincial, as in the suggestion that, if dyarchy must come, the department known as law and justice should be transferred to popular Ministers. That course might be feasible in the Central provinces, where the people are, on the whole, a fairly happy family, but it is as yet unthinkable in the country further north, where religious disturbances have to be expected, and where no minority would feel safe if the Minister came from the ranks of their opponents. We are not, however, recommending the brochure as an infallible guide: it has strong points as well as weak, and perhaps its most valuable feature is the spirit which it breathes.

*"The Future of the Government of India," and "The Indian Civil Service." Papers edited by Ernest Barker, Fellow and Tutor of New College, Oxford. (London: Methuen. Price, 1s. 6d. net.)

SLAVONIC LITERATURE.*

The anthologist is usually fair game for the reviewer, both for what he includes and what he leaves out of his selection. In the present case Mr. Selver has the advantage of his critics in one respect, since few people in England have sufficient knowledge of modern Slavonic literature to detect his omissions, far less his reasons for the omissions, and any suggestion that he might have found better extracts could probably be countered by the retort that nothing better exists in the young literatures of which he has made an anthology. In that event we can only criticise the translator. Many of the prose extracts from Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Czech, and Serbian writers are of little importance; the selector, indeed, admits they are inadequate. Since his Russian section includes no Tolstoy and his Polish section ignores the author of "Pan Tadeuz," we are not concerned to labour its inadequacy further. The verse is more inclusive, and although the translation makes some of the poems seem feeble and others wooden, there is at least one which is full of fire—the tremendous onslaught on Mommsen, who is used by the Czech nationalist poet as a typical Prussian Imperialist. But we cannot deny the feeling that a good deal of the verse is somewhat trivial, and we are left with the painful dilemma that either it is easy to succeed as a poet in the Near East or difficult to succeed as a translator in England. Mr. Selver himself should be able to resolve that difficulty, if ever a second edition is required. But we are grateful to him for the short biography at the end, with the descriptive accounts of the authors whom he presents. A. W. T.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Eyes of Understanding," by C. R. Milton. (London: Andrew Melrose. 6s. net.)

"With the British Army in the Holy Land," with maps, by Major H. O. Lock. (London: Robert Scott. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Political Map of the New States of Europe in 1919, according to Treaties of Paris." (Coloured.) (Edinburgh: John Bartholomew and Son, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

"Without the Walls," by Katrina Trask. (London: Macmillan and Co. $1.40.)

"The City of Palms," by Kathlyn Rhodes. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 6s. 9d. net.)

"The Round Table," No. 36, September issue. (London: Macmillan and Co. 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Singing Caravan: A Sufi Tale," by Robert Vansittart. (London: William Heinemann. 6s. net.)

"Nationalities in Hungary." By André de Hevesy. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 6s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

"Red Easter in the Dodecanese" is the title of a pamphlet containing letters written in THE NEAR EAST and other journals. These letters deal with the alleged Italian atrocities in the Dodecanese.

"Mesopotamia: Sonnets and Lyrics at Home and Abroad, 1914-1919" is the title of a volume written by Captain Griffyth Fairfax. It includes the memorial lines which were circulated by G.H.Q. at Baghdad. The book will shortly be published by John Murray.

*"Anthology of Modern Slavonic Literature." By P. Selver. (Kegan Paul. 5s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. September	1919. August		1337. Julheggia.	5679. Elul.
5	23	Friday	10	10
6	24	Saturday.....	11	11
7	25	Sunday	12	12
8	26	Monday	13	13
9	27	Tuesday	14	14
10	28	Wednesday	15	15
11	29	Thursday	16	16

Dr. F. G. Clemow has returned to London, on sick leave.

M. Metaxas, formerly Greek Minister at the Court of St. James's, has arrived in London from Athens.

M. Gennadius, honorary Greek Minister, and Mme. Gennadius have left their town residence for the country.

Admiral Sir S. A. Gough Calthorpe, High Commissioner at Constantinople, arrived at Marseilles on August 30.

General Sir George and Lady Younghusband have returned to St. Thomas's Tower, Tower of London, from Dublin.

Colonel Bromis, Paymaster-General to the Greek Army, left London on August 28 for the Greek Legation in Paris.

Colonel Dimitresco, Military Adviser to the Roumanian Peace Delegation, left London on August 28 for the Legation in Paris.

The Council of Administration of the Ottoman (Aidin) Railway Company have appointed Mr. F. S. McVittie, Smyrna, local auditor to the company.

Colonel Amery, the Under Secretary for the Colonies, arrived at Malta on August 31. His mission is to inquire into the financial position of the island.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby left Port Said on September 3 on the P. and O. liner Caledonia, and is due to arrive in London on Wednesday of next week.

Admiral Bristol has been appointed High Commissioner of the United States, having charge under the State Department in political matters at Constantinople.

Captain Hugh E. Poynter has been appointed Paris representative of Messrs. Baldwins, of Port Talbot Steel Works. He is leaving for Paris to-morrow with Mrs. Poynter.

M. Adossides, Greek Governor-General of Macedonia, has been awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his services to British troops in Macedonia.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Mr. Edward Alexander, P.W.D., India (Assam), and Phyllis Evelyn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Taunton, of Edgbaston.

The Shah of Persia, with his suite, arrived at Brig (Valais) yesterday morning. It is expected that his Majesty will arrive in England early in October. According to latest reports he will not go to the United States.

Lieut.-Colonel T. H. Parry, D.S.O., M.P., who received an injury to a lung while in Palestine, has had a recurrence of the trouble, and has been ordered by his medical advisers to take two or three months' complete rest.

The marriage arranged between Henrietta Sybil Douglas, daughter of Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. H. P. Picot, and Major Stephen Keith Thorburn will take place at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, on October 7, 1919, at 2.30 p.m.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, accompanied by Colonel Rosetti, the newly-appointed Military Attaché to the Legation, on August 29 visited the Foreign Office and introduced Colonel Rosetti to Sir Ronald Graham.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in November, at Leathley, between John Ughtred Thornton Shuttleworth, fifth son of the late Allen Thornton Shuttleworth, of the Indian Navy and Indian Woods and Forests, and Gwendolen, younger daughter of Sir Rowland Barran, of Leathley Hall, Otley, Yorkshire, and 24, Queen's Gate, S.W.

The marriage was celebrated on August 30 at Holy Trinity Church, Twickenham, by the Rev. Henry Mitchell, M.A., late Chaplain to the Forces, between W. R. B. Williams, Captain, 7th Gurkhas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bridgewater Williams, of Richmond, Surrey, and Eveline Agnes, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Image, of Strawberry Hill, Middlesex.

The engagement is announced between Reginald L. Phillips, Bank of Bombay, Bombay, only son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Carrington Phillips, of South Norwood, and Ida Wallen, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Bristow Wallen, of South Croydon.

Our Smyrna Correspondent writes:—Brigadier-General Hare, and Colonel Thompson, Chief of Staff, have arrived in Smyrna as British representatives on the commission which will investigate the incidents connected with the landing of Greek troops in Smyrna on May 15.

The marriage arranged between Major E. H. Impey, M.C., son of Lieutenant-Colonel L. Impey, C.S.I., C.I.E., and Miss M. A. R. Cowie, daughter of Brigadier-General H. Cowie, C.M.G., R.E., will take place on Saturday, September 6, at 2 p.m., at Hordle Church, near Brockenhurst.

The marriage was celebrated on August 31 at the Parish Church, Chelsea, by the Rev. C. J. Millar, B.A., between Stanley James, second son of James Killby, of Holly Bank, Pembury, Kent, and Johanna (Joan), third daughter of the late John Haller, of the Knutchury Estates, Coorg, Mysore, India.

The marriage was celebrated on August 27 at the Parish Church, Charmouth, by the Rev. Glen Dalyrymple, assisted by the Vicar, between Arthur Beatson Reid, Indian Civil Service, son of the late John Maitland Reid, and of Mrs. Reid, and Norah, daughter of the late Frank S. Bird and of Mrs. F. S. Bird.

The engagement is announced between Ian Vincent Hamilton Campbell, elder surviving son of Mr. R. H. Campbell, C.I.E., I.C.S., retired, and Mrs. Campbell, of Mysore, India, and Madeline Lowe Reid, eldest daughter of Mr. H. Anglin Whitelocke, M.D., F.R.C.S., of Oxford, and 52, Harley Street, and Mrs. Whitelocke.

The marriage was celebrated on August 27, at S. Mary's Church, Witney, Oxon, by the Rev. A. W. Douglas, Chaplain, Dhanbad, India, assisted by the Rev. Reece Unsworth, Rector of Witney, between Edward Smedley Tarlton, of Humerdhubi, Bengal, and Helen Mary Habgood, of Witney, late of 52, Beaumont Street, London.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Mr. E. J. B. Greenwood, M.Sc., A.M.I.E.E., P.W.D., Madras, son of the late Colonel J. Greenwood, R.E. Staff, and of Mrs. Greenwood, 1, Bartrams Park, Hampstead, and Grace Ryan, daughter of Mr. W. P. Ryan, J.P., and Mrs. Ryan, of 18, Ellerdale Road, Hampstead, London.

The marriage was celebrated on August 28, at Holy Trinity Church, West Hill, S.W., by the Rev. Canon Woodhouse, assisted by the Rev. George Trevor (father of the bridegroom) and the Rev. F. J. Sibree, vicar of the parish, between Major Arthur C. H. Trevor, 24th Punjabis, and Dorothy Noel, youngest daughter of Coventry A. Woodhouse, Southmead, Wimbledon Park, S.W.

The King has granted permission to Miss Francesca Wilson, Miss Margaret MacFie, Miss Dorothy Brown, and Miss Ellen Hill to wear the Insignia of the Fifth Class of the Order of St. Sava conferred upon them by the King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in recognition of their services in relation to the Serbian Relief Fund.

Reuter's Paris correspondent writes:—A message from Jerusalem states that the Government of the Hejaz has asked Mrs. Anna Fisher, of the American Red Cross, to accept the post of permanent member of the Department of Public Works, with the rank of captain, in recognition of her valuable services in organising a large orphanage at Damascus.

Our Malta Correspondent writes:—

Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir Somerset Gough-Calthorpe, the retiring commander-in-chief, has left on H.M.S. Hussar.

Major B. Richie has taken up duties as General Staff Officer of the Malta Command.

The King of the Hellenes has bestowed honours on the following Maltese officers: Major J. V. Aspinall, Major C. D. Vella, Major F. Suvala, and Major E. J. Briffa de Piro.

Lieut.-Colonel A. Briffa, C.M.G., has relinquished his commission, and Major F. P. Denaro has been promoted to lieut.-colonel.

On Wednesday a joint session of the Royal Asiatic Society, Société Asiatique, American Oriental Society, and Scuola Orientale of the University of Rome was held at the Royal Institution under the auspices of the Royal Asiatic Society. In the absence of Sir Mortimer Durand, director of the R.A.S., the session was opened by Sir Charles Lyall. He said that during the war the pursuit of scientific studies had been impossible. Now came the epoch of reconstruction and they were assembled to inaugurate a fresh effort in Oriental studies. They aimed at concerting plans for the advancement of archæological research among the nations brought together by the war in bonds of closer friendship. Among the changes wrought by the war were the severance of outlying provinces from the Turkish Empire and the entry of India as a nation into the field of politics. The new conditions had thrown open to scientific research large tracts hitherto in a great measure closed. Professor A. T. Clay, of Yale University, M. Emile Sennart, of the Société Asiatique, and Professor Cordier also spoke.

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The marriage was celebrated on August 27, at St. Mary's, Twyford, Hants, by the Rev. John Pim, B.D., Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin (father of the bridegroom), assisted by the Rev. H. S. Morris, M.A., vicar of the parish, between Capt. Hugh Maxwell Pim, M.C., 24th Punjabis, and Nora Beatrice Mary, elder daughter of Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. H. E. Drake-Brockman, Beachborough, Twyford, Winchester.

The engagement is announced of Tudor P. Williams (late Special Reserve, attached 1st Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, and Political Department, Mesopotamia), Egyptian Education Service, youngest son of the late Rev. M. P. Williams, rector of Peppard, Henley-on-Thames, and Mrs. Williams, to Madge Garvey, Cartref, Oxford, youngest daughter of the late Rev. F. E. Thomas, rector of Gorton, Manchester.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

The *Catholic Times* states that Father Alban Goodier, S.J., has been chosen Archbishop-elect of Bombay. Father Goodier, who is at present in England, is attached to St. Francis Xavier's College, Bombay.

Nearly all the new British diplomatic appointments are those of statesmen who have seen service in the Near East, but the ones with which we are most closely concerned are those of Sir Charles Alban Young and Sir Ronald Graham—both excellent choices. Sir Charles Alban Young, who is to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, was born in 1865 and was first appointed to Constantinople. Afterwards he served, among other places, at Rome, Teheran, and Athens. No better selection could have been made for the first British Minister to the new Triune kingdom. Sir Ronald W. Graham, who is to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Queen of the Netherlands, is best known for his work in Egypt. Born in 1870 he was in 1907 appointed Counsellor to the British Agency at Cairo, and in 1910 was seconded for service under the Egyptian Government. From 1910 to 1916 he was adviser to the Egyptian Minister of the Interior. Other appointments include:—Sir George Buchanan, who served in 1903 at Sofia, to be Ambassador to the King of Italy; Mr. C. A. de R. Barclay, who has served in Sofia, Bucharest, and Belgrade, to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of Sweden; and Sir George Clerk, who has served in Adis Abeba, Abyssinia, and Constantinople, to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Czecho-Slovak Republic.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on August 24 at Jersey of Colonel Charles Henry Stoddart, late 103rd Fusiliers and Indian Army,. Colonel Stoddart served in Afghanistan from 1879 to 1881, and in Burma from 1886-1889.

Lieutenant-Colonel Rowland J. Beech, late 2nd Life Guards and Warwickshire Yeomanry, of Brandon Hall, Warwickshire, died on August 30 at Folkestone. He served in the Sudan Expedition of 1884-5, when he received the medal with two clasps.

Mr. W. S. Lilly, the well-known writer, died on August 29. In 1861 he passed into the Indian Civil Service, and occupied various posts in Madras until 1869, when he was appointed Under Secretary to the Government; but for reasons of health he was forced to leave India. His numerous writings on history, religion, and politics included one book on "India and its Problems."

The death occurred on September 2 at Cambridge of Dr. Alexander Macalister, Professor of Anatomy at Cambridge University. He was a man of very wide interests, and he achieved fame as an Egyptologist. He had travelled extensively in the East, where for a time one of his sons, Dr. R. A. S. Macalister, was Director of Excavations under the Palestine Exploration Fund.

Colonel John Gordon Geddes died suddenly on August 26 at the Army Headquarters at Shoreham. He was born in 1863, and became a lieutenant in the Royal Artillery at the age of twenty. He was D.A.A.G. of the Royal Artillery in India from 1897 to 1900. He served with the Tirah Expeditionary Force in 1898 as Orderly Officer Royal Artillery, and had the medal with clasp for that expedition.

Our Malta Correspondent writes:—
The island has received a great shock in learning of the death of Miss Cicely Gage at Plymouth, as the deceased, whilst in Malta, was ever in demand at all local musical functions, and was practically the *prima donna* of the Malta Dramatic Society. Sympathies are extended to her mother and her step-father, Mr. E. A. S. Hayward, Assistant Director of Stores at the Admiralty.

Sir Duncan Colvin Baillie, K.C.S.I., late of the Indian Civil Service, died at Glenquaich Lodge, Amulree, on August 30. He was appointed to the Indian Civil Service in 1879, and served in the North-West Provinces and Oudh. After seventeen years' service he was appointed secretary to the Board of Revenue, and was subsequently opium agent and Commissioner for Benares, and a member of the Board of Revenue. He was appointed a member of the Lieutenant-Governor's Council in 1909, and in 1913 officiated as Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces.

A correspondent writes:—The news of the death of Sir Duncan Baillie, K.C.S.I., will be received with widespread sorrow in Northern India, where he was known and loved, by men of all classes, and not least by the peasants whose interests lay so near his heart. A man of great abilities, he was too impatient of routine and detail for the ordinary secretariat career, but he dealt with large questions with the sure hand of the statesman, and he has left his mark on many branches of the administration in the United Provinces. His relations with Indians were characterised by extraordinary insight, and by a genuine sympathy, which enabled him to go straight to the heart of difficult and complex problems, and at the same time to win the respect and admiration of the men with whom he came in contact; he was idolised by his subordinates, and Englishmen in India will mourn him as the wisest of counsellors and the best of friends.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Newsboys in Cairo have struck for an increased commission on their sales.

Marshal Liman von Sanders has arrived at Berlin from Malta, and complains of his imprisonment.

After a debate on August 26 the Belgrade Parliament passed, by a majority of eight, a vote of confidence in the Government.

The Indian troops encamped at Hampton Court, who were to have left for India on August 26, will stay until September 10.

An order for khaki frieze to the value of £11,000 for the Greek Army has been received by the woollen mills at Meaford, Ontario.

According to the Exchange Telegraph Company, a Bolshevist delegation has arrived at Kisheneff on a peace mission from Lenin to Roumania.

The French airman, Major Guillemin, reached Constantinople on August 28 from Beyrout, where he had arrived two days before from Cairo.

It is announced from Simla that the Commission which is to mark the boundary between India and Afghanistan started its work on August 23 in the West Khyber.

The Roumanian Legation in London states that by Royal decree the study of the English language has been rendered obligatory in all boys' and girls' secondary schools in Roumania.

The Board of Trade has received a copy of a notice, issued by the Government of Malta on August 19, imposing quarantine measures on vessels arriving from Constantinople on account of cholera.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1919.

ROUMANIA AND THE ALLIES.

The announcement that the Supreme Council is presenting an ultimatum to Roumania has an ugly ring about it; but it is not too late to hope that a satisfactory solution of the *contretemps* will yet be found. The trouble is due in no small measure to the fact that the Peace Conference during all these months could evolve no clear-cut policy with regard to Hungary. When, therefore, the Roumanians intervened with a very definite programme and proceeded to carry it through *vi et armis* the Supreme Council took alarm and began to realize the disastrous effects of their own dilatoriness. Roumania in the first instance fell from grace because she exploded the belief that the Near East can be regulated according to the complacent theories of Western chancelleries without reference to concrete facts. National characteristics as well as the actual course of events had been ignored. While the Supreme Council were experimenting with Magyar Bolshevism, they forgot that the Roumanians had long ago been overrun by Austro-German armies, that they had endured many months of enemy occupation with its consequent spoliation, and that they were in danger of repeating the experience at the hands of Russian and Magyar Bolshevism. The Roumanians would have been false to all their traditions if they had sat still with folded arms and allowed themselves to be overwhelmed while the Paris Conference deliberated as to the best way to deal with Bela Kun. They struck swiftly without waiting for instructions, and in view of the fact that they had already had cause to resent what they regarded as interference with their sovereign rights, we may well imagine that they felt no little satisfaction in launching their military operations before the Supreme Council had become aware of the necessity or were able to appraise the seriousness of the situation not only for Roumania, but for Europe as well. All that followed showed that the Roumanians, while not wholly devoid of pique, were practical people and not mere theorists. The Roumanian army defeated the "Red" levies of Bela Kun, entered Budapest and imposed terms which promised to put an end to Hungary's capacity for mischief. These terms, it is true, were reminiscent of Brest-Litovsk conditions. In this respect the Roumanians, perhaps, only showed themselves to be human, and the Paris Conference, instead of being carried away by surprise and indignation, should have blamed itself for allowing a situation to develop which placed the Roumanians in a position to give full play to their natural instincts.

The Allied Governments, it is to be hoped, will allow their common sense to prevail in this matter. They can press for unity of policy among the Allied and Associated nations, but the phrase pre-supposes definite action and not a weak-kneed waiting upon events. The first thing in regard to which they can disabuse their minds is that the East can be relied upon to regulate its affairs on Western lines. The East wages war and makes peace in a way of its own; the whole record of the Balkans and the Treaty of Bucharest of 1913 are evidence of this fact. Consequently it is of no avail to leave South-Eastern Europe to itself to adjust the relations between the different States according to the ideas of Western diplomacy. If it is desired to apply Western principles in regard to international relations to the whole of Europe, provision must be made for their adoption by all the States concerned. Such a course would be far less arbitrary, far more justifiable, under the conditions created by the war, than the attempt already made to interfere with some of Roumania's domestic concerns. The delimitation of the boundaries of the New Roumania and the enforcement of genuine peacefulness in the Balkans are, strictly speaking, the very proper concern of the Supreme Council; the same cannot be said of the desire to prescribe for the protection of racial and religious minorities in the Roumanian kingdom. In all probability the independent action taken by Roumania in Hungary has in some measure been prompted by resentment felt against the Peace Conference over this minorities question. Rightly or wrongly, Roumania objects to being classed in the category of States which have been resuscitated or called into existence as a result of the war. She prides herself on being an old-established State, with a particularly proud record in regard to the Turkish domination of the Balkans. Her independence, moreover, was regained as a result of her own efforts, in contradistinction to the Balkan countries that were directly assisted by one or more of the Great Powers. To-day Roumanian interests are too closely bound up with those of the Allies to justify any breaking off of relations, from whichever side it may come. We may hope, therefore, that before any more drastic action is taken by the Paris Conference a careful attempt will be made to adjust all misunderstandings. In view of all that Roumania has suffered during the war it is not unnatural that some of her people should labour under the belief that she has been persistently neglected by the Allies, and the conviction will have been confirmed by the way in which the Roumanian army was left to deal with the Magyars without Allied help. There is, of course, no foundation for these misgivings; but their existence should be taken into account, and allowance made for Roumanian exasperation at the severe wording of the rebuff administered by the Paris Conference.

The gravamen of the charge against the Roumanians is that they have laid hands on locomotives and rolling stock, foodstuffs and other goods, and have removed them to their own country without reference to the Allies. It is held in Paris that the Roumanian army was not engaged in a separate war against Hungary, but was carrying out disciplinary measures on behalf of the Allies against Bela Kun's Government. Bucharest is hardly to be blamed for finding the distinction too subtle for the conduct of a campaign which opened with a Bolshevist advance and a Roumanian withdrawal. There can be little doubt that, if Bela Kun's "Red" army had been successful, the Roumanians would have had a repetition of their experiences in 1917-18 before the Allies could have come to their rescue. For them it was another phase in their war against Austria-Hungary, with this difference, that they were now the victors and that they were in a position to recover some of the property that had previously been taken from them and to make good some of the loss which they had suffered at the hands of the same enemies. Ever since the Armistice Roumania has been appealing to the Allies for locomotives and rolling stock, of which she was denuded during the Austro-German occupation. It is necessary to have visited the country to appreciate the ravages carried out so systematically by the Central Powers. The Allies have provided some relief in the way of foodstuffs, but have been unable to supply the no less pressing requirements of railway material. Is it surprising, therefore, that the Roumanians should have been tempted to help themselves when a considerable quantity of rolling stock fell into their hands? The Allies may feel obliged to examine the ethics of this proceeding, but it should be done with the utmost goodwill towards Roumania and with appreciation of her position. They may find, indeed, that the Roumanian Government, if driven into a corner, will decide that the material wealth already derived from the campaign against Hungary outweighs any benefits that it stands to gain from the Allies, to say nothing of the political capital accruing to M. Bratianu at a critical period of his administration. In the long run, however, Roumania has nothing to gain by quarreling with the Allies, and it is to be hoped that statesmanship on both sides will find a way out of the present *impasse*.

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MOUNT ATHOS AND THE WAR.

(From a Correspondent.)

The famous monastic community on Mount Athos has led for ten centuries a tranquil life, rarely troubled by the wars and tempests of the outside world. The oldest monastery, that of Lavra, at the apex of the peninsula, was founded by a certain Saint Athanasius Athoites in 961, the necessary funds being supplied by the Emperor Nicephorus Phocas. The wealthy institution of Vatopedhi, it is true, is said by tradition to have existed already, and to have been sacked by the Arabs in the ninth century, but the earliest historical mention is in 972, when it was built or restored by three noblemen of Adrianople. The fashion thus set was quickly and widely followed. In 980 General John Torkikion founded Iviro. As its name implies, this was originally a Georgian institution, for this people is referred to under the name Iviri or Iveri in mediæval Greek writings, but it has long since been Hellenised. In all there are seventeen Greek monasteries, the remaining three being Slavonic. In 1197 Stepan Nemanya, founder of the Serbian empire and of a dynasty that reigned for three centuries, became a monk, and, in conjunction with his son, Saint Sava, patron saint of Serbia, bought an estate from Vatopedhi, and founded the famous Serbian monastery of Hilendar, in a beautiful glade near the north-east coast of the promontory. This monastery has been of great national importance, for it has kept alive through the long centuries of Turkish oppression the tradition of Serbian sovereignty.

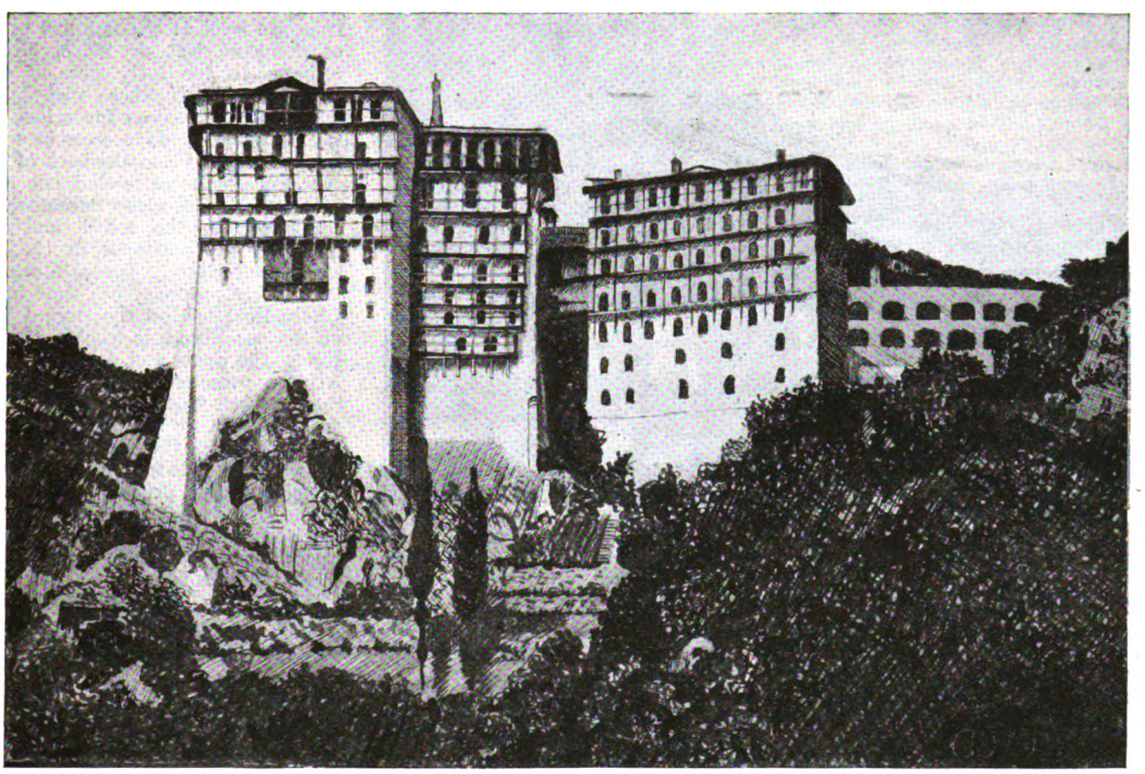
Some time in the ninth century another Slavonic monastery was founded by three noblemen of Ochrida, in a shaded grove a few miles south of Hilendar. It is dedicated to Saint George, as a portrait of the saint was miraculously found on the site; hence the Greek name Zographou, or portrait. The third Slavonic foundation is the great and wealthy Russian monastery of St. Panteleimon, founded in the eleventh century, and removed in the eighteenth to a beautiful spot on the south coast.

Many of the monasteries are extremely wealthy; Vatopedhi owns nearly half the peninsula, while nearly all have much property in Chalcidice and Macedonia, and Panteleimon had vast estates in Russia. By the constitution granted by various Byzantine emperors, the number of monasteries is limited to twenty; each sends a delegate to the Holy Conclave at the capital, Karyes, where each has a konak or club-house. In addition to these there are a number of semi-official monasteries called "skites," which rent their land from their neighbours. The palatial buildings of the wealthy Russian skite of Saint Andrew, founded in 1849, dominate the town of Karyes, but are built on land rented from Vatopedhi. Finally, there are a number of small units or hermitages called "kellia."

The fundamental law of the community is that it is essentially celibate. No female, even no female animal, is allowed on the peninsula; consequently, animal produce must be imported, and many a Greek merchant has made a fortune selling meat, poultry and eggs to the monks. So strict is this law that at the entrance to the peninsula, at the isthmus where Xerxes cut a canal, there is a special guard of sturdy monks to see that no travellers arrive riding even on a jenny mule.

Through the Turkish days, as Russia was the protectress of the Orthodox Christians of the Ottoman Empire, the community enjoyed a large degree of autonomy under the protection of the Tsars. With the acquisition of Macedonia by the Greeks in 1912, Mount Athos became Hellenic territory. Relations had for some time been rather strained between the Greeks and the Russians, as in many cases the former had mortgaged their lands to the Russians, who had greater capital resources, and as they outnumbered them in the Conclave, they at once assumed superiority. The Russians had little to say, and with the collapse of the Muscovite Empire they lost the last traces of their influence. The rich monastery of Panteleimon has fallen on evil days. By the cessation of the flow of novices owing to the war, the death of the elder members of the community, and the call to the colours of monks up to the age of forty-two, the strength has been reduced to about a thousand, a bare quarter of the nominal accommodation of the monastery. Its great guest-house is now nearly always empty, and the worthy Russian monks, famed for their generous hospitality, apologise, not without bitterness, that they are unable to offer the occasional wayfarer anything better than gruel and salad, *arrosé*, however, with excellent home-brewed wine and fragrant coffee. Shorn of their influence and their wealth, the good Russians bear their misfortunes with dignity and resignation.

The Bulgarian monastery of Zographou, too, has felt the effect of the war: a Bosnian monk who deserted and preferred road-making for the British army in Macedonia for three drachmæ a day, related that though there were thirty good Serbian brothers at Zographou, there were seventy stalwart Bulgarian brothers, who made life uncomfortable for the Serbs, till French and British intelligence officers removed the more zealous of them, fearing that the nooks and creeks of the rocky coast afforded too good a shelter for German submarines. Consequently, by



THE MONASTERY OF SIMO PETRA.

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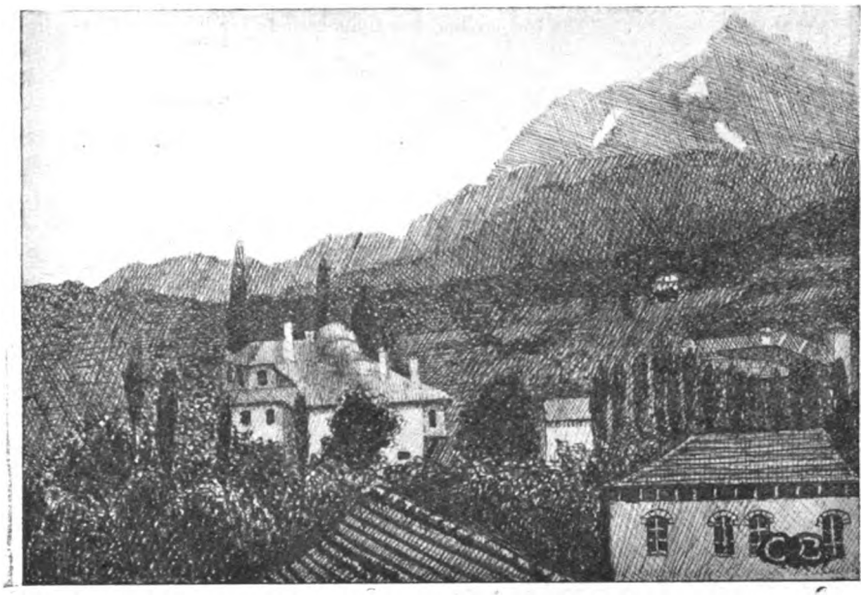
the summer of 1918 there was little to show that this was an enemy institution. One searched the walls of the reception chamber in vain for portraits of Ferdinand, until one saw his foxy nose protruding from among a group of officers in an obscure photograph in a corner of the room; on the other hand, portraits of the young Greek King, of M. Venizelos, and even of King George occupied prominent places on the walls.

Of the two monks detailed to receive a party of Allied officers who visited the monastery in the summer of 1918, one was an old gentleman who had lived for sixty years a quiet life in these isolated surroundings, and so left his birthplace before the jealousies of Russia and Austria-Hungary had created and fostered that desperate but artificial rivalry between Bulgar and Serb. The other was a native of Ochrida, who had visited Cetinje and Belgrade, but had never been in Bulgaria in his life. Here, as at Panteleimon, there was no meat, but excellent octopus and lettuce, which both looked and tasted like lobster salad. The Serbian monastery was abundantly supplied with fish, tunny and swordfish, which the worthy monks were busy salting and drying for the year's supply.



VIEW FROM KARYES.

Of all the monasteries, Hilendar alone, on the north-east coast and near the base of the promontory, could see the flash and hear the deep booming note of the big guns of our monitors when they were engaged upon their nightly practice of bombarding the Bulgar lines across the Gulf of Orphano.

At Vatopedhi the monks complained that there was great difficulty in obtaining white flour for sacramental bread, and oil for their electric lighting plant; otherwise they appeared little affected by the war.

Hospitality is the most noticeable virtue of the monks; it is impossible for the stranger to spend money in the community, for each monastery has a guest-house, which is an hotel without a bill; one cannot hire transport, for the monks send travellers on from place to place by relays of their own mules. A little bakhsheesh to the muleteers, who are simple peasants, is the only possible form of expenditure, other than a little shopping in Karyes, a quaint little town with neither women nor children, where one can collect a few curiosities, such as Anatolian rugs, quaint water-bottles made of gourds, exquisitely carved wood, and albums of photographs.

On arriving at the gates of a monastery the stranger is struck by the reposeful atmosphere, especially after the war-stricken plains and rocks of Macedonia, of the stately buildings, with flagged and paved courtyards recalling some of the Oxford quads., though the southern colouring and lofty cypresses at once strike an exotic note. A portly monk politely receives the visitor, leading him to a higher official of benevolent aspect, who in turn conducts him up interminable staircases, through long corridors, into a large reception-room, where the walls are lined with Austrian Bentwood chairs. The procedure is invariably the same. Several benignant old gentlemen take their seats near the visitors, and in turn make polite inquiries after the health and families of their guests. Presently an aldermanic individual, whom no difference in costume distinguishes from the rest, walks in with stately gait bearing a tray laden with jam, good *raki* and cigarettes; ten minutes later a colleague offers coffee, which in turn is again followed by *raki* and cigarettes, in almost endless succession. The walls of the reception-room are decorated by large photographs of venerable *igumens*, of the monastic hierarchy, together with those of King Alexander of Greece, M. Venizelos, Admiral Kondouriotis and even of King George and Queen Mary.

The whole atmosphere is one of peace and repose, passing into stagnation; the monks are all portly, bland, smiling and placid, both in manner and appearance. Novices are recruited young and trained for the monastic life. As they live well, and the country is hilly and steep and their staircases high, the commonest end to their earthly career is by apoplexy when they attain the age of sixty.

The scenery is charming. On arrival at Vatopedhi, the traveller rubs his eyes to see the dainty little bungalows with lichen-covered shingle roofs, broken outlines and walls tinted with buff, pink, and blue. But for the inevitable rounded dome on each of these *kellia*, they would be taken for a fishing or golfing bungalow in one of the English southern counties. The peninsula is a narrow ridge, rising from sea-level at the isthmus to a couple of thousand feet or more, till it culminates in the lofty cone of the Holy Mountain itself, whose rocky peak is a landmark for sailors for miles, and was visible on clear days even to our troops on Gallipoli. From the back of the ridge one can see the olive-clad isle of Thasos to the north and rocky Samothrace in the far east; to the south and west the Sporades are scattered in the blue sea, while immediately beneath one are the two other prongs of the trident of Chalcidice; behind the rugged fastnesses of the mainland is visible the peak of Kotos, the pride and delight of Salonika. All the promontory is well wooded; on the northern flank, which is rather bleak, are dense groves of pine, ilex and chestnut, while on the milder southern side wild pomegranates, the bright green leaves of the Judas tree and darker green of the pistachios stand out against the deep hues of the bay, of juniper, myrtle and glaucous green of the wild olives, the whole splashed with the golden patches of broom. The dense and thick vegetation is especially welcome after the treeless wastes and parched and scrubby hillsides of Macedonia.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

The Secretary of State for India announces that 204 medical men are urgently required to fill vacancies in the Indian Medical Service. Of these two-thirds (136) will be Europeans and the remainder Indians. The appointment of European candidates will be made by nomination on the recommendation of a selection committee in England. Applications from Europeans, and from Indian candidates resident in this country, will be received at the India Office. Candidates must be over 21 and under 32 years of age at date of application. Preference will be given to candidates who are or have been serving with his Majesty's Forces during the war. All service rendered as a medical or combatant officer, or in a position usually filled by an officer, during the war will count both for promotion and pension on appointment to the Service.

The scale of pay has recently been greatly increased. A lieutenant on appointment now receives Rs.550 a month (equivalent at the present rate of exchange, the continuance of which cannot be guaranteed, to £605 per annum). Those who have had three years or more previous service will enter in the rank of captain on Rs.700 a month (or £770 a year). An officer who is appointed to the Service in 1919 or 1920 may claim to retire on a gratuity of £1,200 on completion of eight years' service from date of permanent appointment, provided he has given eighteen months' notice of his intention to retire.

Application forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, Military Department, India Office. The correspondence should be clearly marked on the top left-hand side of the envelope, "Medical Recruitment."

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Persia.

The *New Statesman* dealt recently with the Anglo-Persian Agreement and the sources from which criticism of the Agreement has come. It begins its argument with the following premise:—

If we put aside prejudice and view the matter dispassionately, it must be allowed that there is a case for this Agreement. We have an obvious and legitimate interest in a settled and prosperous Persia. Persia, on her side, has an obvious need for foreign assistance in the task of setting herself on her feet. The Persian nationalists have always admitted that, and have always professed themselves ready to accept help from this country.

It proceeds to examine the causes of criticism, and concludes that the case against Britain, though superficially strong, is, in fact, an exceedingly weak one. In any case, it says, the British case can be put to the test.

The Agreement, we are willing to believe, is honestly intended. Doubtful as it may look, it does not necessarily imply the strangling of Persia. It gives us, certainly, an enormous influence in Persia. But it also gives Persia the material help which she urgently needs, and, provided we carry out our obligations in an honourable manner, the Persians should have nothing to fear. But this is not to say that they will not, in fact, fear us. And they will be fearful with good reason unless and until we give an earnest that our intentions are really honest. How are we to give such an earnest? It is not an easy task to win back the goodwill which existed towards this country in Persia, and which by our sinister co-operation with the Russians, and later by many ill-advised actions in Persia during the war, we have done our best to alienate. We can surely, however, do something to dispel the anxiety which is still felt lest a new Imperialistic Russia, arising presently on the ruins of the Bolshevik régime, should be welcomed back by us into Persia. This may, perhaps, be done when we come to deal with the revision of the existing treaties between the two Powers. The official words are vague, but they point, we presume and hope, to a complete abrogation of the 1907 Agreement. We shall certainly give satisfaction again if we can ensure reparation to Persia for the heavy damages she suffered during the war at the hands of the belligerent troops, notably the Turks. But these are, after all, small matters beside the main question, which is the integrity and independence of Persia. In all the circumstances there is only one guarantee which will now satisfy Persian, as well as European and American, opinion in that respect. The Agreement can be put before the League of Nations.

The Balkans.

The *Manchester Guardian* recently published a sound article upon "The Balkan Settlement." It traces the idea of a Balkan League, and derives from its history the axiom of the exclusion of non-Balkanic interests—an axiom which, it says, the Supreme Council must adopt. It continues:—

Ultimately it will rest, however, with the Balkan peoples themselves to make their peninsula immune from noxious interference from outside. For if it is true to say that Balkan unity depends on the exclusion of extraneous interests, it is equally true that such exclusion cannot be fully realised without Balkan unity. One can, perhaps, understand the frictions which disturbed it in the past. Baulked as they were on all sides in their national development, and living constantly in a feverish expectation of the final struggle for national unity, the Balkan peoples watched with jealous eyes every inch of ground, every cluster of thatched cottages. An insatiable greed for territory thus became the mainspring of their politics. It would consequently be futile to expect, however much circumstances may have changed, that any solution will meet with the immediate approval of all the parties concerned. But if there is one likely to prove a settlement, it is that contemplated by the promoters of the Balkan League in 1912 and 1913. There is more than one circumstance which marks it out for commendation. It is the only solution which sprang from a dispassionate attempt to adjust conflicting claims by agreement and with reference to the whole region; it was based upon acknowledged national rights and interests, and it was inspired by a conscious aim to reach a lasting settlement which should pave the way for a Balkan federation. That is precisely what is at stake now.

It then discusses the disputed territorial questions of Thrace, Macedonia, and the Dobruja. It concludes:—

And there still is, indeed, much talk of the need to subdue Bulgarian dreams of hegemony in the Balkans. One need only glance at the new map to see the incongruity of it all. Bulgaria may certainly prove a danger to the peace of the Balkans, but it will be a Bulgaria so distracted as to abandon herself to internal anarchy or external servitude.

Syria.

In the *Daily Telegraph* of August 27 Mr. Percival Landon makes an examination of the Syrian problem and brings forward, in explanation of the English attitude, two points which France appears to have overlooked.

It is first of all to be remembered that the Arabs do not want to be placed under the tutelage of any nation at all. They do not want any mandate on their behalf to be given to any other race whatever. They desire, are striving for, and will continue to strive for complete independence. Let there be no mistake about this. From the highest to the lowest, Mohammedan and Christian alike, the natives of Syria demand independence, and nothing less. The point is not worth labouring, so obvious is it; but it is not unimportant to notice that the Patriarch of Antioch, whose arrival was recently hailed in France as that of a champion of a French mandate for the Lebanon district, coldly and categorically announced to his interviewers that his people demanded complete and unqualified independence. By that I do not mean that the Emir Faisal is under any misconception as to the need of foreign assistance in developing the new Arab dominions. But he insists that the choice of these helpers shall be left in Arab hands, and not in the hands of any foreign Government, whether it be French or whether it be English. That brings me to my second point.

The creation of Arabia as a State has proved to be of such result and importance that neither France nor England, nor any other Power, can now deal magisterially with its development or with its future. This is a matter of such cardinal importance—and, I may add, of such obvious truth—that even if, under the ægis of the Covenant of the League of Nations, compulsion could even be dreamed of, the blunt facts of Arabian determination would prove the folly of any such unwise policy.

Cyprus.

In the *Spectator* of August 30 Mr. Percy White discusses the future of Cyprus, and concludes that control of the island should remain with Great Britain. He says:

Cyprus never was a Greek island. It is a Greek-speaking island—a very different thing. The present population is about 307,000, of whom 61,000 are Turks and about 243,000 nominally Greeks, but in reality a confused race mixture, in which the blood of many tribes and peoples from both sides of the Mediterranean is blended.

To union with Greece the 61,000 Turks are naturally bitterly opposed, knowing full well, in view of what has happened to the Turkish populations in New Greece and the Ægean Islands, that under Greek rule their lives would be intolerable. "Why," they ask, "should we be sacrificed?" The Pan-Greek propagandists, it is true, deny misrule; but the experience of impartial witnesses has shown the complaints of the Turks to be justified. Nor must it be forgotten that the Cypriot Turks have deserved well of us. But for their support our government of the very island for the last forty years would have been a far more difficult task. Ever since we took it over the Moslem population have stood loyally by the British Administration, and by their votes in the Legislative Council have made it possible for Government to pass useful and beneficial laws in spite of the constant hostility and systematic opposition, not of the Cypriot Greek-speaking peasantry, but of the professional politicians by whom they are exploited. However much the Greek politicians may now protest that they have always respected the impartial justice and liberal spirit of the British Administration in Cyprus, those who have watched the course of events can never forget that these would have been frustrated but for the support of the Turkish members of the Legislative Council. This is no secret at the Colonial Office. Moreover, the Turks, now British subjects, ask for nothing better than to remain under British rule, and their past loyalty at least entitles them to our generous consideration. The 61,000 Turks, so to speak, represent the Ulster of Cyprus. The analogy breaks down because in Cyprus no real Nationalism exists. Even now, at the eleventh hour, it is not too late for us to realise that with the Greek-speaking Cypriots the agitation for union with Greece is merely a cry raised to please a propaganda fanned and kept alive by politicians and the Press they own, bishops, office-seekers, and schoolmasters, but finding no echo among the peasantry, who form the bulk of the population and only ask to be let alone.

To what, then, it will be asked, does the alleged desire for union with Greece owe its weight? The explanation will be readily appreciated by anyone acquainted with the usurers in the Near East. In Cyprus the politicians are almost to a man advocates and moneylenders, and to these men the peasantry is almost universally indebted. Thus, under the usurers' whip, and ever at the risk of being sold up, the heavily indebted peasants do lip-service to the union and shout "Zeto e Enossis!"—"Long live the Union"—whilst in secret they dread it for the following reasons: They know (*a*) that taxation per head under Greece would be doubled or trebled; (*b*) that they would be liable to conscription; (*c*) that were Greece to take over the island Cyprus would be overrun by a host of "carpet-baggers" and adventurers from Greece greedy for loot, and by whom all the posts in the Administration would be occupied. The Cypriot, moreover, after more than a generation's experience, has entire confidence in the integrity of British officials, whilst he is well acquainted with the absence of it among the swarms of officials in Greece.

Articles to Note.

"The Changing Scene in India, II.," by Sir Elliot Colvin, K.C.S.I., and "Our Guardianship in the East," by Mr. Justice J. E. Marshall (of the Egyptian National Court of Appeal), in the *Nineteenth Century* (September).

"The Position of Roumania," by H. Charles Wood, in the *Fortnightly Review* (September).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Lord Wolmer's speech at the meeting of the Abyssinian Corporation this week will strengthen the confidence widely entertained in the future of this undertaking. He dealt very fully with the prospects before the corporation, and was able to give a most satisfactory record of the work that has already been accomplished. The well-known business of Messrs. Gerolimato and Armanza, the principal trading firm in Western Abyssinia, has been acquired, and this, he pointed out, would form an excellent starting point for their trading operations. In order to be able to commence purchasing and selling operations without delay, the corporation had appointed the Levant Co., Limited, as its commercial agents in this country, and large purchases in this country have already been commenced, and some considerable consignments of Abyssinian produce are on their way here.

***

As regards openings for enterprise other than trading, Lord Wolmer pointed out that one of the most important lay in the development and improvement of internal communications in Abyssinia. The question of the most suitable form of transport has been engaging the attention of the board, and arrangements have been made for an engineer to be sent out to report on the various questions which will confront the corporation. Other matters have been under consideration, as, for instance, the very important question of obtaining certain concessions from the Abyssinian Government or of acquiring some of those already acquired by others. In this connection Lord Wolmer stated that certain very interesting concessions had been offered to the corporation.

***

A particularly satisfactory feature to which reference was made by Lord Wolmer is the establishment of very cordial relations between the corporation and the Abyssinian Government. When Mr. Rey, the general manager, arrived in Abyssinia the Regent took the unusual course of inviting him into his presence within twenty-four hours of his arrival, and he has since offered free land to the corporation on which to erect residences for Mr. Rey and the staff. This speaks volumes for the attitude of the Abyssinian Government towards the undertaking, and in the circumstances it must be admitted that the conditions augur well for the achievement of the ambitious programme of the corporation. In his tribute to the resources of Abyssinia, Lord Wolmer in no way over-estimated the position. Potentially, the country is immensely rich, and only lacks development, and the corporation has undoubtedly a really unique field of enterprise before it. The corporation starts its career under the most auspicious circumstances, and the review of its initial operations simply serves to confirm the optimistic view that has been formed of its prospects.

A marked fall in the prices of silver has been followed by the resumption of the upward movement, and the price is now about 61d. The probability is that the metal will see an even higher price, but the position is uncertain, as there are so many unknown factors, and there may be considerable fluctuations in the price. It goes without saying that the continuance of the present tendency makes the 2s. rupee inevitable, for the price has almost reached the point at which it is impossible to coin rupees at the present rate except at a loss.

***

The unsettling effect on trade of continued changes in the sterling exchange value of the rupee need scarcely be emphasised. Combined with present transport delays, it means that exporting firms in India have to transact business largely in the dark. As an example, a firm may have exported goods when the rupee stood at 1s. 8d., and by the time the consignment, after the normal shipping and dock delays, is at length sold, the rate may have changed altering the whole aspect of the transaction, and, perhaps, converting an expected profit into a loss. Obviously, it is impossible to continue business in an atmosphere of such uncertainty, and it is not surprising to hear that merchants in India are avoiding commitments as far as possible, pending the establishment of more satisfactory conditions.

***

The financial crisis at Malta affords an apt illustration of the widespread economic effects of the war. The revenue of the Island for the current year is estimated at £592,978, and the expenditure at £878.240, leaving a deficit of no less than £285,262. In the original estimate the expenditure was given as £555,086, which would have left a balance of £37,892, but to that amount have had to be added £192.745 for the subsidy on bread, £40,000 for the revision of salaries, and £19,600 for a bonus to officials, to say nothing of compensation for damage in the recent riots.

***

It is urged that assistance should be given to the Island in this crisis by the Imperial Government, and, failing that, it is stated that resort will have to be made either to a loan on or a sale of Government property. The plea for help from the Imperial funds will, no doubt, be most sympathetically considered, the more especially since Malta's predicament arises directly from war conditions. But whatever may be done in this direction will have to be supplemented by internal measures. It is apparently impossible at present to reduce the expenditure; there remains, therefore, the possibility of an increase in taxation, and in this connection it may be noted that the Governor has foreshadowed the imposition of an income tax as one of the relief measures.

***

The revised financial estimates of Travancore State for the year ended in August throw an interesting light on the increasing prosperity of this progressive Indian State. The original Budget estimates allowed for a surplus of Rs. 4 lakhs, but in the revised estimates this surplus is increased to over Rs. 16½ lakhs. For the current year the revenue is estimated at Rs.1,75,23,400 and the expenditure at Rs.1.69.07,600, and it may be noted that the Budget includes substantial provision for the development of new industries, for the expansion of the Agricultural Department, and for the extension of the co-operative movement.

***

Until the summer of 1917 the "P. and O. Express" service was continued, but war conditions then made its suspension necessary. The announcement is now made by the P. and O. Company that the service will be resumed on Saturday, which will be most welcome hearing to passengers to the East.

***

Apropos of a reference by our Constantinople Correspondent to the recent strike of bank clerks there, the Crédit Lyonnais inform me that they, as well as the Imperial Ottoman Bank, were able to keep going during the strike, for while 65 of their clerks joined the strikers, 52 continued working, so that they were fully able to satisfy their customers.

***

In their advertisement in this issue, Messrs. W. H. Allen, Son and Co., Ltd., the well-known engineering firm, of Bedford, invite offers from old-established companies to act as their representatives in the following districts of India: Bombay and Hyderabad, Madras and Mysore, Bengal, Central India and Central Provinces, and United Provinces and Northern India.

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Trade with Turkey.

Difficulties of the Present Position.

(From a Correspondent.)

In view of the prospects of renewed activity in the business world now that the holiday season is drawing to a close the present position as regards the development of British trade with Turkey deserves consideration. The outstanding feature at the moment is that there appears to be a very considerable amount of hesitation on the part of exporters to Turkey. There is little tendency so far as would appear to underestimate the importance of the Turkish market, but the general view seems to be that it is desirable to await developments for the time being. In the prevailing circumstances it is difficult to blame prudent shippers for adopting this course, for fluctuations in prices, the difficulties of transport, the possibility of a glut in the market, and the uncertainty of exchange, afford very adequate reasons for the exercise of great care and caution on the part of merchants on this side.

But there is another, and a very important, factor to be taken into consideration. It is beyond doubt that if the trade in Turkey is to be captured by the British merchant, it must be captured now, and the question is how this end can best be accomplished. Delay will result in nothing but advantage to our competitors, but, on the other hand, precipitate and unconsidered action on the part of British merchants is fraught with obvious dangers. The market position in Turkey is particularly difficult at the present time, and if it is entered without adequate knowledge merchants may find their first experiences to say the least of it unpromising. It is very undesirable that merchants, new to the market, should meet with trouble, annoyance, and possibly loss on their first shipment, as it would have a most disheartening effect, and would tend to affect adversely the newly-developed interest in Near East trade, but to ship haphazardly and without knowing something of the market is to court the very thing that is to be avoided. At the present time, as the result of the activities of speculative exporters, the market is overstocked with goods of a number of varieties, and that makes it more than ever essential to have precise information as to openings for trade. As to other difficulties one illustration will show the kind of problem that confronts exporters. A merchant may quote for certain goods, but owing to the slowness of communications he may have none of the goods in stock when he receives his reply. Or the fluctuations of prices in the meantime may have made business on the suggested basis impossible without loss.

The real problem is the policy to pursue now with a view to the establishment of permanent trade. On this point opinion generally is inclined to the view that the position at the moment calls rather for the despatch of samples than of goods in bulk, and that the best way to bring British manufactures before the Turkish market would be by means of an exhibition at Constantinople on the lines of that shortly to be held at Athens by the Federation of British Industries. It has been stated that the intention is, if possible, to transfer the exhibition to other Near Eastern centres. If so, Constantinople will no doubt be included, as the Federation has established a branch there, and is fully cognisant of the local trade conditions. But an exhibition, while of extreme utility, would not of itself be sufficient. Firms must be represented in Turkey by active and capable agents who have nothing to learn as regards the trade, and who may be trusted to do their utmost for their clients. Then the distribution of catalogues broadcast is also very advisable, as part of a reasoned scheme of publicity. There is nothing like the written word for impressing itself upon the memory, and by means of catalogues the names of British merchants would become well known, and, what is all-important, certain lines of goods would be associated with each name.

There are other measures, too, which might with advantage be taken, but these suggested should prove among the most useful, and on these lines will very probably be found the best solution for bridging over the difficulties with which traders are now confronted, and at the same time of doing everything possible to secure a footing in what will ultimately prove one of the best markets in the world. By cultivating the market with care, our manufactures suitable for the market will be brought to the notice of buyers, who will thus come into touch with British merchants, and the result will be that our traders, as soon as labour settles down, and other adverse factors improve, will be in a position to enter the market with confidence and with every hope of success.

The one thing that will not pay is, as we have already pointed out, to adopt a waiting attitude pending the return of normal conditions, since the only result of a Fabian policy would be to give our competitors their opportunity, and they have already shown themselves so wide-awake to the advantage of trade with Turkey that competition from them is certain to be quite severe enough without any help on our part.

M. Nicolas Yovanovitch has been appointed delegate of the Yugoslav Ministry of Commerce to London.

The International Mercantile Marine Company announces that a new passenger and freight service will sail from New York via Constantinople to Constanza. The first vessel to sail will be the *Black Arrow*, formerly the *Rhaetia*, which will leave on September 15.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Manchester, Wednesday.

A slow feeling has prevailed throughout the market during the week, and demand has fallen off to a greater extent than ever. Traders undoubtedly hold bearish views, and the opinion is strongly held that values will be on a lower level in the near future. Irregular fluctuations have transpired in Egyptian cotton futures, and users have purchased sparingly. Rather diverse reports have come to hand relating to the crop. In Egyptian yarns demand remains very quiet. Although engagements are steadily running down, producers have still extensive order lists. It has been difficult to obtain price concessions, although spinners have not been able to sell at quotations. Less activity has occurred in cloth for Egypt and the Near Eastern outlets generally. Exporters believe that the correct policy to be adopted at the moment is to hold aloof until the outlook is more settled. Shipments, of course, continue on a considerable scale. Piece goods for India and China, especially in standard makes, have attracted very little attention. The home trade has given very little support. In most kinds of cloth it is now possible to purchase on more favourable delivery terms than a little time ago. American yarns have dragged in demand, and prices have favoured buyers. Export numbers have been in request for India, the Levant, and Germany, but contracts of any importance have been isolated.

MEASURES AGAINST PHYLLOXERA IN ALGERIA.

The *Journal Officiel* (Paris) publishes the text of a law modifying Algerian legislation respecting the combating of phylloxera. Article 2 of the Law provides that the importation into Algeria of vines and all other plants, waste of plants, fresh fruit and vegetables, coverings, packing material, stakes and props which have already been used, vegetable manure, soil, mould, and all objects the utilisation of which might involve a danger of contamination of vines, is to be governed by regulations issued, in the form of decrees, by the Governor-General. The Governor-General may prohibit the entry, and order the destruction, of all plants which might convey insects, cryptogams or other growths harmful to agriculture; and may also cause to be destroyed, without compensation, plants or articles which have been exposed to contamination.

A branch of the Tata Industrial Bank has been opened at Cawnpore.

Cairo tramway strikers, who have been out for three weeks, have refused to accept the offer made by the companies, and the Governor of the city has intimated that the cars will be run without them.

The traffic returns of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the period ended August 10 amounted to £E9,918, making the total for the year £E76,878. The corresponding figures for 1918 were £E9,816 and £E100,300.

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PERSIA'S TRADE.

War Time Diversion.

The following are further extracts from the despatch from the British Legation, Teheran, which was quoted from last week—

There has been very marked diversion of trade from accustomed channels. In 1913 the distribution of the total import and export trade of Persia was:—Russia, 63 per cent., British Empire, 21 per cent., and other countries 14 per cent. The first cause of diversion of trade was the closing of the Dardanelles, which diverted traffic by the Black Sea route with Persia and reopened the Baghdad—Kermanshah route to trade, via the Persian Gulf. Lastly, anarchy in Russia has almost completely interrupted trade with that country. Cotton tissues and other goods formerly supplied to Persia mainly from Russia are now being sent in considerable quantities from India, through Persia, to the Caucasus and Transcaspia.

On account of war difficulties of communication and direct shipment between Persia and Great Britain much commercial business formerly done direct with Great Britain has been transacted in Bombay. The comparative returns of the trade of Great Britain and India with Persia for the years ending March 20, 1914 and 1918, were as follows:—

	1914 Krans.	1918. Krans.
Great Britain	130,000,000 (£2,400,000)	170,000,000 (£5,600,000)
India	104,000,000 (£1,900,000)	253,000,000 (£8,400,000)

Probably there will be a readjustment when former postal, telegraph, and shipping facilities are resumed.

Trade with India continued to increase because the Persian Gulf route was more or less free from the inconveniences and dangers of war. The British imports into Persia showed a marked increase in 1917-18, and amounted to krans 313,136,268, showing an increase of krans 83,621,276 compared with 1916-17. It must be stated that this sum includes the value of krans 3,433,047 of different goods imported by the British military authorities for their troops quartered in the ports of the Persian Gulf. The increase in Indian trade is principally made up of cotton and woollen textiles, sugar (mostly from Hong-Kong), iron goods, rice, farinaceous foods, cereals, indigo, coal, clothing, etc. It is, however, certain that the goods, which are stated to be of Anglo-Indian origin, are in reality of Japanese origin, and pass through British India before being re-exported to Persia. It must also be stated that the increases in exports are due to the fact that the price of most of the products has greatly increased, and also that large quantities of goods were sent by the Northern route to British India for export to Persia by the Seistan.

Increased British Imports.

In 1913-14, the year before the war, the total value of British imports reached krans 177,954,608, and this value is now doubled. The total imports from British sources represents approximately 65 per cent. of the whole imports of Persia, and have taken the place formerly occupied by Russian goods. The figures of imports from the British Empire are greater than the Persian exports to the British Empire. This unfavourable balance for Persia became less in 1917-18, though if the value of petroleum, sources of which are exploited in Persia, and the value of silver are deducted from the total of exports, only a sum of krans 41,746,283 remains. The British Empire therefore obtained from Persia a value of krans 41,746,283 of goods, and in return sold krans 297,778,082, about seven times as much. As a result of this, British and Indian trade now stands first among foreign countries both in imports and in exports.

The aggravated economic situation of Russia and the measures of export prohibitions of the Russian Government have had their inevitable effect on the commerce of that country with Persia. The imports from Russia, which in 1916-17 reached krans 227,413,251, fell to a value of krans 107,482,215 for 1917-18. In reality this decrease is more pronounced because the price of the greater part of the goods increased and because the total importations includes krans 4,910,892 of goods and munitions imported by the Russian military authorities for the supply of troops operating in Persia, and also krans 8,184,980 of silver money for these troops. The value of commercial imports reached krans 94,386,343. In 1913-14 they amounted to krans 355,888,133, from which must be deducted krans 4,518,500 silver money, and show a decrease of 270 per cent. The decrease shown in 1917-18 principally affects textiles, sugar, timber, linen, hemp, jute and cotton thread, tea, clothing, tobacco, etc. There is, however, an increase as regards matches, petroleum, iron and steel, paper and live animals. Exports from Persia to Russia amounted to krans 162,076,293 for 1917-18, as compared with krans 299,429,196 for the previous year, a decrease of krans 137,352,903, or 46 per cent. This decrease is due partly to the measures taken by the Persian Government to prevent the export of foodstuffs, and affects principally fruits, raw cotton, rice, opium, raw wool, raw hides, cereals, silk, silk goods and carpets. On the other hand, the increase shown in the exports of live animals and fresh and salted meat is due to the fact that the Russian military authorities, in spite of the prohibition decreed by the Persian Government, exported numbers of live and slaughtered animals coming from the Azerbaijan.

Russia, which always occupied first place in the list of countries in commercial relations with Persia, has been obliged to give way to the British Empire, the imports from which actually became three times as great as those of Russia. Before the war they were no more than half. Egypt occupies third place in the list of countries, due solely to the fact that commerce with other nations being seriously affected by the war large quantities of sugar were imported from Egyptian refineries, and petroleum was exported from Persia to Egyptian ports.

General Conclusions.

Persia is a large country, but the population is only about seven to eight millions, and can be overstocked. It uses a silver standard currency. The rate of exchange on London in 1916 was krans 54 per £; it is now krans 26. There is considerable risk in long-dated operations in Persian currency. On account of war restrictions on imports and exports, and owing to insecurity of roads and insufficient means of transport, the kran prices of commodities are exceptionally high, and should not be taken as a fair basis for calculating the probable margin of profit obtainable under normal conditions. The available means of transport in the country being insufficient, there is much delay in getting goods forwarded, and as trade increases the congestion of traffic will become more acute.

YUGOSLAVIA'S IMPORTS.

Certificates of Origin Required.

Certificates of origin are required for all goods imported into the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and the application of the "maximum" or "treaty" tariffs on all goods imported is made conditional on the submission of certificates of origin. Certificates of origin may be issued by the local Chambers of Commerce or by Commercial Associations acting as such Chambers, by Chambers of Industry, and by the police and communal authorities of the place from which the goods are sent. The origin of the goods may also be certified on the original invoices, whilst direct bills of lading (by rail or ship) may also serve as proofs of the origin of the goods. Certificates of the origin of the goods written on the invoices or on the export declarations by the exporting Custom Houses are also considered valid. Unless proper certificates of origin are produced when the goods are being passed through the Custom House, the "maximum" (general) tariff rates will be applied. Certificates of origin should indicate the quantity (gross weight), number of packages, marks, numbers, place of origin, and the name of the sender, but it is not necessary that certificates of origin should be viséd by a Serbian Consul.

ROUMANIAN PETROL PRODUCTION.

The *Basler Neuste Nachrichten* publishes the official statistics of Roumanian petrol production from 1917 up to and including the first quarter of the current year.

—	1917.	1918.	1st Qtr., 1919.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Steaua Romana	182,456	313,701	146,186
Astra Romana	101,871	300,138	131,451
Romana-Americana	140,372	270,822	92,807
Concoria	26,822	72,274	31,626
Internationala	11,082	40,275	24,010
Orion	6,620	22,463	16,436
Alfa	2,624	11,453	4,390
Steco (State-owned territories)	6,360	63,468	28,142
Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields and Chiciura Oilfields	985	21,874	8,563
Aquila Franco-Romana	—	7,934	4,630
Petrol Block	—	3,807	3,540
Naphta	—	14,052	6,895
Traian-Roumanian	2,837	5,436	2,479
Anglo-Roumanian	169	2,235	1,092
Sphinx Petroleum Co.	226	2,824	1,786
Baicoi	2,069	1,550	730
Orchria	—	705	810

It will be noticed that, in several instances, the results for the first quarter of the current year are almost as high as those of the entire previous year. Production has risen from 499,000 tons in 1917 to 1,199,000 tons in 1918, and the total for the first half of the current year (527,000 tons) exceeds by 28,000 tons the entire output for 1917.

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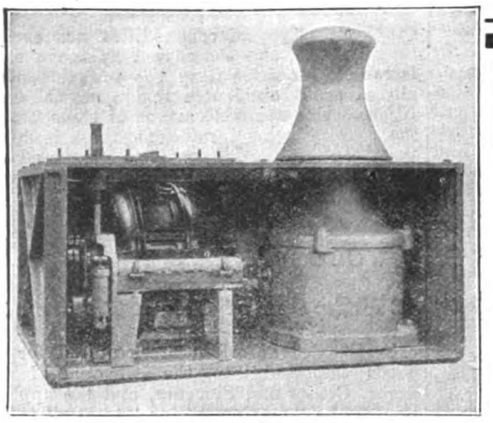

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Engineering Notes.

Tractors and Horses.

The results of a competition between tractors and horses in ploughing will be of much interest to farmers in the Near East, where the question is often argued. Three teams of three heavy draught horses, each team pulling a 14-in. plough, were matched against a tractor pulling a 16-in two-furrow plough. The horse teams had the first choice of the field, and at a given signal the competition commenced. In 4½ hours the allotted tracks were finished, and independent judges found that the tractor had won both for speed and the quality of the work. A comparison of the working costs gave a difference in favour of the tractor of over £3 for the afternoon's work. The tractor's record was: Ploughed 3.68 acres in 4½ hours, using 7½ gallons of kerosene and less than a half-pint of gasoline.

Tractors for Poland.

Well-informed engineering circles believe that with the approaching settlement of the political differences in Poland there will be an increasing demand for agricultural tractors in that country. One of the reasons for this is the vast petrol production in this country, and another the fact that Poland is one of the most progressive districts in Eastern Europe as regards agricultural industries. It must be remembered, however, that the farming conditions there do not require a heavy machine, for the soil is light, somewhat sandy, loam, and a light, low-priced tractor would speedily establish itself in the market. It is stated that several inquiries have already been sent to England from Poland, and the matter is regarded as one of some urgency, for those first in the field will reap big advantages.

Electric Kitchen Utensils.

Among the novelties which American manufacturers are introducing in the East are the electric kitchen utensils, which seem to attract considerable attention, and, according to reports, there is a good future for them in that region. It is hoped that British manufacturers will not omit to make a good show at the forthcoming exhibition in Athens of their latest electric utensils, which in design, construction, efficiency, and practicability are admittedly superior to the American or other foreign design.

The advantages of electricity as a culinary agent consist of the cleanliness which attends its use, the complete control over the amount of heat employed, and the rapid heating of ovens and utensils up to the point necessary for cooking. For the benefit of those who have not used or seen such utensils the following description is given, which will reveal the manifold uses to which electricity is capable of being put nowadays. There are electrical cooking ranges suitable for all cooking operations, saucepans, grills, kettles, frying-pans, egg-boilers, irons, hot-water jugs, etc. The resistances are composed of metallic films deposited on insulating bases of thin mica sheets. The film is enclosed in a metal case, and electrical continuity is established by means of flat metal terminals held in close contact with the two ends of the film. Different forms of these resistances, or "elements," are used, according to the condition under which they work and the size and shape of the apparatus. A "closed" element for example, is suitable for hot plates or flat bottomed utensils; and a "ring" element for jugs and for vessels with cylindrical-shaped water containers. By means of a self indicating regulator the temperature can be regulated, and the user guarded against making wrong connections on the apparatus or wall plug. The electricity can be used in a hundred and one ways about the house to the great saving of time and trouble. By the simple adjustment of the switch in the electrically-equipped breakfast room the housewife can make the coffee herself. Placing the socket upon the egg boiler, she can have the egg boiled to a nicety on the table before her. Afternoon tea is equally simple. The electric flat iron is now widely popular; but the milking of cows by electricity will no doubt be new to many. It will please particularly the Oriental cow-keeper, for the electric milking machine does all the work well and cleanly.

Machine Tools.

Before the war the machine tool trade in the Balkan States was practically in the hands of German and Austrian firms; and in view of the schemes for the reconstruction of workshops, railways, etc., in those States, it is advisable that British manufacturers should give special attention to that line of business, which in the circumstances will undoubtedly prove, in the very near future, more valuable than ever. American machine tool makers are already very energetic on the spot, and in the absence of their British competitors may secure a very great part of the trade.

Roumania's railways are large purchasers of machine tools of all kinds for their numerous workshops, and there is also an increasing demand for light machine tools for iron and wood working for use in Roumanian repairing workshops. It is known that in 1912 the Roumanian Army workshops obtained their supplies of machine tools principally from merchants' stocks, as the manufacturers required too long a period for delivery. For the year 1913 it was stated that extensive purchases of machine tools were in contemplation by the Roumanian railways; but apparently such purchases were not effected; then the war began, and the need for tools is now very evident.

Serbia was also at the time in need of machine tools of all kinds, stone, wood, and metal working machinery, such as planing and drilling machines, turning lathes, cutting and sawing machines, and polishing machines. Germany succeeded in obtaining a large share of the increased trade. German manufacturers took the trouble to send out technical experts to Serbia to study the market, and appointed their own agents in the country to study their interests. By these methods they managed to secure a large share of the orders emanating from the largest works and factories in Serbia. But it is said that no trace of these machines can be found in Serbia, and the representatives of American firms are doing their best to book orders in the absence of others.

Motor Cars for Greece.

It appears that French and German automobiles have in the past been mostly used at Athens and Piræus, whilst British makes have rarely been seen, though one would suppose there would be a good opening for them. A good remand for all classes of motor cars is anticipated as soon as peace is quite settled; and in existing conditions it seems that English makers will have an excellent opportunity of securing a foothold in the Greek market if they act promptly and with the requisite energy.

NISH-SOFIA-CONSTANTINOPLE ROUTE

The British Economic Mission in Serbia state that the requirements for constructing the three temporary bridges on the Nish-Pirot line are now forthcoming, and two of the three bridges in question are completed. The third is almost ready for use. The line Nish-Pirot-Sofia-Constantinople will then be open to traffic. The work on these bridges is of a temporary nature, the permanent construction being under discussion with certain British interests.

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The largest Import and Export Firm in Bulgaria.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated August 28:—

Nearly general rain throughout except in Assam and North-West Frontier Province where fall was local. More badly required plains districts Assam.

Floods extensively damaged paddy crops three districts Lower Burma. All India wheat forecast 23,764,000 acres (last year same time 35,497,000 acres), 7,502,000 tons (last year same time 10,174,000 tons). Present condition cotton crop generally good.

Bombay cotton market dull. Fully good Broach quoted August Rs. 462, April-May Rs.502. Piece goods market quiet. Calcutta jute steady. Hessians steady though little doing. Sackings dull.

Hydro-electric survey report published. Over one and three quarter million horse-power anticipated, including great rivers.

Birla Jute Manufacturing Company, Ltd. Floated capital 50 lakhs of rupees. Managing agents, Birla Bros., Ltd., Calcutta.

DISTRESS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agriculture Department, dated August 29:—

My telegram dated August 22. Except for some damage by incessant rain and floods in Bundelkhand, Central Provinces, Gujarat, Sind and Rajputana, condition and prospects of standing crops continue satisfactory. Relief works have been closed in three States and seven jagirs of Bundelkhand Agency in Central India. Test works in Poona and relief in Satara and Nasik districts of Bombay Presidency have also been closed, but distress continues severe in Hyderabad. Numbers relieved:—Bengal: Relief works, 7,567; test works, 452; gratuitous relief, 17,334. Bihar and Orissa: Relief works. 1,527; test works, 3,812; gratuitous relief, 48,811. Feudatory States of Orissa: Test works, 7,573; gratuitous relief, 30,697. United Provinces: Test works, 469; gratuitous relief, 11,631. Ajmer Merwara: Gratuitous relief, 394. Central India: Relief works, 3,900; gratuitous relief, 8,400. Central Provinces: Relief works, 11,985; test works, 6,527; gratuitous relief, 39,932. Bombay: Relief works, 17,690; dependants, 7,845; village works, 1,637; test works, 21; gratuitous relief, 75,046. Hyderabad: Relief works, 35,000; gratuitous relief, 50,000. Madras: Relief works, 40,370; test works, 565; gratuitous relief (incomplete figures), 91,810.

Sir William H. Clarke, K.C.S.I., C.M.G., Comptroller-General of the Department of Overseas Trade, after an absence of 11 months, due to ill-health, has again taken up his duties.

Sir Harry H. Johnston,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., writes:—"I am not myself much of a smoker, but my friends have tried your 'De Reszke' Cigarettes and like them exceedingly."

H. M. Bateman, Esq. writes:—"I appreciate the delicate flavour of your 'De Reszke' Cigarettes, and can describe them in one word—beautiful!"

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MALTA'S FINANCIAL CRISIS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta (undated).

As regards our critical financial position the facts speak for themselves. The expenditure of the Island, as shown in the annual estimates for 1919-20, is £555,086. To this amount has to be added the following:—Supplementary estimate of bonus to officials £19,600, for revision of salaries £40,000, relief works £10,000, compensation for damage in the recent riots, subsidy to maintain the price of bread at 4½d. per rotolo (24 oz.) £192,754, making the total £878,240. These figures give an excess of liabilities over assets at March 1919-20 of £285,262. The statement has been forwarded to the Secretary of State by H.E. the Governor, who has urged that in the exceptional circumstances financial assistance should be given from the Imperial Funds. If this be refused, resort will have to be made either to a loan on or a sale of Government property.

American Enterprise.

There is a general impression that America will soon have a monopoly of Maltese trade, and it is a belief based on no unstable foundation. Already American goods are on the market, and the establishing of regular sailings direct from Naples to New York will help the hustlers of the West in their enterprise.

Miscellaneous.

H.E. the Governor has been pleased to approve of the repeal of the Government notice regarding the supply of Government coal for the use of certain essential industries, and for household purposes.

A determined attempt is being made to grow cotton in the Island, and just now the crops are looking very healthy and promise good returns.

Food is still controlled, but we in Malta have much to be thankful for, as the following prices show: Beef (fresh) 3s. 6d. per rotolo (24 oz.); frozen, 2s. 1d.; rabbits, skinned and cleaned, 1s. 6d.; capons, dressed for cooking, 2s. 9d.

SALT IN BURMA.

The salt revenue of Burma in 1918 produced Rs. 33 lakhs, of which over Rs. 17 lakhs was from Burma-made salt. The consumption was seventeen per cent. above that of 1917, despite the high prices. The Government intends to assist increased production so as to meet the competition when the prices of imported salt fall.

An order for khaki frieze to the value of £11,000 for the Greek Army has been received by the woollen mills at Meaford, Ontario.

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TUNISIAN PHOSPHATE INDUSTRY.

Effects of the War.

In a report on the phosphate industry of Tunis, the British Consul-General at Tunis says:—The activity of the phosphate mines was greatly restricted during the war by lack of labour, high wages, lack of fuel and raw materials necessary for working and for the upkeep of underground galleries, new material, plant, etc. The requirements of sulphuric acid for war purposes increased gradually to the detriment of those factories manufacturing superphosphates. Together with this, the shortage of tonnage greatly impeded the supplies of those factories as regards phosphates and pyrites. The demand of agriculture, although reduced, has only been partially supplied, and that after considerable delay owing to the congestion on the railways. Moreover, the prices of superphosphates have been affected like those of most other commodities by a great increase, 30 francs per 100 kilos instead of 5 to 6 francs before the war.

A certain number of important markets in enemy countries were quite closed to phosphates and superphosphates. Moreover, neutral countries and even some Allied countries have not been able to obtain the quantities they required on account of shortage of tonnage. On the whole, the demands for raw phosphates were less as regards tonnage than the demand before the war, but these demands could only be supplied within the limits of the tonnage available. The following table shows the quantities of phosphates exported from Tunis according to countries in 1913 and in 1918:—

—	1913.	1914.	1917. (1st half-year)	1918. (1st half-year)
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom	181,305	193,397	204,645	219,343
France	698,529	399,529	142,281	80,767
Italy	453,185	412,810	225,908	72,344
Portugal	40,404	36,508	12,730	—
Spain	52,985	49,295	16,315	4,960
Denmark	12,437	7,025	10,562	—
Other countries	546,037	328,597	—	290
Total	1,984,880	1,427,161	612,441	377,704

As regards the direction of the exports, it will be seen that there were no exports to enemy countries, Belgium, Russia, Roumania, and Japan. Exports to neutral countries, after a slight decline in 1914-15, reached the figure of 189,000 tons in 1916, which is greater than that of 1913 (177,000 tons), on account of the greatly increased demand of Denmark (37,000 tons in 1915, and 77,000 tons in 1916, as against 12,000 tons only in 1913). On account of the measures taken to limit the tonnage to destinations which might appear doubtful, the exports to neutral countries fell to 27,000 tons in 1917 and 5,250 tons during the first half-year of 1918.

Before the war the two greatest consumers of Tunisian phosphates were France and Italy. As regards France, exports fell from 700,000 tons in 1913 to 142,000 tons in 1917. The first half of 1918 seems to show a slight increase with 81,000 tons. As regards Italy, the decrease was less acute—450,000 tons in 1913 and 205,000 tons in 1917—and the first half-year of 1918 shows a very great decrease to 72,000 tons. The United Kingdom, on the other hand, increased her demands from 181,000 tons in 1913 to 205,000 tons in 1917, and the first half of 1918 shows a considerable increase to 219,000 tons. This result is due to the fact that the United Kingdom before the war imported great quantites of phosphates from Florida, and that for the moment she could only get her supplies from North Africa. It is, moreover, evident that after this war the British market will be more open to African phosphates than it was before 1913.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

British Services to German Ports

The official announcement is made that the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, the British India Steam Navigation Company, and the Well Line will, this month and onwards, have steamers loading in Hamburg, Bremen (if sufficient inducement offers), and Rotterdam, in connection with their services to India. Both sides of India and the Persian Gulf will be served by the P. and O. and British India companies, and Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta will be served by the Well Line. Antwerp is already served by these companies, and this connection will be sustained and augmented.

SHIPPING AT MALTA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta (undated).

The latest arrivals are s.s. Polynesia from Famagusta, and the sailings have been the s.s. Roma for Algiers, s.s. Penang Maru for Antwerp, H.M.S. Toy and Joanna.

August 18.

An echo of the war is found in a notice issued from our local Lloyd's Office for the purchase of the steel steamer Norseman, stranded as the result of torpedo action twelve miles from Salonika. The steamer is of 9,542 tons gross, and was built at Belfast in 1897.

The latest arrivals are:—S.s. Ashenburg from New York with flour for Batoum, the Rumanian transport Oltul from Alexandria with general cargo, H.M.S. Glengorn, from Constantinople for Marseilles, British transport Caledonia from Marseilles for Alexandria, H.M.S. Ivy from Taranto, s.s. Glasgow Maru from Padang to Port Said, s.s. Teutonic for Marseilles.

Sailings have been as follows:—For Constantinople, s.s. Errington Court; for the Piræus, s.s. Jacinth; for Devonport, s.s. Partridge; for Port Said, s.s. Glenslow. From the above it will be seen that Malta is getting more to her normal state as far as shipping activity is concerned. She badly needs it.

AN ORIENT STEAMER LINE.

The Swedish-America Line, the Swedish-East Asiatic Company, the Swedish-America-Mexico Line and the firm of Brostoem and Sons are starting a new line, the Swedish-Orient Line, which is to trade between Gothenburg, Stockholm, Gefle and the Piraeus, Salonika, Constantinople and Odessa. Eight steamers of between 2,000 and 3,800 tons are to sail under this company's flag.

Mr. Richard Sims Donkin, of Albemarle, Wimbledon Common, Conservative M.P. for the Tynemouth Division, 1895-1900, a director of the Suez Canal Company, who died on February 5, left estate of the value of £369,172 14s. 10d., the net personalty being £344,940 5s. 2d.

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Near East Markets.

Cyprus Carob Crop.

(From a Correspondent.)

The carob season is approaching, the date for gathering of the crop in the principal area being fixed for August 22. The Law which provides for fixed dates in this important industry is fully needed. The trees are scattered over wide areas in lands of all categories, and properties not being anywhere enclosed, every facility would be given to marauders, and no owner could cope with the depredations of thieves at night. Persons found in possession of carobs before the date fixed for gathering can be dealt with. Unfortunately the season will not be a satisfactory one as regards quantity, but will probably fall short of last year's by some 25 to 30 per cent. On the other hand, high prices may be expected, since Government requisitions and restrictions are now removed, freights are falling, and shipping facilities should improve.

Cereal Harvest.

The cereal yield has been unsatisfactory, the wheat harvest having been below that of 1918. Tariff prices are maintained: wheat being 9s. the bushel, barley about 3s. 9d., and oats 2s. 3d. There have been numerous breaches of the regulations in connection with these prices; and heavy fines have been inflicted ranging up to £90.

Sudan Produce.

Dura and Dukhn.

The following particulars are given in the C.E.B. report for June:—

White Nile Province.—Five hundred tons of Government dura reached Kosti during the month, and distribution has been proceeding from there to other centres in the province. The arrival of this dura has had the expected effect of making the fixed prices effective. At Kosti and Tendelti the population would already have been in considerable straits for dura had it not arrived.

Blue Nile Province.—Dura has been coming in fairly satisfactorily, thanks to the importation of Government dura.

Kordofan Province.—Sales in El Obeid market during June in ardebs of 420 rottles (189 kilos) were 133 ardebs of dura at an average price of £E3.297 and 141 ardebs of dukhn at an average price of £E3.316. Grain has been scarce, especially in Bara, Nahud and Um Ruaba districts, though there has been a plentiful supply in El Obeid.

Red Sea Province.—A shortage of dura began to be apparent at the beginning of the month, and representations were made to the Director, Commercial Intelligence Branch, and he allotted a considerable quantity of imported dura for sale in this province. A large portion of this is now available at Port Sudan, Suakin and Sinkat.

Livestock.

Berber Province,—The following animals were sold in Damer market during the months of May and June:—May, 183 cattle, 3,883 sheep and goats; June, 129 cattle, 1,580 sheep and goats. The prices during May and June varied from £E6.375 to £E10.350 per head of cattle, and from £E1.550 to £E2.200 per sheep.

Red Sea Province.—19 head of cattle and 214 sheep were exported during the month.

Senna Province.—171 head of cattle were imported from Abyssinia, via Kurmuk, and proceeded to Renk (Upper Nile Province).

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT

Currants.

There is little to add to last week's report. It would take large stocks to satisfy the present demand, but there are now practically no supplies available for the market. A consignment is on its way, but as it is said to be small it will scarcely make much difference.

Sultanas.

The position is much the same as in regard to currants. The keen demand for the small available stocks is very marked. There is no recent news from Turkey, but even if the outlook for the fruit crops there improved, which is scarcely possible, it is difficult to see how this country would benefit, for the predominant factor in the market position is the demand from the Continent.

Coffee.

Offerings at auction last week comprised 4,014 bags, while this week 6,786 bags were offered. The demand was fair and rates were steady. East Indian good extra bold realised 155s. 6d., while the prices for medium were 134s. to 141s. 6d. Costa Rica bold to fine bold brought 141s. to 159s., and medium 138s. to 144s. The futures market is quiet, quotations being for September 125s. 6d., December 118s. 9d., March 117s. This week sees the new preferential duty of 35s. as against 42s. in force in regard to coffee grown within the Empire.

Sugar.

A feature has been the demand from the Continent. There has been a marked rise in feeding and coarse sugar. Java has reached 53s. per cwt., at which price it is practically as dear as common table sugar. Excellent news continues to be received regarding the Cuban crop, which, it is believed, will prove the best on record Prospects are also very favourable as regards the West Indies, but production, it is understood, will not be very considerable in South-East Asia.

Seeds.

The market has been rather quiet. Fine Bombay linseed is 55s. per cwt.; Bengal is slightly cheaper, 53s. being asked, while Argentine is 48s. In rapeseed there has been little business. Quotations include Toria 49s., Ferozepore 48s., yellow Guzerat 51s., and brown Cawnpore 45s. The cottonseed market has shown weakness. Egyptian is quoted September-October 28s.

Oil Cakes, etc.

The demand for oilcakes exceeds the supply. Latest prices are linseed 500s., coconut 440s., soya bean and decorticated groundnuts 480s., rapeseed 360s., and Egyptian cotton seed 300s. Seed oils have been steady and rather easier. Wood oil is 125s. spot and 120s. afloat.

OPIUM REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows under date August 14:—

Our market since last writing on the 2nd ult. has not altered in its piastre price, but owing to the exchange having dropped, there is fully 1s. per lb. advance all round. The lowest quotations therefore we can give today are 15s. to 18s. per lb. as to quality. Low rendering adulterated material ranges from 8s. to 13s., which qualities are bought for mixing with rich stuff and thus obtaining an average of 11 to 11½ per cent. of morphia. The average lower price offered attracts buyers, and the shippers of such goods get orders, but on arrival at destination they very often turn out much below the guarantee. The moral is better buy from the regular old established firms at 1s. or 2s. per lb. higher, where you are certain to obtain ¼ to ½ per cent. more morphine on what has been guaranteed, than to buy from newcomers who don't know the article, and trust to the assays of analysts who make mistakes both in the sampling and analysis, and ship a poor article of lesser value even than the lowest price. In an article which requires an expert's eye, every one is liable to be deceived on an ocular inspection, especially now as our growers have become past masters in mixing the drug with ingredients which make it difficult to tell what is genuine and what is not.

CROP PROSPECTS IN TRANS-CAUCASIA

A report has been received from His Majesty's Consul in Batoum in reference to the harvest in Trans-Caucasia, which is described as universally good, and abundant crops of wheat, barley, rye, and maize are likely to be harvested. A proposal has been made to the Georgian Government by the Food Committee to control the marketing and export of any surplus by means of the "Erobas" or rural administrations. The suggestion is that these rural administrations should be entrusted with powers to carry out barter transactions of surplus supplies in exchange for general merchandise.

TRADE PUBLICATIONS FOR JERUSALEM.

The Chief Administrator of the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration at Jerusalem states that he would be glad to receive commercial publications, such as trade journals, from the United Kingdom. There are frequent enquiries for these. They should be sent at least in triplicate, so that copies can be handed to the three Chambers of Commerce. Trade directories are also required. Even with the out-of-date copies which he has, enquirers have been put in touch with English firms. He also recommends a number of leading manufacturers to send out travellers to find out the requirements of the country and to book orders which can be shipped within a reasonable time. Local merchants know pretty well what they want, and the requirements of the country have now become fairly audible through Chambers of Commerce, traders' associations, and a few pushing firms of commission agents. Publications, etc., should be addressed to Headquarters, Occupied Enemy Territory Administration (South), Jerusalem.

THE INDIAN EXCHANGE POSITION.

The *Times of India*, says *Reuter's* Bombay correspondent, in a message dated August 25, in the course of a vigorous article, demands that Mr. Montagu shall explain his exchange policy. The repeated rises, it says, which are not justified by the currency position, are plunging all the markets of India into indescribable chaos, the Indian export trade is practically at a standstill, the Calcutta tea sales have been suspended, and the price of cotton has fallen heavily. The newspaper declares that the continuance of instability and the rises in the exchange will sooner or later create the biggest financial crisis ever experienced in India. Other newspapers comment in a similar strain. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce has telegraphed to the Government of India urging the taking of immediate action and emphasising the fact that business is practically impossible in present conditions.

An Advertisement in the "Zora" cannot fail to prove of the greatest possible advantage to anyone trading with Bulgaria.

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TURKEY.

PANDERMA, August 11.

Trade during July has not, unfortunately, been any better than during the previous month. The reasons for this fact are the same as those given in our previous report, namely the instability of the situation and the increasing insecurity of the neighbourhood. The only transactions to be noted have been in raw skins. It is now known that there has been a good yield of maize, which, unlike other seeds, has been greatly assisted by the rain.

It is easy to foresee that, as soon as commerce is freed from the present paralysing uncertainty, much musiness will be done in cereals.

RODOSTO, August 7.

General Situation.

Our district, which has been particularly hard hit by the effects of the war, and especially by the wholesale deportation of the Armenian and Greek elements, commences, a little uncertainly, to resume its pre-war aspect. Matters would have righted themselves more quickly but for the uncertainty of the situation and possible eventualities (especially those arising from the question of Thrace). However, we note with satisfaction the general improvement which is making way in local commerce.

It can be foreseen that the possible change in the political administration of our district will cause certain sections to leave the place and go to live elsewhere. The uncertainty thus created makes merchants in this district hold their hands to such a degree that business here is strictly limited. It would be very pleasant to see the situation recover a little of that animation which before the war characterised our market, and to see the development of commercial activity to the gain of Anglo-French interests.

Imports and Exports.

Independent of the reasons given above, imports have been adversely affected by the fluctuating rate of exchange, which prevents local traders from giving direct orders to Europe. Petrol and sugar are still imported direct from Constantinople in limited quantities. Business generally is insignificant.

We noted during the month of July a certain activity on the part of the Standard Oil Company of New York, which has been represented here for twelve years, and which has constructed a permanent depot for petroleum.

The arrival on the market of some consignments of the new corn and barley crops has caused some activity on the local Exchange. Export of articles being still prohibited, transactions in cereals are limited to our sphere of action only, and the price of these articles is subject to slight variations. The corn has been sold at prices from Pts. 10 to 14 the oke, and barley between Pts. 5 to 7 the oke, according to quality.

As the restoration of local agriculture will have the most beneficial effects on the commerce of this region, efforts should be made to introduce agricultural machinery before the next season.

The Eastern Telegraph Company announces that the contemplated reductions of rates between the United Kingdom and the Far East must be suspended during further arrangements with the Governments interested.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

ROUMANIA.—S. N. Iancovici, Bucharest, Str. Academiei 6, desires to obtain English agencies. English correspondence. First-class references.

ENGLISHMAN (40), with wide commercial and general experience, knowledge of local industries, in PERSIA, INDIA, MESOPOTAMIA, owing to health desires change employment, similar capacity, or Travelling Representative, Persia preferable.—Box E. G., THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAO.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER: 25, Pall Mall.
MARSEILLES: 41-43, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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COMPANY MEETING.

ABYSSINIAN CORPORATION.

An Auspicious Start.

The statutory meeting of the Abyssinian Corporation, Ltd., was held on September 3 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Viscount Wolmer, M.P., presiding.

The London manager and secretary (Mr. T. H. Darton, A.C.A.) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen.—The resources of Abyssinia are very rich, and of late years the trade of the country with the outside world has been rapidly increasing. The country, which is of 350,000 square miles in extent, contains a population of over 8,000,000 people, and is for the most part fertile. There is an immense amount of cattle, reckoned at about 15,000,000 head, besides a great many sheep and goats. The export of hides and skins from Abyssinia is already important, and is likely to become more so in the near future. The agricultural potentialities of the country are very great indeed, as Abyssinia is capable of producing many of the commodities, such as corn of all sorts, coffee, cotton, wax, etc., of which Europe stands in need. The foresight of the Honourable Wilfred Thesiger, D.S.O., until recently his Majesty's Minister at Adis Abeba (and on whose promotion to the Consul-Generalship of New York the Board would like to tender their respectful congratulations), perceived that it would be of great benefit to the Abyssinian people, with whom this country has ever been on terms of the closest friendship and goodwill, as well as to the trade of the British Empire, that a strong British corporation should be formed to stimulate trade between the two nations, to assist the Abyssinians to develop the magnificent resources of their country by providing the fruit of European science in machinery of every description and improved methods of stock raising, transport and cultivation, and by selling to them the products of British industrialism, cotton goods, hardware, agricultural implements, etc., which they are well able to pay for by the exports of foodstuffs and raw materials which Europe so urgently requires.

British Government Support.

This is the role which the corporation is endeavouring to fulfil, and I am glad to say that we have the assurance of that support of the British Government which it is now recognised must be afforded to British trade throughout the world. I do not suppose, gentlemen, that any of you imagine that in the short period which has elapsed between the date when we received permission to do business, June 6, 1919, and that of this meeting, it has been possible for the corporation to achieve any great part of this ambitious programme, especially in times when the shipping and telegraph services of the world are still disorganised and all methods of communication are, indeed, exceedingly unreliable. It is certainly not the policy of your Board to sacrifice sound policy for showy appearances, and it is my duty to-day to report to you the steps that we have taken to lay firmly the foundations of what we have every reason to believe will become at no far distant date a great and prosperous business. In the first place, the Board have been fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. Charles Rey as their general manager in Abyssinia. I am glad to be able to say that my personal acquaintance with Mr. Rey, since we have been working together, has fully borne out what I was led to expect of him.

Acquisition of Business.

In order to be able to commence trading operations on a large scale at the earliest possible opportunity, the Board had from the first considered it desirable to take over one or more of the firms already established as profitable and going concerns in Abyssinia. In January of this year the Board despatched a mission to Athens in order to make an arrangement with Mr. John Gerolimato, C.M.G., and Mr. T. Armanza to take over their well-known business in Abyssinia. After many delays, occasioned by the difficulties of travel and cable at that time, our representative succeeded in obtaining an option to buy out the business of Gerolimato and Armanza, subject to the subsequent verification of their assets and trading profits on the spot. The rest of the mission returned home, but Major Holmes, one of its members, proceeded to Abyssinia, taking with him an accountant from Messrs. Price, Waterhouse Peat and Co., in order to examine the books of Messrs. Gerolimato and Armanza. I am glad to be able to report that our general manager has recently informed us that the examination of the assets and trading profit of Messrs. Gerolimato and Armanza has proved satisfactory, and that he has exercised our option to take over the business. This forms an excellent starting point for our trading operations. The firm of Gerolimato and Armanza enjoys a high reputation in Abyssinia and the Sudan. It is the principal trading firm in Western Abyssinia, having branches in most of the important centres, as well as soap works and wax cleaning plant, and does a large export business in coffee, wax, and hides. In order that the corporation might be able to commence purchasing and selling operations in this country with the least possible delay and to the greatest possible advantage, the corporation has appointed the Levant Company, Ltd., as its commercial agents in this country. The Levant Company has absorbed the experienced firm of Henderson Lane and Co., and your directors are satisfied that the purchasing and selling work of the corporation could not be in better hands. In this connection it gives me great pleasure to be able to announce that we have lately elected Mr. Alexander Henderson, managing director of the Levant Company, to be a member of our Board. I think we may claim that the corporation has already made a promising start. We have already commenced large purchases in this country, and some considerable consignments of Abyssinian produce are also on their way to us.

Transport Facilities.

There are, however, several other avenues of progress open to the corporation besides trading. One of the most important of these lies in the development and improvement of the transport facilities in Abyssinia. The question of the most suitable form of transport in Abyssinia has been engaging the closest attention of the board. The board has also made an arrangement with Messrs. Pauling and Co., whereby that firm are about to send out a qualified engineer at their own expense to make a preliminary report on the various questions which will confront the corporation. There are other matters which have been engaging the continuous attention of your directors—questions of assisting the Abyssinians to improve the breed and the treatment of their stock, of promoting agricultural development, of obtaining certain concessions from the Abyssinian Government or of acquiring some of those already acquired by others. Certain very interesting concessions have been offered to the corporation, but the board is determined to examine every proposition with the most careful scrutiny before we decide our policy of the matter. I am sure, gentlemen, that at this juncture you will not expect me to say more upon the subject One happy result of these labours has been the establishment of cordial relations between the corporation and the Abyssinian Government. When our general manager, Mr. Rey, arrived in Adis Abeba, his Excellency the Regent Ras Taffari, took the unusual course of inviting him into his presence within twenty-four hours of his arrival, and has since generously offered the corporation free land for the purpose of erecting residences for our general manager and staff. These cordial relations are a happy augury of future co-operation, and it is, therefore, especially a source of satisfaction to the board that when the mission from the Abyssinian Government was visiting Great Britain in July we were able to afford hospitality to the members thereof, and to assist them materially in seeing something of the industrial greatness of this country.

Some shareholders may be desirous of knowing when the first call is likely to be made. I regret at this moment that I cannot give a precise answer on that point. At present it is not possible to say, because we cannot definitely state how long our various purchase orders will take to complete, or what future payments will be expedient. This, however, you can be assured of, that the Board will incur no expenditure which the most careful investigation does not show to be prudent. The Board of the Abyssinian Corporation works in the happiest harmony and in full confidence of the future of the company. We believe, gentlemen, that you, who have shown your confidence in the Board and in the prospectus by subscribing for shares, will find that confidence fully justified. In the near future the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman will proceed to Abyssinia on the corporation's behalf. I have every confidence that at the first annual meeting we shall be able to report that the work which has been well begun will have been successfully continued.

Mr. G. C. Howard thanked the Chairman for his full statement of the position of the company, and expressed confidence in its future.

The proceedings then terminated.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The directors of the National Bank of Egypt have declared an interim dividend of 4 per cent., payable September 4. Last year no interim dividend was paid.

The directors of the Financial Times, Ltd., have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares for the half-year ended June 30 last, payable September 16 to holders registered September 8.

Etablissements Orosdi-Back.—An extraordinary general meeting will be held at the company's offices in Paris on September 9.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

Our market for Egyptian securities has shown a better tendency this week on the whole, although here and there some prices are rather lower than last week.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds, after being down to 80½, have improved to 82.

In Bank shares Nationals have remained a firm spot, but Agriculturals weakened at one time to 5 13-16, and close 1-16 down at 5⅞. However, all the shares offered have been absorbed to-day. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have further sharply improved ⅞ to 18⅜, Bank of Abyssinias are wanted, but there are no sellers; Bank of Athens shares have dropped ⅜ to 3¼, on the removal of selling restrictions.

In Land shares Aboukirs are fractionally firmer at 25s. 3d. Egyptian Consolidated Lands improved at one time about 6d. to 3s 3d., but are closing rather a nominal market round 3s. Gharbieh Lands are 1-16 higher at 2 5-16, and New Egyptians have jumped 9d. to 22s. 6d. On the other hand, Sudan Plantations are ¼ lower at 8, and Union Foncières have shed 6d. at 72s.

In Miscellaneous shares Alexandria Waters are 1-16 lower at 11 13-16, while Markets have receded 6d. to 23s., and Salts and Sodas are 1-32 down at 2 31-32.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B have been as low as 5, but are closing only 3-32 lower at 5 3-16; Roumanians and Traians are both fractionally easier at 19s. 9d. and 10s. 9d. respectively.

As regards Greek securities, the market has continued dull, with a weak tendency. The 1881, 1884, and 1890 loans are all a point down at 70, while the Monopoly Loan and Rentes have also each dropped a point, being now quoted at 5⅝ and 53. Otherwise there is no change to report.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON AUGUST 22.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	21⅛
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	100
,, Div.	Frs.	140
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅛
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E	13⅞
,, priv.	L.E.	4⅛
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	139
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	⅝
Building Lands of Egypt	£	⅝
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3½
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6½
Bonded Stores	L.E.	15⅜
Unifiée	L.E.	83½
Privilégiée		71
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅛
Nungovich Hotels	£	7/6
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6⅛
,, ,, Fond.	£	450
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4⅞
,, Ord		110/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	21⅛
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7⅛
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	109
,, Jouissance	Frs.	170
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		32/7½
Egyptian Markets		24/9
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	395
,, Div.	Frs.	330
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	321
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5½
Egyptian Salt and Soda		58/6
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	714
,, Fondateur	Frs.	990
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	417
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	301
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	286
United Lands	P.T.	4½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		32

A number of agricultural schools have been established in Bulgaria.

ALEXANDER MEHANDJISKY

Largest Wholesale Tobacco Firm in Bulgaria. :: ::

Exporter of all kinds of Bulgarian and Macedonian Tobacco.

Importer of all kinds of Agricultural Machines and Implements.

Ulitza Alabinska, 28,

SOFIA — BULGARIA.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Aug. 27	Price Sept. 4
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	—	49⅜
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	80	80
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	81⅛	82
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	69	69
Greek 5%, 1881	71	70
Do. 5%, 1884	71	70
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	56½	55½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	54	53
Do. 5% 1890	71	70
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	65	65
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	66	66
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	64	64
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	82	82
Do. 5% Currant	92xd	92xd
Montenegro 5% Loan	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	82½	83
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	72½	72½
Do. 4% Unified	—	—
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅛	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17½	18⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	32/-	32/-
Bank of Athens	72/6	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½
British Trade Corporation	10⅜	10½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	—
Imperial Bank of Persia	10½	11⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	7	7
London County and Westminster	16½	16½
National Bank of Egypt	21⅛	21⅛
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅞xd	6⅞xd
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	—	—
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	—	—
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	68½	68½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	56	56
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	25/-	25/3
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	14	14
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	2/9	3/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	14/6	14/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	14/-	14/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	2½	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	22/-	22/9
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅜	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	8½	8
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	72/6	72/-
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	11⅞	11⅞
Egyptian Markets Ord.	23/6	23/-
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	3	2⅞
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
Do. Do. Prefs.	4⅜	4⅜
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	99	99
Chinese 4½% 1898	81	79⅜
Do. 5% 1896	91	90⅜
Argentine 5% 1890	—	—
Do. 5% 1907	87¼	87½
OIL.		
Anglo-Egyptian B	5⅜	5⅜
Anglo-Persian	27/3	27/3
Anglo-Roumanian	12/3	12/3
Roumanian	20/-	19/9
Traian (Roumanian)	11/3	11/-

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Aug. 27	Sept. 4
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	61⅞	62⅛x
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	66½	65¼
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Go. Debs. 1959		—	—
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		72	72
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		—	—
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		80	77
Eastern		8½	8⅜
Mercantile of India A.		34	—
National of India		53	54
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		6/3	6/6
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		—	—
Burma Corp.		9⅛	9⅜
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		10/6	8/10½
Champion Reef Gold		4/3	4/6
Mysore Gold Mining		2⅛	2⅛
Nundydroog		16/3	16/-
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		16/6	16/9
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		—	—
Do. do. do.		—	—
OIL.			
Assam Oil		1⅝x	40/6¾
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		—	—
Brit. Burmah		2⅜	48/9
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		13⅛	13⅜
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		—	—
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		—	—

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES

Continued—

RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	53⅜	—
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	133⅜	134½
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	60½	59⅜
Bengal-Nagpur	116⅛	116⅜
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	104½	105⅛
Burma Railways	110½	109⅞
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	—	—
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	—	—
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	13	12⅞
Madras and S. Mahratta	102⅜	—
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	—	—
Nizam's Guaranteed State	71½	75
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	9⅜	9⅛
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	—	—
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	—	—
Do. Deferred	560	555
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	68½	70½xd
Bengal United Tea Ord.	18	18½
British Indian Tea Ord.	8⅜	8¼x
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	16⅞x	16⅜
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	10/6	11/-
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	6½	6⅜
Consolidated Estates	5⅜	5¼
Darjeeling Co.	18/-	18/3
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	56/-	56½
Dooars Tea Ord.	68/6	69/-
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	17/-	19/6
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	54/-	55/-
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	28/3	31/-
Hewagam Rubber Co.	—	—
Jhanzie Tea Association	10	10
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	22x	22
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	19/3	19/3
Lanka Plantations Ord.	18/-	18/6
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	53/6	53/6x
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	45/-	48/9
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14	14
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	30/-	32/6

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	July 25 Rs.	August 7. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	68½	68
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	92	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	302	302
Bank of Bengal	1900x	1910
Bank of Bombay	2125	2180
Bank of Madras	1340x	1360
Bank of India	136	170
Tata Industrial Bank	66½	89
COAL.		
Baraboni	20½	20
Bengal	905	905
Burrakur	49	50½
East Indian	38x	38
Equitable	50	51
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	72½	73
Standard	66	67
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	290	280
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	1820	1980
Bowreah	400	430
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	662½	662½
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	575	615
Central India	2720 1360	2750 1375
Elgin	125	125
Gold Mohur	1100	1300
Khatau Makanji	3700	4200
Muir	120	120
New Ring	180	180
Phœnix	537½	685
Svadeshi	2625	2550
JUTE.		
Alliance	840	820
Barnagore	233	222
Budge Budge	740	729
Clive	368	350
Dalhousie	593	596
Delta	740	720
Fort Gloster	995	970
Gourepore	1200	1220
Howrah	53½	52½
Kamarhatty	990	1026
Kanknarrah	862	840
Khardah	5 0	550
Kinnison	1050	1030
National	482½	463
Standard	754	735
Union	940	910
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	105½	105½
Bengal Timber Trading	433	433
Burn and Co.	327	327
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	228½	225
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	160	222
Howrah Oil Mills	48½	48
India General St'm.	174	174
Indian Iron and Steel	110 115	110 117
Marshall Sons and Co.	20	19
Titaghur Paper	404	400

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 436.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1919.

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SPECIAL AVIATION SUPPLEMENT, pages 285-296.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Kipling once wrote a short story about wireless currents going astray and playing strange pranks with the individuality of a chemist's assistant, who took to writing Keats's poems as his own. It was an uncanny but fascinating story, but it was no whit more startling than the explanation officially offered and officially accepted of Roumania's failure to reply to the Allied Notes. Briefly, this was to the effect that Roumania had received none of the seventy-five radio-telegrams sent from Paris owing to a breakdown at a station near Bucharest. The Supreme Council, in view of this explanation, withdrew its ultimatum, and has despatched a fresh Note to the Roumanian Government.

The "reserved" clauses of the Peace terms offered to Austria were made public last week. They call for little notice here save as regards those concerning the Serb-Croat-Slovene State. It is stipulated that a Commission, representing the Allied and Associated Powers and the two countries concerned, shall be constituted, within fifteen days of the coming into force of the Treaty, to trace out the frontier line, and that in cases of dispute the decision of the majority of the Commission shall be binding. This arrangement, as favouring expedition, is commendable. The conditions for the taking of a plebiscite to decide the fate of the Klagenfurt area are quite elaborate. The area is to be divided into two zones—north and south—and the vote will be taken in the south zone first; if it results in favour of Austria, no vote will be taken for the second zone, but the whole area will remain under Austrian sovereignty. If, on the other hand, the vote in the first zone is in favour of Yugoslavia, a plebiscite will be taken in the second zone. The operations will be carried out under another Commission similar in character to the first.

Both Roumania and Yugoslavia objected strongly to the clauses regarding the protection of minorities. The Roumanian Government requested to be allowed to sign the Treaty with reservations, while the Yugoslavs appear to have authorised their delegation to sign only if what was Serbian territory before the war of 1914 was exempted from the conditions which are regarded as objectionable. The Supreme Council in Paris decided that the Treaty must be accepted or refused as a whole, pointing out, at the same time, that it involves no principle that has not already been accepted by the Independent and Allied Powers. Roumania and Yugoslavia, however, refused to budge from their positions, and their delegates were not present when the Treaty was signed by the representatives of the other nations on Wednesday afternoon. There is, moreover, a persistent rumour that Roumania will now sign a separate peace with Hungary. If this be true, it will obviously be due to resentment at the treatment meted out to Roumania by the Supreme Council; and, while the unwisdom of such action is not to be denied, it is impossible to withhold all sympathy from the little country.

The tour which President Wilson has undertaken in order to instruct his countrymen regarding the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations has thus far been attended by so much success that the chance of America ultimately being willing to accept a mandate at least for Armenia has distinctly improved; though it would be going too far to say that it is yet a good one. Apparently the President has not actually made any strong appeal on the subject of mandates, probably desiring first to ascertain how far the country is prepared to accept the idea of taking part in world politics before entering into any details of the kind. But, on the other hand, he has not hesitated to refer to the necessity of protecting the weaker nations, such as Yugoslavia and Roumania for example, against Germany's Bremen—Baghdad schemes, which he thus leads his hearers to regard as a still existent danger; and the favourable reception accorded to him and his arguments augurs well for future developments.

An illustration of the effect that the uncertainty regarding the measure of support that he may count upon is likely to have on President Wilson's policy in the Near East is afforded by the warning which he lately addressed to Turkey in regard to the massacres in Trans-Caucasia. On this occasion the Turkish Government was warned that, if massacres occurred, the President would use his influence in Paris to exclude Turkey from benefiting by the principle of self-determination. In view of the great weight attaching to President Wilson's opinion, and to the almost hypnotic effect which he appears to exert over the Paris Conference at times, this threat was undoubtedly a serious one, even though the Turks may consider that they have little to lose by ignoring the principle referred to. It is, however, impossible to avoid feeling that the remoteness of the threat must have rendered it far less terrible to the Porte than the prospect of some more direct action. The Turks are quite shrewd enough to understand the fable of the Skylarks and the Farmer. It will be remembered that until the latter ceased talking of asking his neighbours to help him, and

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announced his intention of cutting his corn himself, the old skylarks refused to abandon their nest.

Whatever may be the case with regard to other countries, there can be no doubt that the delay in settling the peace terms for Turkey is no good thing for Great Britain. Nor is it to our interest—as it admittedly is to the interest of certain other nations represented at Paris—that Turkey should be treated too harshly. It is to be hoped that our representatives at the Conference will not lose sight of British and Indian interests in this matter; and that no anxiety to please our friends will lead them to neglect those interests. The "keen concern" with which Moslem India awaits the decision on the Turkish peace terms was pointedly referred to by Lord Chelmsford at the opening of the Legislative Council; and Mr. Lloyd George has just received an eloquent address on the same subject signed by many highly distinguished men whose opinion on this matter cannot be lightly ignored.

Through the Archbishop of Laibach, the Pope has announced that after the conclusion of peace he will do everything in his power to further the conclusion of a Concordat with the Belgrade Government, and that he will send his representative to Belgrade, to enter into official relations with the Government of Yugoslavia. His Holiness took occasion at the same time to refute the impression that the Vatican is unfavourably disposed to the newly-formed Kingdom, and explained that his failure to recognise it officially before the definite fixing of the frontiers was due to an uncertainty regarding the dioceses to be included within the new boundaries. These statements, and the very friendly manner in which they were expressed, have naturally given much satisfaction in Yugoslavia; and in so far as they will tend to remove some of the bitterness that has undeniably existed between the adherents of the Orthodox and the Roman Churches, the satisfaction will be widely shared outside Yugoslavia also. For in the immediate future, as in the past, the Balkans are likely to be a potential source of danger to the world's peace; and the elimination of any cause of friction affords matter for gratitude

The news of the attempt on the life of the Egyptian Prime Minister reached us too late for comment last week. It can have caused little or no surprise; for in the present state of Egypt, or, rather, of a section of the Egyptian public, such an attempt was almost bound to come sooner or later. It has nevertheless been received with very real indignation both in Egypt and elsewhere, and Mohammed Said Pasha—who, it is reported, showed great coolness and courage—must have been almost overwhelmed by the expressions of sympathy that poured in on him from all sides and all classes. The Sultan, who was among the first to offer congratulations on the escape, has since bestowed on him the coveted Grand Cordon of the Order of Mohammed Ali. It is almost unnecessary to add that the would-be assassin is described as ignorant and ill balanced, and that he was merely a catspaw—in all probability used by those responsible for the late outbreak of "nationalism." It is a point to the good that he has already named over a dozen accomplices, of whom some are already under arrest. The authorities, who, it is announced, had been for some time aware that attempts on the lives of the Sultan, Lord Allenby, and the Prime Minister were likely, have doubtless taken measures accordingly; and it would not be surprising if many more arrests should follow.

Everyone who thinks, or feels, Imperially must regret that the old differences between India and South Africa have emerged into fresh prominence. We do not propose to go into the details of the latest dispute, regarding which we are not yet in possession of the official case for the South African authorities, but there can unfortunately be no doubt that political India is very seriously aggrieved by the new Trading and Land Act, and that the Government in Delhi, as well as Mr. Montagu in Whitehall, consider that the grievance is real and serious. India is in fact united on this question, if on no other, and she feels strongly that the promises made at recent Imperial Conferences have not been fulfilled. Possibly the South African leaders went somewhat further in this matter than was warranted by the state of opinion among their followers, but however that may be, Mr. Montagu's reply to the recent deputation shows that we are within measurable distance of legislation providing reciprocity of treatment for South Africans in India, legislation which would do South Africa practically no direct harm, but which would be an evil precedent for that international harmony to which modern civilisation aspires. It now rests with the South African authorities to say whether this precedent shall be brought into existence; they are masters in their own house, and we can only express the hope that they may see their way to effect a satisfactory settlement.

The letter from Mr. Bernard Houghton which we published last week may serve as an illustration of the importance of the point of view. Mr. Houghton tells us that the people of Burma consider that their progress towards self-government will be best assured in conjunction with India, and in view of his long experience of the country that statement is entitled to every respect. But then other authorities of scarcely less experience tell us that the aspiration for continued union with India is confined to the small but vocal section which has been instructed, we will not say educated, on the peculiar lines hitherto fostered by the Calcutta University, and that the masses regard India and Indians with something like dread, a sentiment which is likely to increase rather than diminish with the development of the inchoate national consciousness. A Karen representative informed the Joint Committee that an Indian Civil Service in Burma would be just as foreign as an English one, and that remark really goes to the root of the matter. We are dealing with two potential nationalities not with one, and consideration is justified before we start ploughing with such an unequal yoke.

We wish we could share Mr. Houghton's confidence that a reformed Indian Government will not interfere with Burma more than does the present bureaucracy, but as a matter of fact we regard the possibility of increased interference from the centre as one of the greatest of the dangers which lie ahead. Centralisation is in the Indian blood, and while it is possible that the new constitution may bring forward statesmen of the calibre required to counteract this tendency, we question if it is wise to assume that this will happen. It will be a long time before the Indian Government comes completely under popular control, and in the interval there is in our opinion a serious risk, not only in regard to Burma, but in regard to almost every Indian province, that increased centralisation, coming at a time when centrifugal forces are gaining in activity, may give rise to serious difficulties, with the possibility of the whole machine flying to pieces.

It is, of course, unfashionable to allude to these centrifugal forces at the present juncture, but their reality is unfortunately beyond dispute. During the last century the forces making for unity have had full play, and popular passions have counted for comparatively little, but we are now going to admit passion to the field of politics, and those who best know the bitterness of Indian passions, are least inclined to make a confident prediction as to the result. They hope indeed that sectional passion will abate, and that the great Indian nation will at last become a reality, but, not being practical politicians, they recognise that high hopes are sometimes frustrated. They know how Oudh, for instance, hates Bengalis and dreads Mahrattas, and how the Punjab hates and scorns all three; they foresee that Provincial Legislatures will be under strong temptations to play to galleries in which such sentiments predominate; and they wonder whether any Indian Government, whatever its constitution, will be able to hold the reins until the team is broken in. The effort is well worth making, and they wish it every success, but they are unable to overlook the possibility that the coach may be kicked to pieces in the process.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

August 23.

Egypt on Strike.

No sooner has one strike been temporarily settled than another is ready to break out. The Cairo tramway strike is the exception, as that has now lasted nearly a fortnight, and the demands of the men have been referred to the headquarters of the company in Europe. This is the situation in Cairo, but in Alexandria the local company has announced that it intends to proceed to extreme measures unless the employees return to work. Both in Cairo and Alexandria the "Tramway Employees' Syndicates" are presided over by native lawyers—Maitre Hussein Kamel and Maitre Bashbishi—and the general direction of the strike movement appears to be in the hands of an Italian ex-typographer, who issues statements, dated from no less a centre than the Bourse du Travail, of all the new syndicates that are in process of formation and the progress of the disputes between strikers and employers. These bulletins he signs as "Secretary," though how he obtained the appointment of General Secretary to the Labour movement the public is not given to understand.

Emissaries of mysterious powers are hard at work endeavouring to induce the employees of Railways, Posts, and other Government administrations to turn out, and are equally busy with the men of the waterworks, electric light, and kindred companies. It would look as if every category of labour had suddenly waked up to a realisation of its "down-trodden" and "oppressed" position. Egypt, hitherto a comparatively contented, happy, and prosperous land, must really have been the home of unbridled tyranny, according to the claims of the various strikers. Few of them ask for less than what amounts to at least a 50 per cent. increase all round.

There is no syndicate or trade union in Egypt, as far as we know, that is more than six weeks old, and consequently there can be no funds in reserve to dole out strike pay. Nevertheless, the men have not yet shown any signs of suffering, and, on the contrary, they are good customers in the cafés, where they sit and smoke and drink and discuss their grievances with cheerful mien. There can scarcely be two explanations of this state of affairs. The strikes must be supported by money provided either by the Nationalists or from abroad. If there is any cash available from other sources, the Nationalists are not very likely to divert any of their somewhat diminishing capital from their own propaganda and personal needs to assist a movement principally directed by foreigners, and one which, if it is likely to produce any political effect at all, should lead either to a vigorous repression by the authorities or to an overthrow of all authority by a Bolshevist regime. It can hardly be conceived that Bolshevism in Egypt could suit the Nationalists. An outbreak of this political leprosy would never be tolerated by England or Europe, and it could only result in a brief riot and incalculable and indiscriminate damage to the properties of Egyptians far more than to those of the British, followed by an extended period of martial law in the severest sense, if not by something worse.

A Bolshevist Attack.

Yet it is impossible to escape a suspicion, amounting practically to a conviction, that the rapid and organised spread of syndicalism, under foreign guidance and putatively foreign financing, is nothing else than a Bolshevist attack on Egypt.

The publication in the Press of the *Fetwa* already mentioned in The Near East has given the opportunity to Egyptian Bolshevists to fill the newspapers with pretended confutations and queries, the generality of the correspondence tending to excite public curiosity as to what Bolshevism is and aims at, and indirectly eulogising it as being something like a new gospel that, in spite of every effort of the victorious Entente, has conquered Russia, and, spreading westward, has even gained over Portugal.

The following extract from the *Afkiar* is a fair specimen of the Bolshevist propaganda that is openly indulged in by the uncensored Press:—

As to Portugal, we have no news to-day except a telegram from Lisbon, which says: "Very grave disturbances of a Bolshevist nature have occurred affecting the whole of Portugal. The Government is exerting every effort to re-establish order." The telegram speaks of disturbances of "a Bolshevist nature" as if Bolshevism were nothing but a movement necessarily accompanied by grave disturbances which overwhelm a country at a single stroke. All this is very strange, as Portugal is the westernmost country of Europe, whilst Bolshevism is in the extreme East. As a matter of fact, a great barrier was placed between Portugal and Bolshevism. How, then, did this contagion spread? And why is it that the telegrams report nothing to us about Bolshevism except things of a grave nature and its rapid spread? . . .

The thing that perplexes us about this new doctrine is its very nature, which its adversaries are unable to oppose, notwithstanding all their power, strength, wealth, greatness, and authority. . . . In fact, they have mobilised every arm against it, and yet it has outwitted them. It has managed to slip out of their hands, for, while trying to strangle it in the East, it has slipped into the West as if it were a human necessity; so that wherever people live there it is sure to exist, and wherever the sun rises there it is sure to rise too.

The secret propagation of the Bolshevist idea is less easy to follow, but the Italian advisers to the syndicates are said frankly to admit to their friends and associates that Syndicalism and Bolshevism are to them synonymous terms. Under these conditions it does not look as if the day were far distant when Egypt will be treated to a Bolshevistic rising *en règle*. We shall hear suddenly of Soviets in various places—probably in the provinces in the beginning, though prophecy is very dangerous—and then the conflict will begin. It should not be a very long one, and this is a comfort that it can do no harm to indulge in. At the same time it is a matter of very general regret that a handful of anarchistic foreigners and intriguing Egyptians should be able to disturb the current of Egyptian life and progress, even for a few weeks.

The Milner Commission.

The advent of the Milner Commission is being expected with increasing interest as the time approaches for it to begin its labours. The curiosity as to the composition of this Commission is naturally very lively, and the secret has been well kept so far. At clubs and places where they talk it is said that many residents intend to ask for a hearing both for themselves and for their friends amongst foreigners and Egyptians if the evidence of such is to be taken.

It would be a pity to reject it in favour of exclusively British experience and opinions, as there are several distinguished old residents here of other than British nationality whose statements of fact and whose conclusions should be of the greatest value in confirming or checking the all-British depositions.

The same sort of contradictory value, though perhaps in a lesser degree, will attach to what Egyptians may have to say, but, on the other hand, the evidence of these witnesses can scarcely be dispensed with if the other side is to have any hearing at all.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 26.

The Budapest Question.

The question which is now uppermost in the Roumanian mind is that of Roumania's rights in regard to Hungary resulting from the successful counter-attack which allowed the Roumanians to enter Budapest. For a time, while their enthusiasm was at its height, the Roumanians were inclined to regard the attitude taken by the Peace Conference as unfair and unjustifiable, and vague references were made to the adoption of an independent policy.

Rightly or wrongly, the Roumanians were dissatisfied with the line of demarcation which followed on the Armistice, and which was taken, more or less, as an indication of what might be their definite frontier. The Government was not backward in demonstrating their grievances, with the result that one meets very few people who do not think that they have been wronged. The climax was reached when Bela Kun attacked and drove the Roumanian army back, with the evident intention of eventually effecting a junction with Lenin's forces, and it was here that the Roumanian army showed its splendid mettle. After breaking up the Hungarian offensive, they rolled the opposing forces back across the Tisa (Theiss) with lightning speed.

The opportunity thus presenting itself to the Roumanians to safeguard themselves against future aggression from this quarter, they were not slow in taking advantage of it. They crossed the Tisa, caught up and disarmed most of the retreating rabble, and entered Budapest. The collapse of the Bolshevist Government was the first and most important result of the Roumanian successful counter-attack. Having thus annihilated the Hungarian armies, the Roumanians took advantage of the moment to exact what they could as one condition of an armistice; and the fact that much of Roumania's rolling stock and cattle had been brought into Hungary during the German occupation was an additional incentive to do this. One can readily understand, therefore, that the Allies' objection to Roumania's claim caused much bad feeling, and the Government took no pains to smooth matters over. In fact, judging by the attitude adopted by Government circles, it seems probable that they will not sign the Austrian Treaty. In this case, either a Coalition Government or a transitory Government must come in for the purpose of signing, and as the decisive date approaches the anticipated Government crisis draws nearer. It is almost certain that M. Bratianu will not sign the Treaty in its present form, nor is it likely that any other Government formed from the Liberal party will sign; in fact, the resignation of the Government on this platform seems to appeal to the Liberal party, who will, sooner or later, try to make capital out of it. On the other hand, it is highly questionable whether the present Opposition, consisting of M. Take Jonescu's Conservative party and General Averescu's League, will care to undertake the sole responsibility of definitely renouncing—as they would have to do—the territories which are geographically Roumanian, and which the people have been led to believe—as the result of the Liberals' attitude—are indivisible.

A Coalition Government, in which all parties are represented, would save appearances, and would not give any one party an advantage over another. I believe that this solution would be acceptable to the Opposition, but hardly to the Liberals, whose action, through M. Bratianu, has been intransigeant from the beginning.

Should M. Take Jonescu and General Averescu refuse to take the responsibility without the Liberals, the only solution appears to lie in the formation of a transitory Government composed of functionaries, and the name of M. Rimniceanu, who has just retired from the Presidency of the High Court of Cassation, is mentioned as the possible President of the next Government. His mission would be to sign the Treaty—probably under protest if this is admissible—and to preside over the forthcoming general elections.

The Internal Position.

Travelling in Roumania is not in these days at all pleasurable, as, in addition to a very uncertain train service, such trains as are running are invariably so crowded that it is not always easy to find seating accommodation, even on the roofs of the carriages.

On account of the present high cost of living, Roumania is experiencing a sequence of labour troubles. A fairly prolonged strike on the part of the workmen on the oil-fields has just been settled by conceding the principle of an eight-hour day and a minimum wage. A recent strike of postal officials paralysed the postal services for a period of forty-eight hours until a compromise was effected and a definite promise was given that their grievances would receive serious consideration.

These labour troubles do not arise, however, through any general tendency towards Bolshevism on the part of the workers. Happily, the attitude of the Roumanian people as a whole is entirely antagonistic to Bolshevist teachings, and wherever an attempt at the dissemination of these is discovered it is dealt with by a strong hand. The discovery in Bucharest this week of a group of revolutionaries who were secretly engaged in printing incendiary manifestoes has led to a number of arrests, and provoked considerable indignation among the populace.

Cost of Living.

As is perhaps inevitable in a country where the purchasing power of the currency has depreciated to the extent of the Roumanian *leu*, and where the largest portion of the necessities of life have had to be brought into the country, a considerable amount of speculation and profiteering is being carried on, which the Government find very difficult to combat. Especially is this so in the case of food. It is quite easy to fix a standard of maximum prices, but the immediate effect of enforcing such regulations with regard to market produce is to drive it from the market, and the Roumanian farmer, already enriched by large profits, can afford to withhold supplies until the enforcement of the maximum prices has been relaxed.

However, a definite campaign has been started against profiteers and speculators in commodities of primary necessity, and citizen committees have been formed in various towns under the title of Consumers' League. The Bucharest committee recently hit upon a unique method of compelling *restaurateurs* to reduce prices by means of peaceful persuasion. A number of members of the committee visited the principal restaurants and cafés, and at each in turn pointed out the extortionate nature of the prices shown on the menu, requesting the proprietors to reduce immediately the prices to a reasonable figure. In those cases where the proprietors were not willing to concede these demands the committee successfully appealed to the public to assist them in their propaganda by boycotting the restaurants. By this means, in the course of a few hours the prices charged in all the cafés and restaurants in Bucharest were substantially reduced, and an arrangement has been made for future prices to be fixed by agreement between the *restaurateurs* and the committee. This arrangement, however, is hardly likely to be of long duration.

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For further particulars apply to
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BELGRADE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, August 27.

The New Cabinet.

The new Cabinet made its *début* before a crowded and expectant house on Saturday, when the President of Council, Dr. Davidovitch, read a statement regarding the policy of the new Government. This was a reasoned declaration of policy to which few, except partisans, will take exception. Referring first to the Paris Conference and the desirability of keeping warm the bonds of friendship with Serbia's powerful Allies, and to the necessity for all of a final, lasting settlement of Balkan affairs, he maintained that no one was better qualified to speak and judge on Balkan affairs than the men of the Balkans themselves. Passing on to foreign affairs, he referred with gratification to the close and friendly relations with the two new Slavonic states, Czecho-Slovakia and Poland, and expressed the hope that, in collaboration and friendship with Greece and Roumania, they would reach a state of stability and peace in the Balkans. After deprecating the recent crisis, deploring the impression which such a state of affairs in Serbia must create in Paris, and expressing the pious hope of solidarity at home, he passed to internal affairs, among which many pressing problems are crying for settlement.

The most urgent is the summoning of the Constituent Assembly, which will put an end to the present provisional state of affairs, and produce a truly unified and united kingdom. The first step to this will be a new Franchise Bill, and also a Bill for the reform of municipal and local elections. He next referred to a proposal for a new constitution, to the currency reform, the agrarian question (which is a contentious one only outside the old frontiers, for the Serbs settled their agrarian reform three generations ago), agricultural improvements, the question of the cost of living, abolition of the censorship, demobilisation, provision for war orphans and broken men, liquidation of the moratorium, and taxation of war profits.

This is a fairly full programme, which, as one speaker said, would be enough to keep ten Governments busy. The President promised quick-time progress with agrarian reform and distribution of free land to volunteers, and foreshadowed bills for war indemnities and the expropriation of large estates and elimination of the traces of feudal tenure, the unification of the army, the improvement in communications—which are urgently required—the reduction of bureaucratism; then, referring to the labour question, he promised an eight-hour day and insurance against sickness, accidents, old age and unemployment.

He called for co-operation and support, and then moved the adjournment. The meeting was fairly stormy, and Monday's proceedings were decidedly lively, too, several members adducing rather illogical reasons for voting against the Government. The only question on which there seems to be a fundamental divergence of opinion is that of agrarian reform, where, of course, big interests are at stake. It is notable that Mr. Dakovitch, speaking in the name of the ten Montenegrin delegates, stated that he and his group would support the Government unreservedly during the present provisional state of affairs, reserving to his party complete freedom of action at a later date. This is a welcome message from the Black Mountain.

Finally, on a division, the Government obtained the narrow majority of eight, 128 votes for the Cabinet, and 119 for the Opposition. Thus the new Government is in the saddle, even if its seat is not a very firm one; but it is anticipated that a number of those who voted against it will pass over to support the Cabinet when they see it settle down to work; for all except extreme partisans realise the necessity of some stability in the country's affairs in these unsettled days.

After all, apart from the agrarian question, personal feeling seems to play the most important rôle in Serbian politics, and it is this which makes them so difficult for a foreigner to follow and understand. But everything is in a state of transition, and the old Radical party, having completed its programme triumphantly, is looking round for a new one in order to justify its existence, for at present it is the prestige of its leaders that keeps it together. It has had a proud history, being identified with a thoroughly national and patriotic policy. It has avowedly aimed at the union of the Yugoslavs, though perhaps few dared to predict that they would live to see their ideal a *fait accompli*. They saw the Balkan Alliance, the downfall of the Turks, and liberation of the southern provinces, and the avenging of Kossovo at Kumanovo, the discomfiture of the Bulgarians, and, finally, the tremendous events of the past five years. Unshaken through the stress and storm of invasion and exile, unmoved by the meretricious voice of the tempter repeatedly offering a separate peace on most enticing terms, they remained loyal to the end, and were finally triumphantly vindicated by the Iliad of last autumn. Now is the day of their apotheosis, and they feel uncomfortable in their new rôle. They will probably develop into a Conservative Agrarian party, supported largely by the peasant holders of Serbia and the landowners of the new provinces. But many will probably drift across to the Democrats, or some of the smaller parties, most of which will probably soon disappear from the stage.

Serbian Sentry Battalion.

Although Serbs and Britons were comrades in arms in Macedonia for three years, the men of the two armies saw little of each other, although a genuine sympathy sprang up whenever they came into contact. There were several British medical and transport units attached to the Serbian armies, and quite a number of British R.A.M.C. officers and sisters and chauffeurs have picked up the language with varying degrees of efficiency. But it is not generally known that there was a Serbian unit under the British command. Since the arrival in Salonika of the hunted refugees through the frozen mountains of Albania in November and December, 1915, a number of Serb civilians and officials found employment under the British as camp policemen, overseers, and quartermasters in the numerous camps of Macedonians, who were employed in thousands by the British, making and maintaining, among other things, the splendid roads to Seres and Kukush, which were the arteries of our armies, and are now, incidentally, through neglect, being allowed to fall into decay and ruin. These Serbs earned the confidence of the authorities by their faithful service, and in October and November, 1917, an experiment was made of forming a distinctive Serbian unit, armed and equipped by the British, to guard our dumps, depots, camp and hospital sites. The idea, which was suggested by the demands of the man-power problem, was a great success, and before long the Serbian Sentry Battalion was an officially recognised unit, with a strength of about a thousand. These were recruited among Serbs exempt from military service on various grounds, men on long leave, and men discharged on grounds of health or wounds, who were yet capable of standing on sentry duty, and so releasing British personnel. Many a broken veteran was proud once more to hold a rifle in his hands and feel that his days of usefulness were not quite gone, and they were certainly proud and delighted to serve under the British command. The experiment was a great success, and thieving, which had attained formidable dimensions, was quickly and efficiently reduced by these old Serbs, who were to be seen in British uniform, with green shoulder-straps, at various places of the lines of communication, from the boundaries of the corps zones down to the Gulf of Corinth.

On the liberation of their country the great majority claimed the privilege of returning to their homes, which could not be denied them, after their three years' exile; but many, especially from the districts of Vranja and

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ATHENS, PIRÆUS, PATRAS, SALONICA.

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Leskovats, and other parts of Southern Serbia, found neither home nor family to return to, for the enemy had done his evil work only too thoroughly. Dejectedly these men returned to Salonika and re-entered the British service. And so the unit maintained a reduced and somewhat precarious existence for many months after the end of the war on the Salonika front.

By the middle of summer there were about a hundred left. Even now it is not disbanded, though its character is somewhat altered, for the strength has been brought up by the recruiting of several hundred Macedonians, who guard the remains of British stores, and are in turn guarded and policed by some thirty strapping Serbs who have remained with the old battalion.

Austria and Serbia.

Affairs in Hungary are being watched in Serbia with the attention of closely interested neighbours. Bela Kun failed to excite much misgiving, and the advance of the Roumanian army was regarded rather with amusement, but the Serbians' feelings turned to alarm when the Archduke Joseph appeared on the scene. Surely, tney argued, Paris would never allow a Hapsburg to rule again, nor could the Allies recognise any member of that discredited dynasty which has been a blot on central and eastern Europe for so many centuries, least of all the very man who commanded the invasion of 1914, into the devoted Podrinski, whose Army Order was found, printed in German, Magyar and Serb, threatening extreme penalties to any Austro-Hungarian soldier who failed to do his best to exterminate the Serbian people, rob and loot and destroy their property, and convert their paradise into a hell. Him they blame for that mound in the battered church at Shabats, a mound which is the grave of a crowd of old men, women and children, who were huddled into the church and mown down with machine-guns, just like that other common grave at Loznitsa station, where not a single combatant is buried. Serbs have long memories for these things, and they were relieved to read the news that the Peace Conference declined to treat with the Archduke.

Serbia and Roumania.

With regard to their attitude towards Roumania a change has taken place; and since frank speaking and clear understanding of the other side of the case are requisite to the preservation of goodwill between Allies, the Serbian point of view may here be given. At first Roumania's national pretensions were followed by the Serbs with a natural sympathy, but latterly there has been a change. Your readers are doubtless aware that neither Serbs nor Roumanians are satisfied with the decision from Paris that has divided the Banat. The Serbs point out that the line is drawn regardless of national or practical considerations. Thus it happens that the short railway line from Temesvar to Baziash crosses the new frontier three times, which is bound to make difficulties. It is perhaps merely a temporary inconvenience that the great steelworks at Reshitsa, formerly belonging to the Hungarian State Railways, have been allotted to Roumania before the completion of the contract for the reconstruction of the bridge over the Save at Belgrade; for the Roumanian Government, for some reasons of their own, refuse to allow the works to deliver some steel parts of the bridge which are urgently wanted to complete its reconstruction, so that Belgrade is still separated from direct railway communication with the rest of Europe. But feeling about Temesvar is keener, especially in the district of that mixed town. The other day one of the managers of the Reshitsa Steelworks, a Slovak who has lived many years in America, stated that he would return to the States, for he could not live under the Roumanians, and that about four hundred of the skilled men, who had learnt their trade in America, would re-emigrate for the same reason. In Temesvar itself, it appears, the majority of the population is Magyar-German, who would prefer to be joined with Hungary, or, if that were impossible, with Serbia, but they strongly object to Roumania. The Serbian and Roumanian population of the town seems to be of about equal strength, but while the Serbs are scattered through the town, and have been there for centuries, the Roumanians are new colonists, encouraged by the mixing policy of the Hapsburgs, living all in one quarter.

Bridge Burned.

On August 18 the temporary wooden bridge built by the Sappers on the main line between Vranja and Vranska Bania, was burnt down. This is the nearest part of the line to the Bulgarian frontier, and the incident recalls the attack of the Bulgars on Strumitsa station in May, 1915. The entire bridge, which was 20 metres long, was destroyed. It is reported that two men were engaged on the work, Bulgars dressed in Serbian uniform; one succeeded in escaping, but the other was caught. But the extent of the damage was probably exaggerated, for it was repaired and traffic was restored in ten days.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, August 22.

Waiting for Paris.

The public gaze during the past week has been turned in the direction of Thrace, the Athenian public anxiously awaiting the decision of the Paris Conference with regard to this important question. The Greek Press is very strong in its denunciation of the American proposal for the division of Thrace into five parts, of which Greece should administer two, while Bulgaria would have a central corridor, reaching down to the sea, and including Dedeagatch, and the remaining two divisions would form part of the district administered by the Mandatory for Constantinople. It appears to be suspected that President Wilson is not quite such an altruist as Greece has been led to believe. The public are now awaiting the result of the counter-proposals which M. Venizelos is understood to have submitted to the Paris Conference.

The Athenian Press also has it that an agreement has been arrived at between Italy and Greece, to the effect that Italy shall relinquish the Dodecanese in favour of Greece, retaining only one island in the Ægean (presumably Rhodes) as long as Great Britain retains Cyprus. No mention of any *quid pro quo* is made, however.

On the whole, if one can base oneself on the Greek Press and public opinion here, it would appear that Greece is in a fair way to come out of the war very well, from a territorial point of view. It remains to be seen, however, whether the undoubted opposition which the Greek claims have met with from America will in any way prejudice the very energetic commercial campaign which the latter country is conducting in Greece.

The Shortage of Coal.

The question of coal is, here as elsewhere, becoming a very acute one, and the Greek Government appears to be very urgently occupied with the problem. The inability of Great Britain to supply coal for industrial and marine purposes threatens to become a very serious matter for the interests involved. Up till now, most of the Greek industries and railways have managed to keep themselves going by using lignite and wood as fuel, but this cannot go on indefinitely, as the cost is increasingly high, and the results given are very unsatisfactory. Apparently M. Venizelos' efforts in Paris to secure the supplies of coal that Greece needs from England, France and Belgium have met with no measure of success, and he has now telegraphed to the Athens Government to go ahead and endeavour to secure supplies from America, and to requisition the Greek steamers lying in American ports for this purpose.

The Housing Problem.

The housing problem still presents great difficulties in Athens, and the demand for houses vastly exceeds the supply. Owners of houses have no hesitation in asking rental as high as Drs.700 to Drs.1,000 for an unfurnished house of eight or ten rooms. However, now that the submarine risk has been eliminated, and travelling has become easier, a general exodus of well-to-do Greeks is taking place to France and Switzerland, and every steamer leaving for Marseilles is lamentably overcrowded, hundreds of passengers sleeping in the saloons and corridors, to say nothing of on the deck. A good many of the refugees from Turkey and Russia are slowly filtering back to their own countries, so that it is to be hoped that some improvement will shortly be forthcoming, not only in the matter of house accommodation, but also in the actual cost of living.

An Ambitious Scheme.

The *Progrès* of Athens publishes interesting details of rather an ambitious scheme for providing the Serbian capital with an outlet on the Ægean. It is stated that the Serbian Government meditates the construction of a canal joining the Danube with Salonika. The scheme provides for a canal which would leave the village of Kevavara, at the confluence of the Danube and the Morava, following the course of the latter river in Serbia, then entering the Vardar valley near Kupreli, following the course of the latter river until near Salonika, when it would leave the Vardar in order to approach Salonika. The length of this projected waterway will, it is stated, be about 600 kilometres. There is a difference in level between the termini of the proposed canal of about 300 metres, in order to overcome which some sixty-five locks would be necessary. It is stated that the canal would be accessible to vessels up to 10,000 tons deadweight.

The Indian contingent who came over for the Peace celebrations paraded on September 7 in their full dress at the west front of Hampton Court Palace, and were photographed for the bioscope before returning to India.

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THE BULGARIAN ELECTIONS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, September 4.

The Parliamentary elections were held last Sunday throughout the kingdom. Perfect order and tranquillity reigned, and there was an entire absence of any "incidents." According to the official report, the following results have been obtained:—The Agrarians, the Stambolisky group, have 85 Deputies; the Communists, 47; the Moderate Socialists, 39; the Democrats, 28; the Radicals, 8; the Narodniaks (Old Conservatives) 19; the Tzankovists (Progressive Liberals), 8; Genadieff, 1; Stambolovists, 1, making a total of 236.

Thus in the new Chamber there will be an overwhelming majority, 189 Deputies, in support of the Government, while the Opposition will consist of only the 47 Communists. Owing to the present being harvest time, only 40 per cent. of the peasants voted, instead of 60 per cent., as usual; otherwise it is reckoned the Agrarians would have had 120 Deputies.

JERUSALEM NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Jerusalem, August 23.

Political News.

The situation is very quiet. Nothing has been so far decided in regard of this country, although everyone is anxiously waiting to hear the result of the tour of the American Section of the Inter-Allied Commission on the mandate of this country. The Arabs (Moslems and Christians) seem to believe that as far as the wishes of the people of Syria and Palestine are concerned, the Jewish claims for settling in the country are doomed to failure. They seem to be very glad to have had the privilege of expressing openly their views.

The Jews, on the other hand, and more so the Zionists, are still pouring out their money, hoping thereby to gain the votes of the people—a remote prospect. They are trying to propagate every Jewish idea or thought, but, seeing that they cannot get along without the goodwill of the people of the country, they have begun to study Arabic and to teach Hebrew to those who wish. Whether this will help them remains to be seen.

The truth is that both parties have realised that the best form of government for this country is the British one. The Arabs insist on prohibiting the Jews from making it their national home; otherwise they are content with the Administration. The Jews also regard the Administration with favour if they are given a free hand.

On Thursday last the Jewish Women's Association held an evening party in the Municipal Gardens, the proceeds of which were to help the victims of Poland. They insisted on singing their National Anthem before quitting, but the British authorities had to prevent them and to use the police to disperse them. This led the Government to publish a public notice prohibiting the singing and playing in public places of National Anthems other than the British anthem.

Jerusalem Sporting Club.

The Jerusalem Sporting Club was organised some time ago by the Christian young men of the city. The inauguration of the club was held last Sunday in the presence of the Military Governor, his staff, the Consuls of the Allied nations, and other officers and notables.

R.E. OFFICERS FOR INDIA.

The Secretary of State for India announces that a certain number of officers who have served in the Royal Engineers during the war in or East of Egypt, and have since been demobilised, are required for engineering duties of various kinds with the Army in India. The period of employment offered is one year at least. Temporary commissions as Royal Engineer officers will be given with the substantive or acting rank held on demobilisation. Pay corresponding with the appointment offered will be issued at Indian rates from the date of arrival in India and at British rates for the period of voyage to India. A bonus of Rs.500 will be granted to applicants who are accepted. Applications for these appointments, which should state the age of applicants, details of service during the war, technical qualifications, and nature of work desired, also any experience before the war which is likely to be of value in India, should be addressed to the Secretary, War Office (A.G. 7).

MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, August 18.

The Political Aspiration of the National Assembly

Following in the wake of so many other small nations, Malta is desiring at the present time what the people of the Island consider to be a more representative form of local Government. For years past it has been a case of an abstention and a non-abstention struggle, for as soon as the chosen representatives of the people have secured their election, they, as a rule, have resigned *en bloc* as a protest because of their always being in the minority on the Council of Government, and because they could be outvoted on all points at issue by the non-elected but permanent heads of Departments. This has constituted a political farce, and up to now it has done little, if any, good. Malta, as an island, holds a unique position, and although a loyal Colony of Great Britain, it contains a strong party which is pro-Italian and decidedly anti-English. Hence the recent riots. This state of things has done much in keeping the Island in the decidedly retrograde state it is in. The draft of the proposed Constitution, as approved by the National Assembly, is, to say the least, very ambitious. It may be summed up briefly as follows: The religion to be Roman Catholic; His Majesty's Representative to be a Civil and not a Military Governor, as heretofore; the legislative power to be vested in the Governor, a Senate, and a Chamber of Deputies; the Senate to consist of twelve members, and the eligible members for such a Senate to consist of Ecclesiastics of the higher orders, people with degrees at the local or foreign Universities, proprietors with an annual income of not less than £100, and those who pay rent of not less than £50 per annum, and business men who have acted for the Chamber of Commerce; the Chamber of Deputies to be composed of twenty-two elected members. As regards the power of the suggested two Houses, it is laid down that no law shall become operative if not approved by both Chambers and sanctioned by the Governor. The Senators and Deputies shall enjoy, besides full liberty of speech in the Senate and Chamber, the Parliamentary privileges granted in England to members of the House of Commons. Questions of purely Imperial interest are to be no concern of the proposed Council and Senate. The above are only some of the more important proposals, and when we write that the scheme is ambitious, we need say little more, except to add that some portions will prove highly controversial, if not impracticable. But already there are murmurs that the scheme is not democratic enough. In support of this, a local quotation may not be out of place: "Let us not encourage any repetition in the form of a Classical Council." I shall refer to this later, and report the amendments, which are likely to be considerable.

Democratic Doings.

Already there are differences arising as to the proposed constitution of Government in the Island, and strong things are being said in favour of a single chamber, this to be selected on democratic lines. It is difficult to say how matters will turn out, but there is something of a Gilbertian touch about it when we find a country clamouring at the same time for Imperial help and a full power to manage their own financial affairs. His Excellency Field-Marshal Plumer has his hands very full.

Drawback to Local Emigrants.

No little annoyance has been caused by the decision of the Commonwealth not to admit immigrants into that country from Malta. As has been written before, the Maltese are capital stuff, but they are handicapped grossly by their lack of a knowledge of the English language. The recent efforts of the Emigration Committee should remedy this in time, but we are afraid it will prove a slow process.

Sentence on Rioter.

There have been further decisions arrived at in connection with the recent court-martial over the recent riots. Salvatore Bartolo has received twenty years of penal servitude for "sedition and attempting to induce His Majesty's Forces to act in a manner which he knew to be in contravention of the orders of the Army." A certain Carmelo Abela was found not guilty and acquitted.

EN ROUTE FOR THE ORIENT.

St. Raphael (Var), September 6.

Major Halse, of the Royal Air Force, arrived here to-day from London on a fighting plane. He flew from Lyons to St. Raphael, the last stage of his journey, in two and a-half hours. Major Halse, who was a specialist in long-distance bombing raids, made arrangements at the British Flying School here for immediately continuing his flight to Egypt and India.—*Reuter.*

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THE PROBLEM OF TURKEY.

A POSSIBLE SOLUTION.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

It is doubtful whether any of the many and vast problems which have confronted the Peace Conference were more complex than that of Turkey-in-Asia and Syria—complex by reason of the many nationalities, creeds, and interests involved. Much on the subject has been written in the Press since the commencement of the armistice, bringing to light difficulties and dangers which may arise before we can satisfactorily unravel the tangled skein and weave a lasting peace. We have heard of the aspirations of a liberated Arabia—the views of the Mohammedan leaders on the danger of crushing Islam—the just demands of Armenians for the punishment of the instigators of the Armenian atrocities, and their hopes of the formation of a new Armenia, etc., etc.

All these theories have been ably expounded by their supporters, and doubtless appear to them severally to be the only questions of vital importance. Yet they are in reality merely some of the many pieces that go to make up a vast picture puzzle entitled "Peace." Just as in a picture puzzle, each piece must fit in exactly with its neighbour, so the concerns of each claimant must be considered and settled with a view to the harmony of the country as a whole and the needs of the other claimants. In the solution of all problems it is necessary to keep always before one a clear statement of the object to be attained. In this case it is the duty of the Allies, as victors, to bring peace to the countries which they have conquered, and to redeem their pledge to grant self-determination to the small nations. Let us consider, then, first of all, the country and the nationalities affected and their various claims; we can then examine the possible solutions and see which attunes best to the object we wish to attain.

Before the war, Turkey-in-Asia consisted of Anatolia, Armenia, Kurdistan, Mesopotamia, Syria, and Turkish Arabia. Turkish Arabia, Mesopotamia, and Syria have been liberated from the Turk by right of conquest, and our troops, under the terms of the Armistice, occupy the villayet of Adana and as far north as the line Marash-Urfa-Nisibin. Anatolia, which is practically identical with Asia Minor, consists of the vilayets of Adana, Angora, Archipelago, Broussa, Kastamuni, Konia, Sivas, Smyrna, and Trebizond, with the Mutesarifats of Bijha (Dardanelles) and Ismid. The total population is 9,175.000, of which about 5,000,000 belong to the Orthodox Greek Church, while over 4,000.000 are Mohammedans. Of the Archipelago vilayet, Rhodes and the other islands of the Dodacanese were occupied by Italy in 1911, and almost all the remaining islands, including Samos and Crete, were obtained by Greece in 1912-13. Cyprus was formally annexed to the British Empire in 1914. Armenia comprises the vilayets of Bitlis and Erzerum and the Mamuret of El Aziz; Kurdistan, the vilayets of Diarbekr and Van. Of the population (2,500.000), about 650.000 were Armenian Christians (but the massacres of 1915 all but succeeded in their object of extermination), 250,000 belonged to other Christian sects, and 1,600.000 were Mohammedans. Syria includes the vilayets of Aleppo, Beyrout, and Syria, and part of the vilayet of Zor; while Palestine now forms the Mutessarifliks of Jerusalem, Acre, and Nablus.

A glance at an ethnographical map of this country shows that if you draw a line from Alexandretta to Birejik (on the Euphrates), thence northwards along the western boundary of the Mamuret el Aziz to Divrik, thence eastwards via Erzingan to Toprak Kale, on the Russo-Turco frontier, you will find that all the country north and west of this line is populated with Turanian or Turkish-speaking people. There are a few small isolated patches of Greeks, Kurds, and Armenians, but they are swallowed up in the very large preponderance of Turks. Draw another line due east from Birejik, via Mosul, to the Persian frontier at Mendeli. Between these two lines you have a preponderance of Kurds, with what is left of Armenia circling round Lake Van. South of this second line and west of the Persian frontier the country is almost entirely Arab-speaking. These rough divisions will be useful later in considering the various claims as to future boundaries.

Let us consider first what are the pleas that the Turks would put forward with regard to terms? They will certainly demand fulfilment of the Allies' pledge of self-determination: that is to say, that whenever there is a predominantly Turkish population there they shall rule. They will also demand that the new frontier between Syria, or the New Arabia, and Turkey shall not be farther north than the line occupied by our troops up to the cessation of hostilities. This would be a line, roughly, from Antioch, passing about 20 miles north of Aleppo and thence east to just north of Mosul. If granted these terms they would remain in Constantinople and continue to rule the Armenians and Kurds; the Greeks would have to turn out of Smyrna, and, what is more vital to us, the Turks would control a very large portion of the Baghdad Railway, including the strategically important bridge over the Euphrates at Jerablus.

Their plea in favour of being allowed to remain in Constantinople is based, first, on the fact that 7-12ths of the population of the city are Turkish-speaking Moslems; secondly, that their removal would be a great blow to Islam and to the millions of Moslems who are subjects of the British Empire; and, thirdly, that if their Government, Court, and educated classes are banished to Konia, or some such Anatolian city, Turkey will become a "poor peasant State, peopled largely by semi-barbarians, whose progress will be intolerably slow." The answers to these pleas are: In so far as Turkey-in-Asia is concerned, she can only rule where she predominates, but she does not predominate in Kurdistan, nor will she be allowed to rule Armenians or Kurds—if ever again—until she has proved herself capable of ruling herself. This being the case, the question of her southern frontier running on the line on which hostilities ceased does not arise; except in the vilayets of Adana and Aleppo. Here a temporary boundary has been arranged (running, roughly, east and west through Azaz and keeping north of the Baghdad Railway) for the purpose of defining who shall exercise government and collect the taxes pending the decision of the Peace Conference. As regards Constantinople, it is at least probable that the Christian population, taken as a whole, predominates. In any case, the fact of moving the Turkish Government and Court from Constantinople should be no blow at Islam, for all Islam knows full well that the properties of the Mohammedan Church will be sacred, and that the Moslem will always be free to practise his religion with Britain as a member of the League of Nations.

Now let us consider the claims of the Allies, working from north to south. Russia wants a mandate for Constantinople, but until she has crushed Bolshevism and evolved order out of chaos she is obviously in no position to take up such a responsibility, and Constantinople, at least, will probably have to be administered as a Free Port by the League of Nations. Greece wants Smyrna and the "Greek lands" of Western Asia Minor; and Italy claims a portion of the southern coastal region of the peninsula. The former claims appear to be favourably viewed by the Paris Conference, and the foothold Greece has obtained at Smyrna is likely to be made good. As to the Italian claims, they belong to quite another category, resting solely upon an agreement which can be described as "unfortunate" only by its best friends. The Armenians and the Kurds both require the assistance of a Mandatory Power: the Armenians in order to carry out the work of repatriation and the formation of an Armenian Republic; the Kurds to teach them to become a law-abiding people and to lead them along the path of civilisation, which they are like to find no easy one to follow. The Arabs have conceived the idea of building up anew a great Arab empire, including Syria, Mesopotamia, and the vilayet of Aleppo. Latterly they have shown a desire to be left largely to their own devices, free from any Mandatory Power's supervision, though willing to accept advisers. If, however, they are to have a Mandatory Power, they have let it be clearly understood that they would prefer either Great Britain or America.

Our Allies, the French, demand a mandate for Syria, and at the time of writing it seems to be practically certain that they will obtain it, and quite certain that we shall do nothing whatever to prevent their doing so.

America, we are now given to understand by the American press and the correspondents of our own papers, is not disposed to accept any mandate for the Near East; and though President Wilson may yet persuade his countrymen to take a more altruistic view, the chance of American intervention is highly problematical.

As for ourselves, what do we want? A mandate for Mesopotamia, and perhaps for Palestine also; but certainly not—in view of all the circumstances—for Syria. Yet if our Allies the Arabs should demand that we be the Mandatory for Syria, it would be our duty, as foster-parents of the rising Arab nation, to take their wishes into consideration as well as those of the French.

Rightly or wrongly, we have, so to say, presented to a liberated Arabia an empire which she is at present quite unable to control efficiently, but those who attack our policy in the French, and in certain sections of the English, Press, would do well to remember that but for the Arab being our Ally our advance both in Syria and latterly in Mesopotamia might have had a very different result. As a particular instance, would the 5th Cavalry Division have been able to advance unaided and live on the country from Damascus to Aleppo had the country been hostile? No; the least we can do is to see the Arabs through, if they

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wish it; but we have certainly not intrigued in any way against our Allies the French. Why should we? The *New Statesman* of August 10 states that among other complaints of our support of the Emir Faisal, the French ask: "By what right is he to extend his pretensions to Aleppo, to Alexandretta?" Perhaps they forget that Hecjaz troops under General Noury Bey were among the first to enter Aleppo, and, by their presence on his right flank, assisted the late General Sir Henry Macandrew to bluff 12,000 Turks out of the town. As to Alexandretta, they make no pretensions, other than the promise which Monsieur Picot made them of a free port. In a strong article *The Times* recently pointed out that it is our duty honourably to carry out the terms of the Sykes-Picot Agreement. Quite so but since that agreement was signed we and the French have become members of the League of Nations, and have presumably bound ourselves to grant self-determination to small nations. The whole question of Syria would appear to be: Whom do the Syrians want? The reports of the American Commission for enquiring into the wishes of the populace show that a large majority of Syrian villages desire absolute independence. Failing this, they would accept an American or British Mandate. Beyrout and the Lebanon vote for the French. The people of Palestine, with the exception of a Zionist minority, favour British or American protection. It is to be hoped that, on better acquaintance, the Syrian Arab east of the Lebanon will come to see eye to eyes with his brother in the west, and accept a French Mandate.

Taking all things into consideration, it would appear that a settlement which would probably have as good a chance as any of giving satisfaction and of enduring for a while, would be somewhat on the following lines: (1) For Turkey-in-Asia, Armenia, and Kurdistan, either France or America should be the Mandatory Power; (2) for Mesopotamia and Palestine, Great Britain to be the Mandatory; (3) Turkey to consist of Anatolia—her southern boundary and limits of Armenia and of Kurdistan to be settled by frontier commissions. Constantinople to be controlled (by America, if she will accept the responsibility) on behalf of the League of Nations; (4) Syria to be an Arab Republic until such time as it may elect to become a part of the Arab kingdom, France, meanwhile, to be the Mandatory Power; and if at any future time the people vote for a change in the Mandate, France to retain the vilayets of Beyrout and the Lebanon—the rest of the country being taken over by the Power selected by the people.

It is not claimed that the suggestions put forward above are perfect, but they embody the principle of self-determination—which should be the first consideration—and if put into practice they would clear us of any possible suspicion of "intrigue" in Syria. To those who would accuse us of thereby deserting our Hecjaz Allies, it may be pointed out that it would be manifestly unfair to impose the will of a comparatively few Hecjaz and Baghdadi Arabs upon the Syrian Arabs. Many of the latter are better educated and more in touch with Western ideas than their brothers in the south, and they naturally desire some voice in the government of their country. The idea of an Arab Republic in the north has already recommended itself to many Syrians, and also to those Arabs of the Hecjaz who appreciate the initial difficulties that will beset the rulers of the new Arab Kingdom.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Egypt.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* is devoting a series of articles to the problem of Egypt. In the issue of September 8 he examines the causes of discontent, and, in addition to those usually cited—the requisitioning of crops, th Egyptian Labour corps, and the rest—he points to the decay of good manners as a vital factor. He says this decay is partly due to the war, and is in any case entirely remediable.

It is unfortunate, but true, that one hears the rising described as a rebellion against bad manners. There is a common complaint, which I voice but do not vouch for, that the Anglo-Egyptian has "fallen off." There is an insistent cry, from British residents and Egyptians alike, that we no longer send to Egypt young men of the type common amongst the contemporaries of Scott Moncrieff. One is told that there are young men who are so deficient in real superiority that they attempt to assert themselves by crass boorishness towards the Egyptian. They have forgotten our special position in Egypt, and tend more and more to see little difference between an Egyptian pasha and a Bengali babu. It especially rankles with Egyptians that these men speak of them often in terms of India, without having the ability that is supposed to mark the Indian official. I have not met this type at all, but I have heard its existence vouched for, and if this be so there is something wrong with the selection of candidates.

Rudeness, however, can be assumed to be not the rule among officials, who are not likely to be blind to the fact that the Egyptian is the most tractable person in the world and falls an immediate victim to a gracious manner. But a contributory source of unrest has been the presence of a democratic army of men and women throughout the war. Tom, Dick, and Harry set in authority; Tom, Dick, and Harry moving as officers among civilian "natives"; and Tom, Dick, and Harry's sisters with Arab orderlies at command, and with stately Nubians to fetch their liqueurs while they took their innocent and well-earned rest in Egypt's famous hotels. All this was new in Egypt. Girls who were probably doing their own job devotedly may be forgiven if they sometimes failed to realise that they owed their country something more. One of the most real and beneficent services rendered by Egypt during the war was to be an enchanting holiday-ground for convalescents and for officers and men on leave. But no one can be surprised that subalterns who spent three months in the line on behalf of our civilisation should leave the spreading of it to someone else during their seventy-two hours out. And it is important to recognise that what we may in all charity call the reign of ragtime has been a real element of disturbance, and the farther it recedes the better.

Articles to Note.

"The Arabs and Damascus," by Arthur Mills, in the *English Review* (September).

"India's Claim to Self-Government," by N. C. Kelkar, in the *International Review* (September).

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Just a few lines to answer your correspondent "M. B. E.," from Cyprus.

The reason why Cypriots are getting certificates of British nationality is very obvious: it is because, after all, they are bound to have some passports for travelling and other purposes, and the only passport they can get under the law is the British. Does your correspondent really wish to imply that the millions of the unredeemed Hellenes, who were bound to get Turkish passports, prefer Turkish to Greek nationality?

Even the Archbishop and three members of our deputation, whom your correspondent would, no doubt, describe as "fanatic agitators," travel with British passports.

As to the other point, that the wish for the union with Greece is not unanimous, the deputation consists of the Archbishop and all the Greek members of the Legislative Council—viz., of the total representatives of the Greek Orthodox population of Cyprus. Every election of these representatives has been effected on the platform of "Union, only union, nothing but union." Should this be insufficient, we are willing to abide by the result of the plebiscite. As a matter of fact, what we demand is a "self-determination." *Ἰδοὺ ἡ ῥόδος, ἰδοὺ καὶ τὸ πήδημα.*

I am afraid your correspondent belongs to that category of "little Englishmen" who are doing their best, without any reason, to provoke antipathy in the Island by disputing indisputable facts. Such a policy, I am sure, cannot be called a British policy. Fortunately for us, those who hold responsible places in the Empire know thoroughly well our history, our origin, our nationality, as well as our wishes and will, and we know that in their decision for the future of Cyprus they will keep high the British prestige and the British honour. In the meantime, Mr. "M. B. E." may call us simply "Orthodox Cypriots," thus revealing his ignorance of the Island's history.—I am, etc.,

DR. NIC. KL. LANITIS.

Paris, September 1, 1919.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Mr. Percy White, whose article in the *Spectator* you quote, rightly gives prominence to one of the principal motives by which Greeks who advocate union are actuated. Not only advocates and professional usurers, but the large class of merchants and traders are all money-lenders, and derive much of their gains from this source. The peasantry are only too often unmercifully fleeced, and heavily indebted. The money-lender, or "master," as he is called by the debtor, undoubtedly puts pressure in many cases upon his client to induce him to join in the cry for union. Under Greece the burden would remain and be increased. Athens has a host of educated men only too ready to take up posts, but does not possess administrators such as should be sent to Cyprus.

The Cypriot peasantry are not politicians, but they have a shrewd presentiment as to what Hellenic rule would mean.—I am, etc.,

BRITON.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The letter of Irfan Bey in the last NEAR EAST gives ample reasons why any prospect of Greek rule—it is to be hoped now remote—should be regarded with apprehension by the Moslem population. With marked good taste, he says but little though he might say much, respecting their "loyalty to the British Crown" during the forty-one years of British administration. Sufficient attention has not been called in England to this aspect of the situation.

During forty-one years of British freedom and toleration the Greek element has created and fostered a political agitation and disaffection, with frequent marks of bad taste. Liberty brought into existence a number of Greek papers, all anti-Government, and mostly anti-English. The agitation was worked up by the Press, schoolmasters, and Church. In the Legislative Council the Greek members, in order, as they imagined, to further their aims, gave constant trouble by captious opposition; so much so that it became necessary to the Home Government to give them a serious warning that persistence in their course of obstruction could only lead, as at one time in Malta, to an alteration of the Constitution.

The Turkish community and members of Council, on the other hand, have been throughout unswervingly loyal, and it has been principally through their aid and co-operation that progress in legislature has been effected. That Turks and Greeks have lived in peace has been due not only to the British Government, but also to the attitude and exemplary behaviour of the Turkish community, sometimes, as during the Græco-Turkish war, under great provocation. All this has been kept too much in the background, while Greek deputations and missions have endeavoured to monopolise the attention of the public in England. It is high time that the record of the Moslem element were better known and appreciated in England. I should add that there is no spontaneous desire whatever among the rural classes—the bulk of the population—for any change—quite the contrary. The town agitators have entirely failed to arouse any desire for the substitution of Greek for British rule by their artificial "racial" propaganda. The letter of "M. B. E." in THE NEAR EAST of August 22 as to the real feeling of the peasantry would be endorsed by all who know the Cypriot people.—I am, etc.,

I. G. C.

September 8, 1919.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me to answer the letter of M. Irfan Effendi, Director of the Moslem Evkaf in Cyprus, which appeared in your issue of September 5?

The Deputation of our island have so clearly placed the matter on various occasions before the British public that it would be hardly necessary to revert again to arguments which, no doubt, have already convinced every fair-minded man of the justice regarding our cause, *i.e.*, the union of Cyprus to the kingdom of Greece. However, there is a point in the above-mentioned letter that would require some answer, or correction rather, and this is the close, referring to the situation of the Moslems in Thessaly, Crete, and Macedonia since they became parts of the Greek kingdom. With regard to Thessaly, those Moslems who left on the eve of the annexation have done so through fanaticism, without knowing the benefits of the Greek Administration. As for Crete, the same motive as above inspired the bulk of the Moslems who left the island on its occupation by Greece. However, realising their mistake, they continue to return to the island in their hundreds, and are now enjoying equal rights with the Christian Cretans. Referring to Macedonia, M. Irfan Effendi mentions as a "fact" the speech of some viscount alleging injustice done to the Moslem inhabitants by the Greek authorities. But, in spite of this feeble argument, the real facts cannot be ignored. The splendid and liberal Greek administration has been officially praised by many a foreign statesman and soldier, and as a proof I might quote the respective declarations made recently by that famous contemporary soldier, General Franchet d'Espérey, who impartially described the liberal policy of the Greek Government towards its Moslem subjects, contrasting with it the treatment of Greeks in Turkey.

With reference to the events of the "unfortunate landing of Greek troops in Smyrna," as M. Irfan Effendi most rightly puts it down, these were caused, according to official reports, through certain fanatical Moslems treacherously opening fire on the troops of occupation without the slightest provocation on the part of the troops; now, however, that some bandit elements of the old regime have been secured, the situation is praised by all elements alike.

Unfortunately, history and recent events are full of barbarous deeds committed by fanatical Moslems to the detriment of the Christian elements; but, fortunately, a lot of the old hot-headed Moslems have recognised at last the impartiality of the Greek administration, and as a most recent proof of this statement I mention the petition signed by the Moslem inhabitants of Thrace urging the Peace Conference to annex Thrace to the Greek kingdom.

There is little wonder for such policy manifested by various Moslem communities outside the boundaries of the Greek kingdom, seeing that their co-religionists in Greece are enjoying equal rights with the Christians: mayors, prefects, and other high officials are to be found in Greece drawn from the Moslem

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element; and it is stated that a Moslem Minister is to be one of the Cabinet members.

In Cyprus Christians and Moslems are living in harmony, and the principle of official Greece and of the Greeks as individuals is to see that all elements within the boundaries of our enlarged motherland are treated impartially and liberally. Time only will prove our goodwill and disposition for such a policy, and I trust that M. Irfan Effendi will soon be convinced of this.—I am, etc.,

GEORGE TRIANDAFILLIDES.

September 10, 1919.

MEDITERRANEAN QUESTIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Referring to the letter of Mr. Callinicos in your last issue, it is surely matter for amazement that a modern Greek should have the hardihood to endeavour to support the usual claims of his country to an extension of territory by an appeal to Byron as forming a link "of traditional 'entente de cœurs' between Britain and Greece."

English poets, in common with others who are not poets, can, of course, have nothing but respect and admiration for the prowess and patriotism of the Greeks of old, suggested by the magic names of Marathon and Salamis, but there is a great gulf fixed between those times and the present, or the nineteenth, centuries. For instance, it is on record that Byron was offered the field of Marathon for the sum of about £900! Well might he exclaim: "Was the dust of Miltiades worth no more?" Love for the land is one thing. The character of its inhabitants may inspire quite another feeling, and such, apparently, was Byron's view when he wrote, "For the Greeks a blush—for Greece a tear."

Byron indeed loved Greece, as we all know, and he even placed his sword at her disposal. What he thought of the people is reflected in the second Canto of "Childe Harold." Have they materially changed during the last hundred years?—I am, etc.,

CYPRIOT.

NORTH EPIRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Some months ago I made a protest in your columns against the proposed cession of South Albania (North Epirus) to the Greeks, giving as one reason that, as there was a Moslem majority there, that alone was a proof that the majority of the inhabitants were anti-Greek. I had in my journeys been repeatedly assured by the inhabitants that the Moslems were in considerable majority. My statement was, however, contradicted by a letter from Mr. Kessary, a Greek, who based his statement on statistics brought forward by M. Venizelos to prove a large majority of Christians, which Christians he erroneously stated to be Greeks. I have now come into the possession of far more recent statistics. They are of indubitable reliability, as they are the French statistics made for the purposes of re-victualling part of the district. M. Venizelos' statement was that all South Albania contained 230,000 inhabitants. From this he deducted certain districts containing 30,000 Moslems which he did not wish to annex—there being, in fact, no possible excuse for so doing. This left 200,000 inhabitants, of whom he declared 120,000 to be Christian and 80,000 to be Moslem. He presumed the Christians to be Greek, and asked how a Greek majority could be given to an Albanian minority.

From the French figures for the Koritza district, which they have now occupied since the winter of 1916, we learn, on the contrary, that this district, one of the most coveted by the Greeks, contains 41,070 Christians to 82,245 Moslems. These figures include Koritza, Ostro Tomoritza, Bilishta, Selenitza, and the region of Pogradec.

To this we must add the population of the remainder of the country in question. This we take from the census of Hilmi Pasha and the International Commission, which cannot be contested by the other side, as they also have made use of it.—These give us:—Christians, 76,651; and Moslems, 91,846.

We thus arrive at a grand total of 290,784, made up of 117,721 Christians and 174,091 Moslems. And even if we deduct the 30,000 Moslems for whom M. Venizelos has no use, the Moslem majority remains. Of the Christians, even M. Venizelos has had to confess that they are of Albanian origin and speak Albanian as mother tongue. And a letter from a Christian Albanian of Korcha which I received a few days ago says: "In July there arrived at Korcha (Koritza) two Greek officers with the ostentatious object of kindling again the dying sparks of Greek propaganda. They were hooted down and hissed all along, and sent away in the same unceremonious manner after only three hours' unpleasant sojourn. Korcha has been almost entirely released from the clutches of Greek propaganda." This speaks for itself.—I am, etc.,

M. E. DURHAM,
Hon. Sec., Anglo-Albanian Society.

THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

To-morrow (September 13) is the anniversary of the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. Compared with the fighting all over the Old World in the late war, this battle of "The Big Mound" was, of course, a very insignificant affair. Arabi Pasha's force was only about 26,000 men strong, and the total losses on both sides were under 2,000, of which number 1,500 were Egyptians. But at the time it was regarded as a big battle, and Englishmen were—very properly—grateful to Sir Garnet Wolseley and his gallant men. And, in fact, it had far-reaching effects, as we all know. The 'Gippy, who was then—as he seems to be just now again—inclined to fancy himself more highly than the rest of the world fancies him, wanted a lesson, and he got it. My own private conviction is that we might learn from the past once more; that there has been a great deal too much "fine talk," and that it is time to give the men of action a chance. But then I have for some time recognised thankfully that I am hopelessly out-of-date in such matters.

***

The "Enver Pasha Bridge" over the Teltow Canal is, I see, to revert to its old name, the "Castle Bridge." According to the *Lokal-Anzeiger*, the reason for the change is that the local authorities are no longer enthusiastic regarding Enver's heroism, if, indeed, they ever were so; for, after all, the first change was made by express desire of one of the formerly exalted. I have no objection to offer to the change, but I fancy the reasons given are not based on any good foundation. Enver used not to be a coward—at any rate, not a physical coward. But I suppose the truth is that his failure to come up to their expectations has so grievously disappointed his former German friends that they have to let their spite off somehow or other, and have chosen to do it this way. As a matter of fact, is it not unwise to name a street or a bridge after any foreigner? The subsequent change is always a somewhat unpleasant affair.

***

Theoretically, Bolshevism may be an uplifting and ennobling creed, but in practice it is so utterly beastly that to find anyone openly supporting it may well fill us with surprise. Yet even in this country one does, from time to time, meet wild-eyed, long-haired, not-too-clean persons, who talk of the Bolshies as "the only hope for humanity," and so forth and so on, *ad lib.* and *ad nauseam*. I suppose it is due to that contrariness of human nature, that sheer cussedness which was described by B. C. Stephenson in "Dorothy" when he wrote:

"The single would marry, but the husband contrives
To consider his fetters a curse;
While half the world sighs for the other half's wives—
With the risk of a change for the worse."

Judging by the look of some of the Bolshi-phils referred to above, I suspect that the prospect of securing some other men's wives accounts for their views, and they ought really to be in the Monkey House at the Zoo—behind bars.

***

That, however, is a digression. What I set out to remark upon was the attitude of an Egyptian paper, *El Ahaly*, towards the red peril. That enterprising journal, I note, prays God to hasten the introduction of Bolshevism into Egypt. How long will such criminal folly be tolerated? If Bolshevism is not aggravated anarchy under a new name, what is it? And since Anarchists admit frankly that they are against organised society, and would crush it if they had the power to do so, why does not organised society crush anyone who admits that he or she is an Anarchist? It would be simply treating them as they would treat us if they could, and it would rid us of the pests. A short Act of Parliament would make it possible to deal with the peril here, and other countries would surely follow suit. The majority of civilised mankind is just about sick of the spirit of lawlessness and sheer selfishness that has been bred by the war. And to allow such foolish stuff as this of *El Ahaly* to be served out to the ill-balanced Egyptians is simply folly.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

HINDU SCIENCE.*

Mr. Sarkar sets out to present a comprehensive, though very brief, account of the scientific work done in ancient and mediæval India. He urges that Indian achievement must be judged in the true historical perspective, and not by comparison with the new knowledge acquired during the last century or two in Europe. From this point of view, ancient India may justly claim to stand on the same footing as ancient Greece, and we are not disposed to quarrel with Mr. Sarkar's conclusion that "the story of scientific investigation among the Hindus is thus, like that among other nations, the story of a growth and development in critical inquiry, sceptical attitude, and rationalism." It is not clear how far Mr. Sarkar has gone to the original authorities, but his Bibliography consists almost entirely of titles which must be described as secondary, and we are told, for the most part, not what the old writers actually said, but what other modern writers say that they have found. It is possible that some of them have made mistakes, and a more critical treatment would be justified, but, taking the book for what it purports to be, we can recommend it as a modest and interesting compilation.

THE UNIVERSAL QUEEN.†

The search for a Holy Grail is one which all men, of whatever religion, may undertake. There is no practical Absolute in these matters, and it is recognised that the seeker after truth may be successful or unsuccessful equally in Persia as in England. The ends of East and West may not be identical, and their methods are quite different, but there is something in the mystic journey to the Ideal which is common to both.

In this Sufi tale, which is adequately described by the publishers as "a web of poetical fantasy spun on the loom of Persian mysticism," Mr. Vansittart has chosen to show the quest for the Ideal, certainly with local colouring, but (presumably so that we all may understand) on a canvas of Occidental quality. His caravan of song, bearing a "white Transcaspian Queen," starts from Elborz, and having passed through Enzeli, on the Caspian Sea, sets out on its high way across Persia. It reaches the "great gate of screened Tehran," and there the Queen of the caravan irresistibly attracts the "Dreamer-of-the-Age," a poet very similar to Morris's "idle singer of an empty day." He asks no questions concerning the purpose of the journey, but is content in knowing that in the Queen he has found Love and Prayer and all that he worships, and so joins in the hunt for Truth. On the caravan moves, until its occupants behold "the domes of Kom": thence to "Persia's pride, Rose-Ispahan." But no halt could be made on the urgent quest; they did not pause at "sun-burnt Shiraz," and hastened on to "dank Bushir." They had now reached the Gulf of Pearls, had travelled from sea to sea. But the journey was not over, for the Queen straightway stepped on board a dhow bound for a port which no man has seen twice.

That is the journey; but, on the way, the travellers, like those in the "Canterbury Tales," chant out their various songs. The author has done his verse cleverly, and in nearly every case his metre is fit for his matter. His gift of expression is very considerable, and his command of several styles is as complete as it is necessary. Though we do not like the whole-hearted courage of his rhyming —"the background, silence," with "myriad-while hence," is startling, but "as a man" with "it feels uncann" is unpardonable—and though we object strongly to his frequent use of the word "coolth," yet there is much in the book which even a purist can admire. Browning and Thomas Ingoldsby would not be ashamed of the power of technique displayed here; and though the author's philosophy may be too clearly expressed to have won Browning's approval, there is at least one example of malicious levity over which the Rev. Barham would have chuckled. It concerns a sheikh who had travelled the world over and who understood all doctrines, but his one firm conviction was this:—

> "The Faith, the Pomp, the Loves, the Lives of men
> Outshine the firefly and outcrest the wren."
> He added as he rose: "But God is great."
> And bent, repassing through the city gate,
> Lest he should bump his venerable pate.

Most of the songs are of a semi-lyrical nature—*e.g.*, "The Legend of the Peasant," "The Depth of the Night," chiefly because the caravaners, whose perpetual hunt is for Beauty and Truth, can see the light intensely only for a short time. There is one notable exception to this, "The History of the Adventurer," the longest poem in the book. It represents an impersonation of the spirit which inspired the Crusades, and shows vividly the longings, sufferings, temptations, and ideals of the fighting Christians. But the Adventurer, though his "Sunflower-tress" and the valleys of the Rhone are calling him, though every flower and bramble make him burn with love of home, holds, in spite of the degradation by fellow-pilgrims of the quest, firmly to his ideals, turns not back from his appointed trust, and clings to the one safe illusion in life—that arising from disillusion. As he says, as he approaches the end of experience:

> For whether hope can ever fit the future matters not a whit.
> My duty is to tug my oar—so long as I am chained to it.

The songs of the caravan end with the Adventurer's tale, but there is yet a secret to tell, and the author allows old Tous, the camel who bore the caravan on it long journey, to unfold it. It is that all the caravaners at the end were one and the same man: the various spirits which uttered various songs were, through love, fused at last into a perfect unity. The author has made his Pantheistic case excellently, for his pilgrims all find the universal and eternal Queen, and their unity and common success are but parts of a larger unity to come, in the achievement of which, however, they will not be helpless onlookers. The Dreamer-of-the-Age says (and the author has given his words a very special application to this age of war):—

> Ah, make me glad,
> You that come after me and call
> From summits that outstrip my hopes.
> Yet I shall linger on the slopes
> And dwell with those who gave their all.

BOOK NOTES.

"Poems in Captivity" is the title of a book of verse by John Still, published by the Bodley Head. Many of the poems are written about Ceylon.

Heath Cranton has recently published "War and Sport in India," an officer's diary, 1802-1806, and "Travels East of Suez." by Rachel Humphreys, F.R.G.S.

Messrs. Cassell's autumn fiction includes "Star of India," an Anglo-Indian novel, by Alice Perrin, and "A Thousand to One," by B. M. Croker, which is also concerned with India.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Russia and Germany at Brest-Litovsk." By Judah L. Magnes. (New York: The Rand School of Social Science. $1 net.)

"History of Zionism, 1600-1908." Vol. II. By Nahum Sokolow. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 21s. net.)

"Mineral Resources of Georgia and Caucasia: With a Chapter on the Manganese Industry of Georgia." By D. Ghambashidze, F.R.G.S. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 8s. 6d. net.)

"The Salonica Side-Show." By V. J. Seligman. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Across the Blockade." By H. N. Brailsford. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Indian Drum." By William MacHarg and Edwin Balmer. (London: Stanley Paul and Co. 7s. net.)

* "Hindu Achievements in Exact Science." By B. K. Sarkar. (Longmans. 5s. net.)

† "The Singing Caravan." By Robert Vansittart. (London: Heinemann. 6s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. September	1919. August		1337. Julheggia.	5679. Elul.
12	30	Friday	17	17
13	31	Saturday.....	18	18
14	September 1	Sunday	19	19
15	2	Monday	20	20
16	3	Tuesday	21	21
17	4	Wednesday	22	22
18	5	Thursday	23	23

Lord Sinha has arrived at Harrogate for the cure.

Brigadier-General Ronald Storrs, C.M.G., has left London, and is at present in Paris.

The Rev. F. A. Judd, curate at St. Saviour's, Ealing, is shortly going to work at Allahabad under the Bishop of Lucknow.

General Allenby is now in France, and is expected to arrive in England next week, when he will be accorded an official reception.

Admiral de Robeck, on board the Iron Duke, has left Malta for Navarino, Mudros, and Constantinople, where he will assume the High Commissionership.

It is announced that the marriage was celebrated on July 19, at Garrison Church, Kasr-el-Nil, Cairo, between Major Cecil V. Woodcock, R.E., I.W.T., of Liverpool, and Ethel I. Brookes, Simla, India.

Cardinal Giustini has been appointed Papal Legate to proceed to Jerusalem for the celebration of the seven hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Franciscan Order as guardian of the Holy Places in Palestine.

Major J. L. Baird, M.P., Under-Secretary to the Home Office, has left Scotland for Egypt. He has been ordered a complete rest owing to overwork. The recent death of his sister in Egypt decided him to visit that country.

The marriage took place on September 4, at Holy Trinity, Brompton, S.W., between Duncan James Donne, son of J. P. Donne, Esq., and Marguerite Julia, second daughter of the late Sir Frank Souter, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major C. A. G. Mackintosh, of the Arab Bureau, G.H.Q., E.E.F., Cairo, and Norna, daughter of the late James Labouchere, of 23, Chapel Street, Belgrave Square.

The marriage was celebrated on September 2, at Hurstmonceux, by Rev. St. John Macdonald, between William Walter, eldest son of the late A. J. Butler, of Wantling, Sussex, and Violet, second daughter of the late F. C. Cooper, Calcutta.

The engagement is announced between Thomas Charles Donald Ricketts, Indian Army, only surviving son of the late T. F. Ricketts, M.D., and Elspeth Ross, elder daughter of W. R. Buckell, F.R.C.S., of Salmon Arm, B. C. (late of Cheltenham).

The marriage was celebrated on September 4, at St. Mark's, North Audley Street, by the Rev. J. Brett-Langstaff, between Major James Gourlie, D.S.O., King George's Own Central India Horse, and Constance Winifred, daughter of the late William McKerrow.

The marriage arranged between Philip Henry Lemon, of Calcutta, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Lemon, Upton Leigh, Cheltenham, and Valentine, second daughter of the late Richard Gordon-Smith and of Mrs. Gordon-Smith, Burnside, Prestbury, Gloucestershire, will take place shortly in Calcutta.

A marriage has been arranged between Lieut.-Colonel A. Hewlett, K.G.O., Central India Horse, son of the late General T. G. Hewlett, C.I.E., and Gertrude Margaret (Madge) Hood, younger daughter of the Hon. A. and Mrs. Hood, Gregory, Styvechall Hall, Warwickshire.

The marriage was celebrated on September 5, at the Brompton Oratory, by the Rev. Father Munster, between Lieutenant-Commander G. B. H. Francis, R.N., younger son of Mrs. Francis, Swindon, and Grace Aimée, fourth daughter of General Mason, late Bengal Cavalry, I.A.

An official delegation of the Indian National Congress has been giving evidence before the Joint Committee of the House of Lords and House of Commons appointed to consider and report upon the Government of India Bill. A report will be drafted for the consideration of Parliament when it meets on October 22. In the meantime the delegation is preparing to hold meetings in all provincial centres.

The marriage took place on September 4, at St. Judes-on-the-Hill, Golder's Green, between Captain Maurice Gaskell Sykes, R.A.F. (India Civil Service), youngest son of T. Gaskell Sykes, West Ealing, and Constance Mary Lilian, younger daughter of the late Hugh Stewart Roberts.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place at Simla, between Major N. A. H. Campbell, Somerset Light Infantry, younger son of the Hon. A. F. H. Campbell, and Enid Muriel, second daughter of Colonel C. H. D. Ryder, C.I.E., D.S.O., Surveyor-General of India.

The engagement is announced between Captain E. E. V. Temperley, M.C., of Jodhpore, India, younger son of the Rev. A. Temperley, South Willingham, Lincoln, and Myrtle Irene Stuart, third daughter of the late Canon E. A. Stuart, of Canterbury Cathedral, and Mrs. Stuart, of 47, Aberdeen Park, Highbury.

The marriage was celebrated on September 4, by special licence, at St. Paul's Church, Slough, by the Rev. B. W. Isaac, vicar, between Zain Maurice Yusif, B.A.(Cantab.), only son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Yusif (Indian Civil Service), and Elizabeth Mary, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Clarke, of Slough, Bucks.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major Montague H. Seymour, 10th Gurkha Rifles, elder son of the late Major W. W. M. Seymour, R.A., and Evelyn, only daughter of Mr. M. W. Mattinson, K.C., Recorder of Blackburn, and Mrs. Mattinson, of 18, Phillimore Gardens, Kensington, W.

The marriage was celebrated on September 2, at St. John's Church, Kingston, between Wilfred Graham Thrupp, Indian Police, youngest son of Mrs. H. Keay Gow and grandson of the late Mr. G. A. Thrupp, of Maida Vale, and Mildred Frances, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. A. Poland, The Gables, Fassett Road, Kingston.

The marriage was celebrated on September 4, at the Parish Church, Windsor, by the Rev. E. M. Blackie, vicar of Windsor and Hon. Chaplain to the King, between Major J. G. L. Soames, youngest son of the late J. K. Soames, of Blackheath, and Sybil Erskine, only daughter of Lieut.-Colonel Warren Hastings, late Indian Army, The Firs, Datchet.

Bishop Gwynne arrived in Cairo from England on August 4, and expects to reach Khartoum on August 16 (says the *Sudan Times*). Writing from England on July 1, he said he had succeeded in securing the Rev. H. Hornby, M.C., as a new chaplain for the Sudan. Mr. Hornby has been Senior C.F., 2nd Division, in France. He expects to arrive in November.

The marriage was celebrated on September 6, at All Saints', Hordle, by the Rev. E. P. Boys Smith, assisted by the Rev. G. Mackie, between Major E. H. Impey, M.C., Lincolnshire Regiment, attached M.G.C., only son of Lieut.-Colonel L. Impey, C.S.I., C.I.E., and Marguerite Alysoun Ramsay, younger daughter of Brigadier-General A. H. Cowie, C.M.G., R.E., and Mrs. Cowie.

The marriage was celebrated on September 3, at St. Catharine's Church, Arthog, Merionethshire, by the Rev. Owen Evans, M.A., between Geoffrey Herbert, India Police, Lieutenant I.A.R.O., third son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Mannooch, of 1A, Lawn Road, Belsize Park, N.W., and Irene Kate, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan W. Griffith, of Bryntirion, Dolgelly.

The marriage was celebrated on September 3, at St. Peter's, Woolwich, by the Rev. Father P. Byrne, between Vivian Claude Hamilton, R.F.A., younger son of the late Lieut.-Colonel Henry Charles Hamilton, 2nd Cavalry, Hyderabad Contingent, and of Mrs. Hamilton, Park Hill Lodge, Shortlands, and Catherine, eldest daughter of Captain John Lynch, Remount Depot, Bangalore.

The eighty-seventh annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science began on September 10 at Bournemouth. Among the contributions made were papers read by Mr. R. C. Thompson and Lieut.-Colonel Beazeley on explorations and surveys made in Mesopotamia during the war, and one by the retiring president, Sir Arthur Evans, on "The Palace of Minos and the Prehistoric Civilisation of Crete."

The marriage was celebrated on September 3, at St. Michael and All Angels', Bude, by the Rev. Watkin Davies, B.D., rural dean of Chepstow, assisted by the Rev. E. G. Burr, D.D., between Geoffery Swinford Laird-Clowes, Egyptian Civil Service, only son of the late Sir William Laird-Clowes and of Lady Laird-Clowes, and Dulcie Evelyn, eldest daughter of George Glass Hooper, 23, Kensington Court, W.8, and St. Margaret's, Bude.

The marriage arranged between Harry William Hammond, of Colombo, Ceylon, second son of Mr. and Mrs. William Hammond, of Hertford, and Muriel Beatrice, only daughter of the late Professor A. H. Young, LL.D., M.B., C.M., F.R.C.S., of the Victoria University, Manchester, and Mrs. Young, 4, Corringway, Hampstead, N.W.4, will take place at All Saints, Margaret Street, on September 23.

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On the afternoon of September 5 a gathering composed of representatives from the various Oriental societies of the Allies was held at the London School of Oriental Studies. Sir E. Denison Ross, on behalf of the school, extended a very hearty welcome to the visitors, among whom France was well represented. He hoped that in the future friends from Italy and America would be able to attend such a gathering in larger numbers. He proceeded to sketch the history of the School of Oriental Studies, attributing its birth to the activities of the Royal Asiatic Society, and especially to the untiring energies of Mr. P. J. Hartog. He then announced the two lectures which were given later in the afternoon—one by Sir George Grierson on the various dialects of India (illustrated with some excellent gramophone records), and the other on "Mesopotamia," by Mr. Campbell Thompson. Afterwards the guests were entertained to tea, and were shown over the buildings of the school.

At a banquet at the Imperial Restaurant, on September 6, the representatives of the *Société Asiatique*, the American Oriental Society, and the *Scuola Orientale* (*R. Università di Roma*) were entertained by the president and members of the Royal Asiatic Society. In the absence of the president, Lord Reay, and the director, Sir Mortimer Durand, the chair was taken by Mr. Longworth Dames. Among those present were:—M. E. Senart (president of the *Société Asiatique*), M. Bacot, M. Basset, M. Boyer, M. Clermont-Canneau, M. Cordier, M. Finot, M. Sylvain Lévi, M. Pelliot, M. Thureau-Dangin, Professors J. H. Breasted, J. H. Woods, and A. T. Clay, Sir Charles J. Lyall, General Sir Percy Sykes, Colonel Phillott, Professor Cowley, Professor Garstang, Sir George Grierson, Sir J. G. Frazer, Sir E. Denison Ross, Sir Hercules Read, and Sir D. Prain. The Italian Ambassador was represented, and the Chinese Minister was also present.

APPOINTMENTS.

The Hon. L. Davidson has been appointed Vice-President of the Madras Legislative Council.

Mr. P. C. Plowden, I.C.S., Joint Magistrate of Agra, is transferred to the Government of India as Under-Secretary in the Revenue and Agricultural Department.

OBITUARY.

Colonel Charles Richard Matthews, late of the Indian Army, died on September 4 at Edith Road, W., at the age of eighty-one.

The death occurred on September 4, at West Cults House, Cults, Aberdeen, of William Arthur Nelson Langdon, late Alliance Bank of Simla, Calcutta, aged 73 years.

Dr. John Cahill, of 12, Seville Street, Lowndes Square, died on September 6, at the age of sixty-two. He was a member of the Egyptian Government Medical Commission, London Board.

The death occurred on September 5 of Major Archibald H. Hogarth, a distinguished English sanitarian. After the Armistice he went on a special mission to the Levant, where he did much hard work in endeavouring to stamp out influenza.

The death occurred on August 31, at 30, Bury Street, St. James's, of Brigadier-General A. H. Ollivant, C.B., C.M.G., R.A., son of Colonel A. Ollivant, I.S.C., and formerly Inspector-General of Police, N.W.P., and grandson of Alfred Ollivant, Bishop of Llandaff.

Mr. Herbert Welch Halton, Vice-President of the Native Court of Appeal at Cairo, was found drowned in the River Clunie at Braemar on September 8. He was one of the pioneers of the English section of the Cairo School of Law, and had been Vice-President of the Native Court of Appeal at Cairo since October, 1916.

The death occurred on September 6 of Admiral Lord Beresford. His name was known throughout the Near East, and at Alexandria in particular he had a host of friends. He was born in Ireland in 1846, and entered the Navy at the age of thirteen. After serving, among other places, in the Mediterranean, he achieved fame at the bombardment of Alexandria in July, 1882. In this action he was in command of the well-known gun-vessel Condor. In 1884 he returned to the Mediterranean, and was attached to the staff of Lord Wolseley during the Nile Expedition for the relief of General Gordon at Khartoum, and in the following year he was in command of the Naval Brigade at the battle of Abu Klea. In 1891 he was appointed to the command of the Undaunted on the Mediterranean station. While thus serving he helped greatly in the salvage of the Seignelay, a French man-of-war which had gone on shore on the coast of Tripoli, and for this service was thanked by the French Government. He was again in the Mediterranean in 1900 and in 1905. His later years were devoted almost wholly to politics.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The railway between Belgrade and Sofia has been restored for traffic.

The postal and cable censorship will be removed in Malta as from September 15.

A Reuter message from Belgrade states that in Southern Serbia the first harvest since 1916 is now being reaped.

A Bill to make provision for the admission of former enemy aliens has been passed by the Government of Malta.

Addressing the Maltese Council of Government, the Governor said the police, as at present organised, was not an efficient force.

The Pope has entrusted a gift of one hundred thousand francs to the eminent Benedictine Dom Pierre Bastien of S. Anselm's, Rome, towards the erection of a cathedral at Belgrade.

A message from Bucharest states that the Society of Roumanian War Orphans now numbers 100,000 members. The society was organised by the American Red Cross under the presidency of Queen Marie.

The non-Brahmin Federation of Bezwada has passed a resolution in favour of communal representation, and protesting against the reference to the Brahminised Madras Government regarding the allocation of seats.

The Maruz Khaneh Shah-in-Shaheh (Royal Hospital), for many years carried on by the Germans, has been handed over to Drs. Neligan and Scott to reorganise on modern lines. The Persian Government has largely increased the Budget, whilst the British Government gives an annual grant.

Lieut.-Colonel Cheke, accompanied by his staff, has just left Paris for Trieste, en route to Montenegro, as head of the British Relief Mission. This is the first mission of relief from this country that will have entered Montenegro. Reports received by a messenger who has just arrived in Paris tell a tale of the appalling misery of the unfortunate inhabitants of the little country.

The Postmaster-General announces that correspondence intended for transmission to officers and men serving with the British Military Mission in South Russia should be addressed: "British Military Mission, South Russia, Army of the Black Sea." Letters and parcels should be posted in the usual way, and should not be sent to the War Office or any military office for transmission.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1919.

SYRIA AND COMMONSENSE.

It is very evident from the manner in which the question of Syria has been discussed in the French Press that the permanency of the good relations happily existing between the two countries depends in no small measure upon the people and Press of Great Britain maintaining their characteristic *sang froid*. There is no reason to suppose that the outcry raised by the newspapers represented genuine anxiety on the part of the French Government, for no more serious reflection could be made against the responsible statesmen than to suggest that the policy of each nation is so little understood by the other that actual distrust exists between them at this stage with regard to their plans or desires in connection with Syria, or indeed any other region. But so protracted have the proceedings in Paris been, and so marked has been the tendency to avoid decisions and to trust to solutions being evolved of themselves, that the delegations appear to have become alarmed at the unexpected results of their own procrastinations. In these circumstances a little "barking" on the part of the Press may be regarded as a salutary tonic. Hence, perhaps, the unanimity with which the French newspapers raised the question of Syria, with well-founded confidence in the level-headedness and freedom from touchiness of their British Allies. The quarrel has not been taken up in Great Britain, for the subject had only to be mentioned to enable the French to realise that the Machiavellian attributes which they pretended to find in British policy existed exclusively in their own perfervid imagination. The first instinct of the British nation is to regret that the war has made accessions of territory necessary; on the other hand, it has certain well-defined views on the subject of responsibility and the general fitness of things, and is most anxious to see the best possible settlement arranged after the world upheaval. It had been brought up to regard Syria, about which it knew little or nothing, as one of France's special preserves. The course of the war showed that for all practical purposes, Syria was more closely associated with the British Empire than with France. A British force undertook to liberate Syria from the Turks, and in spite of France's claims upon the country no effort was made by her to act up to her responsibilities. No doubt it was convenient to the French Higher Command to make use of the British Army, and it did not trouble itself with political matters, which were the peculiar concern of the Government alone.

However natural France's policy with regard to Syria may have been in the circumstances, it has proved an unfortunate one, for the French have had little chance of coping with two entirely new developments in the Syrian position. They have made no attempt to understand the significance of the Arab movement, and they have ignored the inevitable comparison drawn on the spot between the British Army with its successful administrative methods and the absent French. The arrival of the Emir Feisal in Paris ought to have convinced the Government that the complete absence of Arab cordiality towards the French was a serious factor in the future of the Middle East. But instead of taking steps to placate Arab opinion, the French Government appears to have adopted a policy of *laissez faire* and to have trusted to the mandate putting everything right. In the meantime indiscreet behaviour on the part of the small bodies of troops in the country, and such short-sighted action as the employment of an Armenian legion to carry out French garrison work, still further exasperated the Arabs, until the British authorities were forced to the conclusion that the presence of British troops was actually necessary for the maintenance of peace. In this decision there could be no question of intrigue, for the good reason that the longer the French delayed to take over control of Syria the longer the British Army would be kept away from home and on active service. The pleasant fiction of British land-hunger in regard to Syria, that made such a strong appeal to the French Press, had no foundation in fact. The anomalous situation of France bespeaking a mandate where she was admittedly not wanted by the bulk of the inhabitants compelled attention, and conditions in Syria came to be studied more carefully. There was no desire to belittle what France had done for the country in the past; but, as far as trade relations were concerned, it was not difficult to show that Great Britain would come as no stranger to the Syrians, if circumstances compelled her to have the mandate. The story of the British Empire is to a considerable extent the story of mandates, and Great Britain may be forgiven for not setting such a high value on them, when they bear no relation to neighbouring responsibilities, as our French Allies do.

It would be imagined that it was only necessary for the French to confess their eagerness for the Syrian mandate in order to draw an avowal from the British Government that it was no candidate for it, and for the French to take up their responsibilities in the country in order to secure the blessing of the League of Nations. The latter course they have not adopted. Great Britain is still keeping in Syria an army that would far rather be demobilised or, at least, return home. Officers and men have buoyed themselves up with false hopes of the immediate dispatch of French troops to relieve them; but these have never appeared. There is abundant evidence to show that the spirit of the *entente cordiale* has been faithfully displayed by the Army Command, which has gone out of its way to "nurse" the place for the French. On the other hand, commanders and civilian officials would have failed in their duty if they had not reported what they saw and knew to be the facts of the situation. It would have been an unfriendly act to allow the French to occupy Syria with a small force which might find itself at once in difficulties with the Arabs. The delay in the dispatch of French troops to the country may well be due to prudence, which requires a strict counting of the cost. No one is better able than Lord Allenby to enlighten the French Government on this point. He is understood to be entirely in favour of a French mandate; but he knows the military position, and can warn the French of the nature of the task that they are taking over. In the meantime there is as little justification for talking of British intrigue as there is for attempting to insist upon the letter of the Sykes-Picot Agreement. Naturally Great Britain will carry out such terms of that impossible document as the French insist upon regarding as valid; but if French publicists and politicians would study the Agreement carefully, they would realise that, as it stands, it is contradictory and unworkable. A way out of the *impasse* will have to be found, but it should be by agreement between France, Great Britain, and the Arabs, starting *de novo*, rather than on the basis of a hasty Agreement which a subsequent pronouncement of the two Powers has already modified.

THE NEAR EAST.

The Manager of THE NEAR EAST *would be glad to be informed of any instances of difficulty being experienced in securing copies of the Paper. If any readers have friends who are not already subscribers to* THE NEAR EAST *and, in their opinion, are likely to be interested in the Paper, they are invited to send the names and addresses to the Manager, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.*

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Aviation and the Near East.

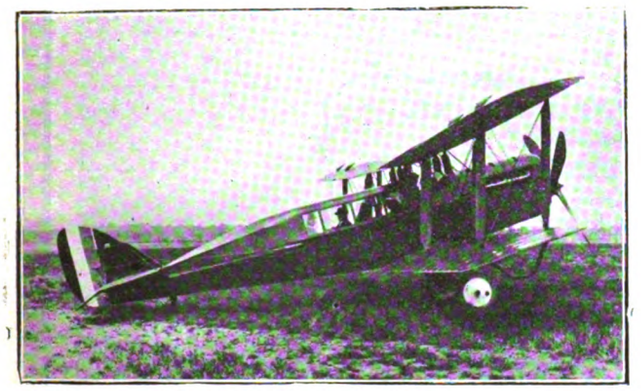
To Western Europe the enormous, not to say unlimited, possibilities of commercial flying are obvious, but this sense of the future of Aviation may not be so developed in Eastern Europe and Western Asia. It is with the purpose of supplying this deficiency that "The Near East" issues to-day a Special Aviation Number, which will bring home to the countries concerned the conviction that a large part of the commerce of the future will be transacted by means of Aviation. In the following pages will be found particulars of some of the pioneer firms in the art of flying and of their products.

COMMERCIAL AERONAUTICS.

By G. HOLT THOMAS.

It is in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Near East that the development of commercial aerial power will have such extreme importance, where it will mean so much from so many points of view, and where, indeed, we must now turn our eyes. Britain is too small fully to demonstrate the advantages of aerial transport, and our climate, too, is constantly against us.

Methods of locomotion on the surface of the earth are limited by slow expansion; but this is not so in



I.—One of the Airco 16 machines employed daily in the London—Paris Express Air Service.

regard to aerial transport. The aeroplane requires no permanent way like a train; it is not tied to any highway like a motor-car. For journeys in which speed is the paramount consideration an aircraft possesses an overwhelming advantage over every other means of transport. Airway services will, to a certain extent, create their own traffic. When they are available the community will find uses for them which are not as yet apparent; though, of course, we already see their supreme value for carrying express mails.

As indicating the progress of aeronautics, one may mention that it was only ten years ago that it was considered wonderful if an airship made a day's voyage, or if an aeroplane flew a mile. Now, in connection with the London-Paris service I have just started, and which we regard as the first link in a great and growing chain, we have already demonstrated conclusively that skilled pilots on fast machines can maintain a daily service by air, even in the face of winds rising to hurricane force.

We now see, in fact, that energy in the development of flying will open up to mankind a new era of commercial activity, and that the development of a European system of airways, connecting us with the Near East and beyond, will have a stimulating influence, almost incalculable, not only on trade but also upon international relations.

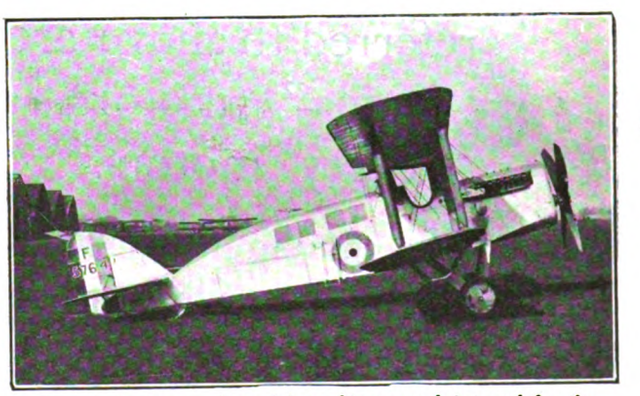
Aeronautics is so much in its infancy still that to talk of its limitations would be ridiculous: with it almost everything is possible. The value of the aeroplane is expressed in one word—speed; and we must remember that every city, whether on sea-coast or inland, is equally a port of call on the ocean of the air.

So far as concerns the enterprise which I personally control (and I am proud to say our ramifications are not only very powerful but also world-wide), our policy is to promise nothing that we cannot accomplish; to study aerial transport not as a competitor with land and sea transport, but as a high-speed adjunct to all existing forms of communication; and more especially to devise means whereby, in the earliest infancy of this new form of travel, we can gain our experience most usefully and profitably, not merely to ourselves, but also to the community at large. It was with such an idea as this in mind that we began on August 25 our London-Paris service. Sceptics asked me, in this regard, what amount of reliability I could promise. I replied that, taking day in and day out, I thought we could promise an 80 per cent. reliability. Well, on our first eight days' working, with all eyes on us, and with the weather atrocious, our average was as high as 94 per cent.

One of the greatest needs, obviously, is to interest the commercial public in the uses and advantages of aerial transport. Our ambition now is to institute, by degrees, a series of airways which will permit mails or travellers to reach any part of the globe by air at an average speed as high as 100 miles an hour. Here I can give some instances. Leaving London by air, say, at 8 a.m. on Monday morning, and travelling at 100 miles an hour, you would reach Paris at 10.20 a.m. Monday, Cairo at 7.8 a.m. Tuesday, New York at 7.24 a.m., and Calcutta at 6.48 p.m. Wednesday. Cape Town, Buenos Ayres, Tokio, and Vancouver would be reached at various hours on Thursday, and Sydney (Australia) on Saturday morning.

If one contemplates anything like a regular use of the air services that are now extending, if we can get the uniform daily loads for our aeroplanes which are so essential for profitable working, it should be possible for a business man to avail himself of these services, with all the advantages they offer, at a charge which will be no more than commensurate with the very special facilities offered, and the great amount of time saved.

We should, too, look upon this question in its broader aspects. Aircraft will be wonderful vehicles for shedding light into dark places. They will, by their facilitation of international transport, turn strangers into friends: they will enable the ordinary citizen of one country to know the ordinary citizen of another in a



II.—One of the famous Airco 4 A machines now being used for the London—Paris Express Air Service.

way which would be impossible were it not for this new power of high speed travel by air. The people most alive to this new power, and ready to save time in a business transaction not merely to the extent of hours, but in many cases of days and even weeks, will most assuredly reap great and immediate trade advantages.

The question whether we are to reap a reasonably quick benefit from the coming of aerial transport, or whether many years elapse before any really profitable use is made of it, is a matter very largely in the hands of the great Governments of the world. If they are unhelpful, or niggardly, the coming of the era of commercial aerial transport on an adequate scale may be many years delayed. If they act sympathetically, if they co-operate with us actively, it will cost no great effort or financial strain to establish international commercial flying on sound and progressive lines.

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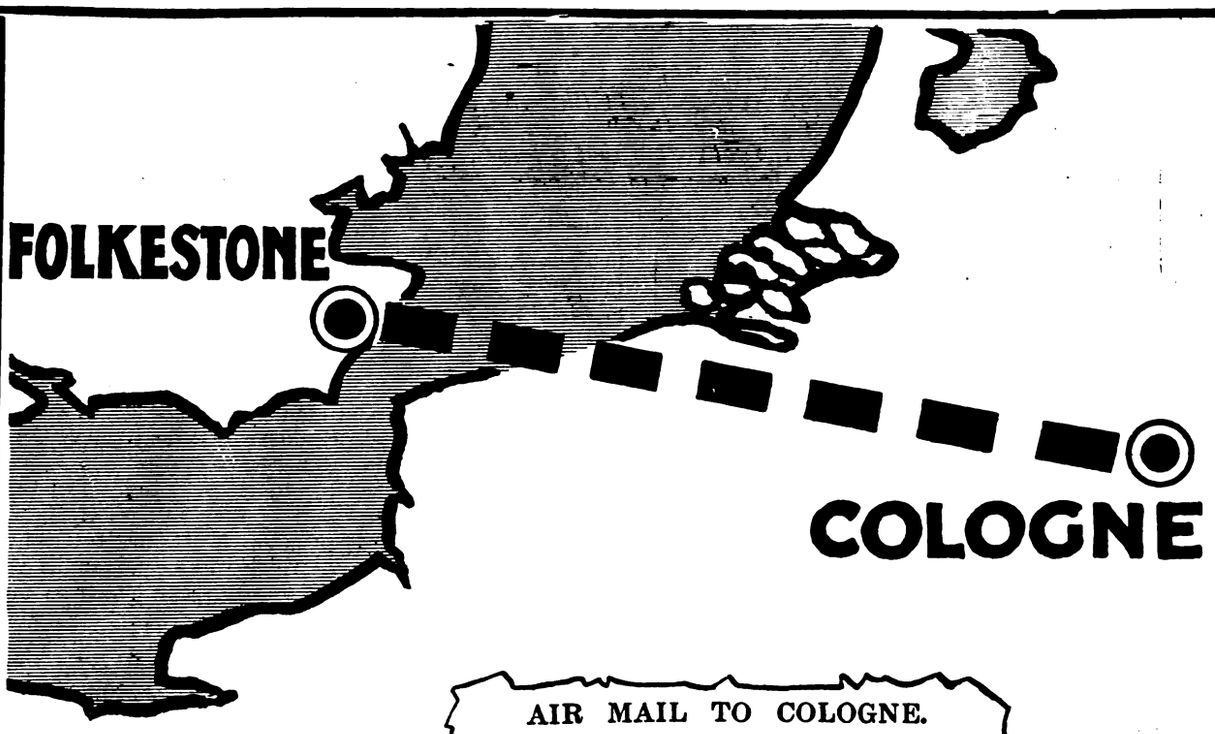

AIR MAIL TO COLOGNE.

SUCCESS OF FOLKESTONE SERVICE.

The daily aerial service between Hawkinge (Folkestone) and Cologne is proving very successful. The service was instituted on March 1 with four aeroplanes, which carried between them 25 bags of mails; but the mail has greatly increased, reaching the total of 2,276 outward and 386 inward bags for the three months ending May 31. The rapid manner in which the mails are handled on this side is illustrated by the fact that correspondence leaving Cologne one morning has been delivered to all parts of England and Wales from Folkestone by the first delivery on the following morning.

—*Times*, Saturday, June 21st, 1919.

The machines employed on the service referred to above are Airco 9's with Siddeley "Puma" motors and Airco 9A's with Liberty motors.

The management of the Aircraft Manufacturing Co., Ltd., will be glad to discuss with Dominions or Foreign Governments, firms or individuals, any proposal for the use of aircraft as vehicles for high-speed transport.

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THE TAXI OF THE AIR.

THE AVRO AEROPLANE.

(By F. A. de V.R.)

In 1909 the enterprising town of Blackpool held a flying meeting, and the great French pioneer pilots, Latham, Paulhan, etc., came over to win the prizes and incidentally to show the British people that flying had become an accomplished fact. British enterprise, however, was not entirely without representation at the meeting, and a young Englishman named A. V. Roe put in an appearance with a triplane, which ran furiously about the ground and earned the nickname of "The Yellow Peril."

Ten years have passed, and now at Blackpool the first four letters of that Englishman's name are familiar in men's mouths as household words. There is one big difference, however. The nickname of the Avro is now "the Safe Machine." A daily service flies from Blackpool to Southport and Manchester and back, while over 10,000 passengers have been taken up at Blackpool without disaster since the middle of May.

About 1912 Mr. Roe arrived at the correct flying design for an aeroplane, and the outbreak of war found the Avro ready to mount the red, white, and blue rings of the British Royal Flying Corps. The war gave a tremendous impetus to aircraft production and aircraft design, but the flying design of the Avro was already correct, and needed no improvement in essentials. The machine was strengthened, of course, and adapted to take engines of increased power, but these modifications did not touch the root principles of the aeroplane's suitability for the air.

It was an Avro which brought down the first Zeppelin from the air, and it was also an Avro which bombed the Zeppelins in their lair at Friedrichshafen. But Mr. Roe's greatest contribution to the Allied victory was that his aeroplane was chosen as the training machine for all the pilots of the Royal Air Force. The signing of the Armistice found that Force the strongest, the best equipped, and the most daring Air Force among the forces of all the belligerent Powers. British pilots were renowned for their skill as much as for their intrepidity, and that skill had been invariably acquired by a course of training on an Avro. Lord Weir, Secretary of State for Air, in a speech in December, 1918, said:—

> It was unique evidence of the perfection of the design of the Avro that to-day it had become the standard training-machine of the Royal Air Force, and was built in larger numbers than any other aeroplane in the world.

The qualities which fitted it so well for this work are its stability and the ease with which it can be manœuvred. War pilots had to learn how to loop and perform all other feats of aerobatics, and these could all be learnt on the Avro with less risk than on any other machine.

The same qualities which made the Avro the ideal training machine now make it the ideal small machine for civil flying. In fact, at the end of the war the Avro began to undertake in earnest the task for which it was originally designed. The expression "small machine" is used comparatively. The single-engined Avros comprise single-seaters, two-seaters, three-seaters and five-seaters.

A moment's reflection will show that the future of the small aeroplane must be quite distinct from that of larger types of aircraft. The problem before the rigid airship and the multi-engined aeroplane is to deal with the transport of passengers and goods in bulk. They must play in the air the part which is played on the surface of the earth by railway trains and steamships. To ensure a profitable freight they must fly to scheduled times, and aim at regularity of service. The importance of this task cannot easily be over-estimated. The objects of the small aeroplane, however, will be different. Although the daily Avro service from Blackpool to Southport and Manchester is the first daily service instituted in Great Britain and recognised in railway guides, the destiny of the small aeroplane is to cater for the needs of individuals. At the moment this resolves itself mainly into giving pleasure flights at popular resorts in Great Britain, and at some twenty places of this nature Avro aeroplanes and seaplanes are teaching the

By courtesy of "Flight."

LOOPING THE LOOP.

Remarkable Picture of an "Avro" Aeroplane Doing a Stunt over Outer London.

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The Secretary of State for the Royal Air Force,
speaking at Manchester, on Dec. 20th, 1918, said:—
"It was unique evidence of the perfection of the design of . . . the Avro that to-day it had become the standard training machine of the Royal Air Force and was built in larger numbers than any other Aeroplane in the world."
Just as AVRO aeroplanes played a leading part in the training of pilots for aerial warfare, so, to-day, they are the premier machines for commercial flying. We are now taking orders for AVRO Aeroplanes, Seaplanes, and Accessories. Write us particulars of your requirements.
A. V. ROE & CO., Ltd.,
Manchester, Southampton,
AND
166, PICCADILLY, LONDON.
Telephone: Gerrard 3186.
AVRO

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British public that flying is both safe and enjoyable. Since the middle of May last over 20,000 passengers have been taken up.

But at all these stations the Avros are always ready to answer calls for special flights across country. Some very interesting journeys have been made both for business and for pleasure. Business men have saved valuable time by travelling in Avros. When a well-known actress missed her boat-train in London she took an aeroplane and caught the boat at Southampton. A parson preached at two places thirty miles apart in the same evening by using an Avro. An Avro has waited outside a church near London while a couple were married, and after the ceremony it flew off with them to Cornwall. Fish brought into Blackpool has been taken by air to Manchester and offered for sale within three-quarters of an hour. London newspapers are regularly delivered in the Isle of Man per Avro. Aeroplanes have carried passengers from London to various race meetings when trains were very crowded.

In undeveloped countries where railways are few the aeroplane will find still greater opportunities. Government officials in charge of large districts may often find it very useful. Many a valuable life may be saved if an aeroplane can bring a doctor speedily to the bedside: exploration, surveying, and prospecting can be carried out by aeroplane in regions where a land journey would be both difficult and dangerous. Just as the flat plains and the favourable climates of Egypt, India, and Mesopotamia should make those lands especially suitable for the use of aeroplanes, so also the mountain barriers of South-Eastern Europe and Asia Minor, dividing plain from plain, valley from valley, and the sea distances of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea can be laughed at by the handy and inexpensive Avro. Whatever the country, aircraft is able to confer upon the inhabitants the great advantages of rapid communications, and there we confidently affirm will the Avro be found fulfilling its rôle as the Taxi of the Air.

COMMERCIAL AVIATION.

Aviation and Modern Athens.

From the days of mythology man, in his continual search for new worlds to conquer, has dreamt of flight. It has been left to the man of the twentieth century to bring it within the realms of practical commercial possibility. One of the most fascinating and interesting sections of the Exhibition that opens in Athens on October 15 is that devoted to the production of commercial aeroplanes. There is no doubt that the public is becoming accustomed to flying. Things move much more quickly nowadays than they used to move, and we

(*Continued on page 293.*)

THE START OF AN HISTORIC FLIGHT.

The Napier Aeroplane starting on its flight from London to Madrid, which it accomplished in 7¾ hours.

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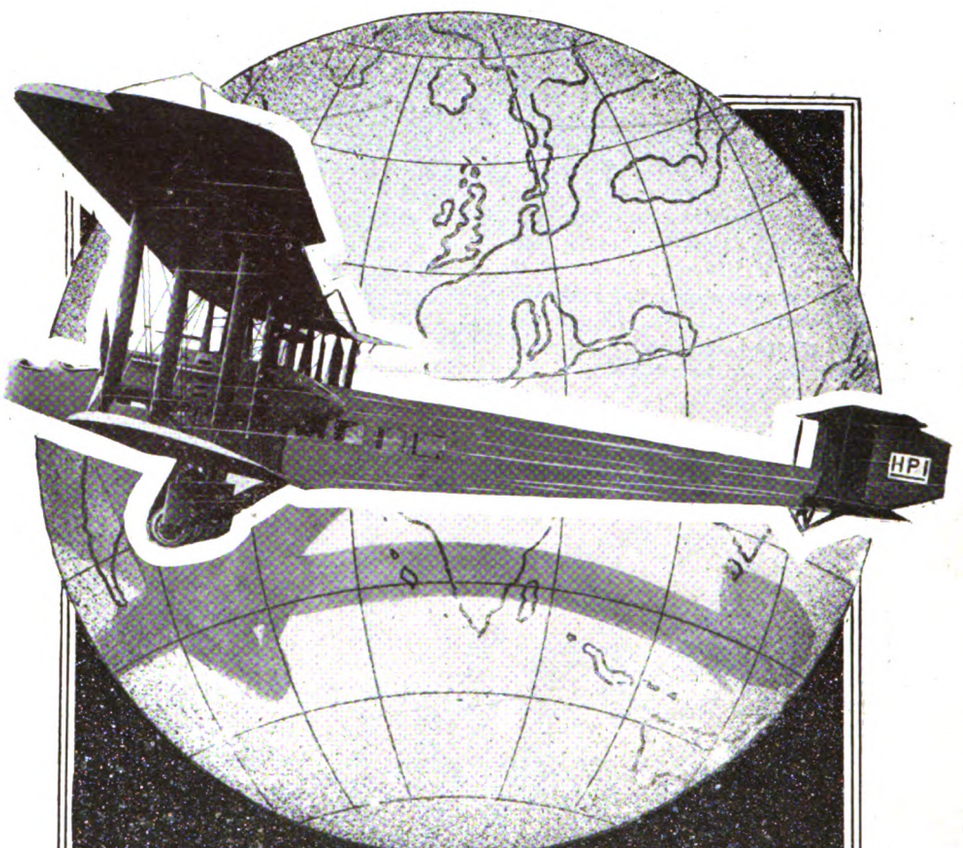
COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICES.



Aerial Transport—the method that takes the direct route is now established by Handley Page Transport, Ltd.—between

LONDON & FRANCE
LONDON & BELGIUM

Aerial Services can be established in any part of the world.

The whole of the experience of the Handley Page Company is at the disposal of any Government or Business Corporation desirous of starting regular services for conveying passengers and goods by air.

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CRICKLEWOOD, LONDON. N.W 2.

TELEGRAMS, "HYDROPHID. LONDON." TELEPHONE. HAMPSTEAD. 7500.

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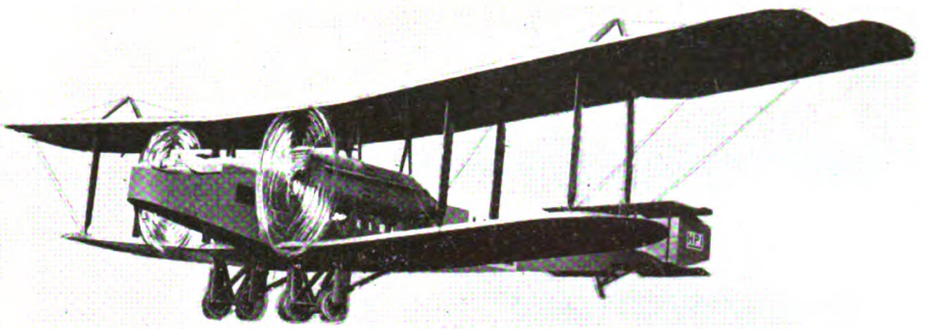

COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICES.

These photographs show the Handley Page 0/400 Commercial type as supplied to the Chinese Government. Similar machines are also used on the services between

LONDON—PARIS
LONDON—BRUSSELS

10 Passengers are carried, exclusive of Pilot and crew. 30 lbs. of luggage each allowed.

In addition several hundredweights of freight are carried.

Handley Page, Ltd., welcome enquiries from all Government and Business Corporations contemplating the inauguration of regular Air Transport.

Handley Page, Ltd.

CRICKLEWOOD, LONDON, N.W.2.

TELEGRAMS, HYDROPHID, LONDON. TELEPHONE, HAMPSTEAD, 7500.

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THE machine illustrated above is the B.A.T., F.K. 26—a dual purpose aeroplane equally suitable as a heavy load mail carrier or a four-seater touring machine. Equipped with a Rolls-Royce Eagle VIII motor, an average speed of over 120 miles per hour is obtained at a fuel cost of under eightpence per mile.

UTILITY AIRCRAFT

THE aim behind all B A T aircraft designs is the attainment of maximum utility—it is to obtain superior speed, load carrying capacity, safety, reliability, and general airworthiness with a minimum of prime cost and subsequent maintenance.

Our range of models covers all types from the mosquito craft of extreme performance and attacking power for national defence, to the high-speed load carrier designed for postal and general utility purposes.

Any Government or commercial undertaking intending to employ aircraft should place their requirements before the B.A.T. Company before finally deciding on the type to adopt.

Fullest particulars can be obtained, and demonstrations arranged, by application to:—

THE B.A.T. Company whose designing capacity under the direction of Mr. F. Koolhoven is of the highest standard — a standard which it is determined to maintain—is open to negotiations for the letting of its sole manufacturing licences in Colonial and certain foreign territories.

BRITISH AERIAL TRANSPORT COMPANY LTD.
38, CONDUIT STREET,
LONDON, W. ENGLAND.

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accept new things with much greater ease than our grandfathers did. A short time ago the thought that man would ever fly was treated almost as a joke. Now its possibilities have been proved beyond doubt. With regular services established between different continents, carrying both passengers and cargo, flying has taken its place in the accepted methods of transport, where speed is absolutely necessary. For the man who has a matter of vital importance to place before a big client, the banker, the merchant, the diplomatist, what a vast difference it makes to be able to do in a few hours a journey that formerly took days. It opens up a vast expanse of new enterprise. The possibilities make one gasp, even more than the means that make them possible. There is quite a controversy going on amongst aeroplane manufacturers on the merits of the small, fast craft and the slower, heavier machines. There is certainly much to be said for both, and it must be left to the future to decide the point.

Among the supporters of the big machine we have the famous firm of Handley-Page, Limited, the designers and builders of the huge bombers that played so large a part in the great European war. The experience gained has decided them to follow on the lines that brought their productions so much to the fore. They are now running regular passenger and goods services between England and the Continent, and as the demand grows they will doubtless extend their activities. At their large factory near London, where over 2,500 people are employed, they have facilities for turning out commercial aeroplanes in large numbers. They are a firm of great enterprise, and any of our readers who are interested in the matter will find that they will welcome all inquiries.

The Chinese Government have placed a large contract with this firm, and a number have already been delivered. The Far East is awake to the possibilities of aerial transport. It is for the progressive man of the Near East to seize the opportunity.

The world's markets spread ever further afield. The productions of one country are sought after by others far away. Aerial transport, the method that takes the direct route untrammelled by roads and railway tracks, enables the quick delivery of advance samples that may secure big orders. Big orders mean success to the individual and the country generally. Big aeroplanes are capable of carrying quite large cargoes, and if our readers will turn to our advertisement columns they will gain some idea of the vast possibilities that are open to forms of enterprise.

NAPIER AERO ENGINE.

AN ENGINE OF PROVED RELIABILITY AND EXCELLENT DESIGN.

The recent remarkable performances carried out by the 450-h.p. Napier Aero Engine have established it as the foremost high-powered aero engine of to-day.

Considering the large experience the well-known firm of D. Napier and Son, Limited, have had in engineering of all kinds, it is not surprising that they should be taking the lead in this young industry. This firm has been engaged on engineering work requiring the utmost skill in construction for over a century, being established in the reign of King George the Third.

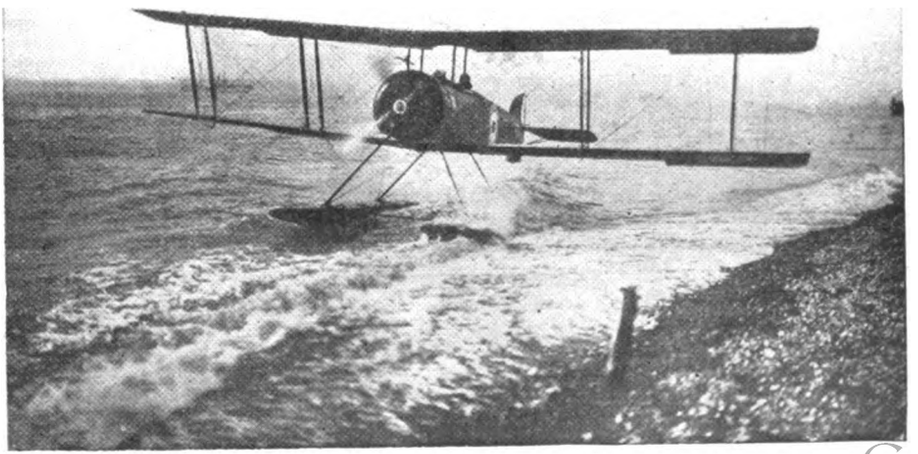
Before the war its reputation lay in the fact that they were the originators of the six-cylinder motor carriage, and manufacturers of the model bearing that name. Even before the advent of motor-cars Napiers had a most enviable reputation for high-class engineering.

In 1841 Messrs. Napiers installed the first steam engine, gun finishing machinery, and bullet-making machinery in Woolwich Arsenal. From 1841 to 1853 they were engaged on engineering requiring the most meticulous care in construction, viz.—the manufacture of weighing machines for the Bank of England, the British and Spanish Mints.

From their early days Messrs. Napiers have always been engaged upon the most skilled class of engineering, but space will not permit of us further enlarging upon these earlier days in the history of this well-known British concern.

It was no mean triumph to design and build a 100-h.p. racing car to weigh under 19 cwt., or a gold-weighing machine to register an error of 200ths of a grain, and pass twenty coins per minute. Both these were accomplished at the Napier works, and formed the training ground for the men who were afterwards to "do their bit" on the engine that has become famous as the Napier.

When war broke out Napiers were engaged in the manufacture of high-class six-cylinder motor carriages, but they soon foresaw that if Britain was to gain and hold the mastery in the air a high-powered aero engine was necessary. They, therefore, proceeded to design and manufacture an aero engine which would give a high horse-power without being unduly heavy, and the result was the production of the 450-h.p. Napier Aero



BETTER THAN SAILING.—AN AVRO SEAPLANE.

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NAPIER

THE PROVED BEST

BRITISH BUILT

AERO ENGINES

FIRST—LONDON TO MADRID—NON-STOP

Messrs. D. Napier & Sons Ltd,
14. New Burlington Street,
LONDON, W.

Dear Sirs,

We beg to confirm our wire to you of the 1st inst. as follows "We have completed our non-stop flight from London to Madrid in 7¾ hours due in great part to the perfect running of your engine for which accept our hearty congratulations".

From the moment we opened the throttle at Acton to the time we switched off on landing at Madrid the engine ran perfectly and never caused us a single moment of anxiety. The petrol consumption on this flight was very low, the fuel used being considerably less than one third of the total capacity of our machine.

We cannot speak too highly of your engine on this flight.

Yours faithfully,

W. R. Curtis · Jas Peters

Catalogue gladly sent on application.

D. NAPIER & SON, Ltd.,
14, New Burlington Street, LONDON, W. 1.
Works: ACTON, LONDON, W. 3.

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Engine. The total "dry" weight of this engine is 850 lb., which gives a weight of 1.89 lb. per unit of h.p.

When set out in cold print under the prosaic heading of "Leading Particulars," this statement does not stir the imagination; but to obtain this result, coupled with an extraordinary low fuel and oil consumption, has required the patient labours of a host of engineers, chemists, metallurgists, and pilots through many years.

It is interesting to recall a few of the performances which the Napier engine has achieved during the present year. In January last, piloted by Capt. Lang, an Airco machine fitted with a 450-h.p. Napier Aero engine attained a height of nearly six miles up in the air. This same machine was then sent over to Spain, where for the past five months it has been engaged in giving demonstrations to the Spanish King and his Ministers, including such long flights as from Madrid to Seville and back, and Madrid to Barcelona and return. In the latter part of August this machine returned to London by air with only one stop—at Cherbourg—for petrol, and despite the number of flying hours accomplished by this engine, it is still capable of much more, and proves the reliability of Napier's workmanship in the air.

Another performance of great merit was that achieved by a Napier engined Airco machine in the Aerial Derby on June 21. This flight was open to all comers, and Capt. Gathergood, flying a Napier machine, completed the closed circuit of 190 miles at an average speed of 129.3 m.p.h., thereby establishing a British speed record. But Napier's most recent performance is probably the best. On July 31 a 450-h.p. Napier engine carried an Alliance aeroplane from London to Madrid. This is the first non-stop and fastest flight for this trip, and despite extremely bad weather, a journey of considerably over 900 miles was accomplished in 7¾ hours.

These remarkable achievements only go to prove that Napier's world-wide reputation for reliability, excellence of design, and skill in workmanship, is maintained in whatever field of engineering it is engaged.

Speaking at a meeting of those interested in commercial aviation which was held in Australia House, Strand, on Monday, Major-General Seely said the Government was anxious to do the best it could for the State in the disposal of the lighter-than-air type of machine and at the same time to aid commercial enterprise. The Air Ministry had been handed over a certain number of machines, and the Admiralty, having been consulted about its demands in the future, had reported that when the political situation cleared away it would be able to give a definite reply as to the number of airships and aerodromes it would require in case of emergency. The Air Ministry and the Admiralty would then combine to offer existing machines and machines in various stages of construction to those who would undertake the formation of a commercial air scheme. The assistance would include the use of wireless stations and meterological information, and the Post Office would help in every possible way.

THE B.A.T. COMMERCIAL AEROPLANE (TYPE F.K. 26) IN FLIGHT.

This machine was put in hand the day after the Armistice was signed, and was the first British aeroplane designed solely for commercial purposes to appear after the cessation of hostilities.

LONDON-PARIS AIR SERVICE.

Last Saturday the Airco express aeroplanes between London and Paris completed a week of uninterrupted daily service. The machine which left London at 12.30 p.m. with passengers and parcels reached Paris at 2.50 p.m., and that which left Paris at 12.30 p.m. landed at Hounslow at 2.30 p.m.—a quarter of an hour before time, having made the journey of 250 miles at a speed of 125 miles an hour.

"During the fortnight we have been running daily," said an official of Aircraft Transport and Travel, Limited, to a Press representative, "we have made thirty flights. Only once, when there was a hurricane with sheets of rain at Hounslow, did we fail to get a machine away; and on that day, despite squalls of more than 100 miles an hour velocity in the Channel, one machine from Paris fought its way through. On only one flight has there been a forced landing; and in this case our pilot, after a ten minutes' halt at an aerodrome *en route*, was in the air again, and completed his journey. These results, obtained in weather far from favourable, should interest the business world. We have stated that an express air service, besides offering transport at 100 miles an hour, can now be operated on so many days of the year that it becomes a definite convenience in the transaction of urgent business. This statement we are now proving and we shall continue flying till our claim is beyond question. We stated, before we began running, that we expected an 80 per cent. reliability. It may be said that so far the figure is much nearer 100 per cent.

AN AERIAL "PULLMAN."

An impression of the interior of the B.A.T. Commercial Aeroplane, fitted for rapid and luxurious travel.

Among the goods carried by the Airco machines, at rates ranging from 7s. 6d. to 3s. 9d. per lb., have been bankers' scrip, leather, films, photographic plates, champagne, sweetmeats, grouse, bills of lading, plans and drawings, dress material, newspapers, millinery, samples of clothing, and Devonshire cream. Within the last few days the company's agents in Paris have been negotiating for the regular carriage, in consignments spread over various days of the week, of as much as 600 lb. and 1,000 lb. of goods. It is proposed that certain vaccines, which must be used within twenty-four hours if their potency is not to be lost, should be consigned for aerial transport.

In addition to the scheduled service of express Airco machines between London and Paris, on Tuesday, a special machine, the Airco 16, left Hounslow at 4.7 p.m., carrying as passengers General Seely, Under-Secretary of State for Air, and General Sykes, Controller-General of Civil Aviation, who had been called urgently to Paris in connection with the International Air Convention, and who chartered a 100-miles-an-hour aeroplane as a form of "super-special train."

On the regular Airco service, Captain Riley left Hounslow for Paris at 12.30 p.m. with two passengers and parcels, while Lieut. McMullin, with one passenger and express goods, landed at Hounslow at 3.8 p.m., having encountered a good deal of fog in the Channel.

A BRITISH FLIGHT TO ITALY.

Lieut.-Col. W. D. Beatty and Lieut.-Col. W. O. Raikes, of the Air Ministry, set out on Saturday from Hounslow Aerodrome on a visit by air to Italy with a view to arranging a settlement of certain outstanding points with regard to civil aerial communication.

The start of the flight was made at 11.5 a.m., Colonel Beatty himself piloting. Halts were to be made at Paris, Lyons, Frejus, and Pisa.

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are prepared to supply the products of

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Liquid Fuel, Diesel Oil, Kerosene Oil, Solar Oil, Motor Spirit, Lubricating : : Oils, Wax, and Candles : :

Liquid fuel can be supplied to Steamers and Motor Vessels at

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to whom BUYERS desiring information regarding : : supplies and prices can also apply : :

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

I would call special attention to the very suggestive article contributed this week on the Rupee exchange problem by an acknowledged authority, who writes over the signature of "Gold Mohur." He calls attention to the possibility of a two-shilling rupee, and does not entirely exonerate Government, which pushed up the value to one shilling and tenpence, even at the time when a Commission is sitting with a view to discussing measures for the avoidance of a rise. Meanwhile, rupee sales are taking place in New York at the equivalent of two shillings all but one farthing, the total applications for 40 lakhs amounting to 180 lakhs. In all the circumstances it may well cause surprise that the Currency Commission has felt justified in interrupting its session for two months.

***

A correspondent complains of the difficulty that British traders in Smyrna experience in obtaining adequate support from our Levant authorities, instancing a correspondence which has recently passed between the latter and the British Chamber of Commerce there. The Chamber asked for assistance in regard to a number of matters; they received a reply in which it was stated that certain measures complained of pressed equally hard on all except Moslems, and that as regards the statement that no European community had been so hard hit during the war as the British, other communities seemed also to have suffered greatly, and that it was not known that their losses could be said to be less, proportionately, than British losses.

***

It is, of course, extremely regrettable that other nationalities should have suffered, but the extent to which they have been affected in no way concerns the question of the safeguarding of British interests. The Chamber replied very forcibly on this point, stating that, even supposing other nationalities had suffered as heavily as the British, the Chamber would still fail to understand how or why the misfortunes of other nationalities could prejudice the urgency of the Chamber's plea for a recognition in principle by the British Government of claims made by British traders in Smyrna.

***

At the same time the Chamber drew attention to a fact, on which, it stated, apparently enough stress had not hitherto been laid, viz., that French, Greek, and Italian subjects had received assistance from their respective Governments. That is, of course, the all-important point, and if British traders are to be enabled to hold their own against competitors in enterprise abroad in the future, it is nothing short of essential that they should be able to depend on the same unstinted support that is ever at the disposal of their rivals when needed.

***

An interesting statement was made at the opening of a new branch of the Tata Industrial Bank at Lucknow. The ceremony was performed by the Judicial Commissioner, and in the course of his remarks he alluded to banking enterprise as a factor in unearthing the hidden hoards of wealth which lie unproductive in private hands. He cited as an instance a case which recently came before the Judicial Commissioners' Court at Lucknow, where a portion of the family property in dispute consisted of 160 gold bricks, valued at nine lakhs of rupees, which apparently had been lying in the family coffers for upwards of twenty years.

***

When it is realised what the present value of this little nest-egg would have been, if it had been placed out at interest all the time, we have some indication of the strength of the hoarding tendency in India. An even better illustration of the frame of mind that prompts it is provided by a prominent Indian businessman who was in the habit of lending money to the foreign banks; he would not take less than five per cent. interest, and rather than break this rule would withdraw the money, when he could no longer obtain this interest, lock it up in a safe over which a watchman stood guard, and loan out the same notes a few months later when five per cent. could again be secured, rather than leave it in the bank at two and a-half or three per cent.

***

It is a matter of extreme regret to THE NEAR EAST that there should have been so much delay in the appearance of our Balkan vernacular supplements. To provide manufacturers and merchants with what may justly be termed an eclectic medium for reaching Near Eastern markets, arrangements have been made for the publication of monthly supplements devoted to engineering and commercial subjects. These will be printed in the Greek, the Roumanian, the Croatian (for Yugoslavia) and the Bulgarian languages. They will circulate widely in the respective countries, and with THE NEAR EAST each week will offer the most practical means of reaching the business public in South-Eastern Europe. The Greek Supplement is due to appear on October 1, in good time for the Athens Exhibition, where it will be, together with THE NEAR EAST, much in evidence. The other supplements, it is hoped, will make their first appearance a few weeks later. I am asked to request that all communications regarding advertising space in these Supplements should be addressed to the Manager.

***

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that in the agitation about tea prices the parentage of the thought was not altogether unconnected with the wish. In the humbler walks of life it is a simple device for the shopkeeper who has large quantities of a certain item to hint vaguely at a threatened shortage, and so to speed up the rate at which he disposes of his stock. Translated into a higher sphere the same tendency may appear in the pessimistic forebodings of a "big gun" in a trade, which immediately have the effect of intensifying the rate of purchase, and in given circumstances an increase in the price follows. In the case of tea, panic buying would certainly produce a shortage, whereas, if nothing were said and tea merchants, both wholesale and retail, discouraged heavy purchases, everyone is likely to have all the tea he or she wants. There is no shortage in the country, but there has been considerable delay in the distribution, especially from the Government bonded warehouses or from the ships to the retailer. The outcry, however, has ventilated the subject, and it is to be hoped that there will be a determined effort to prevent any further increase in the price of tea.

***

No little consternation has been caused by the decision of the Government to afford no help, by any stipulations in the Peace Treaty, to the British creditors of Austrian firms. They are to be left to collect their Austrian debts as best they can, and the same principle applies to those who have money owing them from Bulgaria or Turkey. The Government's line of reasoning seems to be that, in the case of Germany, we hold enough German securities to make it politic for her to meet her obligations. In the case of her allies, on the other hand, the money or securities that we have been able to impound bear no relation to the amount owed us; consequently, there is no use in dividing the sum up into infinitesimal portions; better to let every creditor fend for himself.

***

Against this contention it is urged that such a policy would have been all right if it had not been for Government's action in September 1914, when British subjects were forbidden to receive money from, or to pay money to, enemy subjects, or to carry on any commercial transactions with them. This embargo was imposed at a time when Austrians were ready to pay their debts, and should carry with it, so the argument runs, the obligation to see that the money which the creditor was prevented from collecting at the outbreak of the war is paid now that Austria-Hungary has been defeated. The depreciation of Austrian currency is going to add to the difficulties of the merchants or banks in obtaining payment of pre-war debts at this time, and is an additional argument why Government help should be forthcoming to prevent enemy

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A general Banking business with Roumania is conducted, and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

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firms from shielding themselves behind the misfortunes which Austria-Hungary deliberately brought upon herself, involving the whole world in a common disaster. Provided the Government would grapple seriously with the problem of exchange in enemy countries, the debt collecting difficulty might be overcome, because in the majority of instances firms still in existence, dependent on foreign connections, will be only too anxious to keep a clean record in order to pick up again the threads of their former trade.

***

A correspondent in a Liverpool contemporary points out that many Government servants and non-official residents, both in India and Egypt, are taking the first leave with their families since the outbreak of war, and much of their time is taken up in searching for accommodation for their return. The interests of these travellers, including doctors and commercial men, whose return is urgent, are very seriously affected—apart from the question previously raised on behalf of the representatives of important firms engaged in the development of British trade. The accommodation available for these varied interests is so totally inadequate that it is suggested that the authorities should take immediate steps to provide, if possible, special steamer accommodation from Marseilles for Egyptian and Indian residents so as to release more berths for those wishing to return in October and November.

***

My firm belief that things would right themselves by degrees in Great Britain no longer seems so Utopian as it was at the beginning of the year. The value of exports is increasing steadily each month: Labour, after prancing about perilously near the edge of the precipice, is showing signs of a tardy resolve not to commit suicide, and when the holiday spirit that succeeded to the war weariness has come to the end of its summer we may expect, with the advent of cold weather, a far more general readiness to work. The moral of it all in regard to foreign markets is not to lose heart because the immediate prospect at home is a little gloomy, but to have confidence in Great Britain's trade supremacy, and to set about laying the foundation stones of more and more business overseas.

COMMENTATOR.

N. DISHKOFF & CO.
SOFIA, BULGARIA.
BANKING HOUSE.
The largest Import and Export Firm in Bulgaria.

ALEXANDER MEHANDJISKY
Largest Wholesale Tobacco Firm in Bulgaria. :: ::
Exporter of all kinds of Bulgarian and Macedonian Tobacco.
Importer of all kinds of Agricultural Machines and Implements.
Ulitza Alabinska, 28,
SOFIA — BULGARIA.

The Rupee Exchange Problem

The references in THE NEAR EAST of September 5 to the unsettling effects upon trade with India which have been caused by the recent changes in the sterling value of the rupee will be fully endorsed by all those interested in business with our Indian Empire. Although the importer no doubt welcomes an advance in Rupee exchange, inasmuch as he has to pay less for the pound sterling, it must be borne in mind that the prices of imported commodities will very probably adjust themselves to the changed conditions, and it need not, therefore, be assumed that an advance in the rate implies that the full benefit accrues to the importer. On the other hand, exports are handicapped because merchants receive fewer rupees for their sterling drafts; but this loss has been to a great extent offset by the high prices obtained for Indian produce. Such a state of affairs cannot continue without upsetting trade conditions, and a point has now been reached which is practically paralysing the export trade.

A Two Shilling Rupee.

For some time in India those who profess to know currency conditions have been preaching a 2s. rupee. The dealer who has exchange to settle has seen the rupee move up to 1s. 10d., and cannot be blamed if he clings to the belief that the extra twopence is in sight, and for this reason refuses his piece-goods on the chance of reaping the benefit which the higher exchange would confer. We are given to understand that dealers with exchange to fix have been advised to wait for 2s.

Meanwhile this policy is hampering the flow of exports.

The Exchange Banks, whose treasuries are full of money ready to finance the export trade of the country, decline to commit themselves in purchasing bills against exports beyond the meagre amount of cover provided by the weekly sales of Council bills, and such imports as may have to be fixed. The net result of these conditions is that the situation has now become so acute that business is practically at a standstill. With these facts before us is it to be wondered at that Indian merchants are clamouring for a declaration of the Government's policy?

The Currency Commission.

It cannot be supposed that these impossible conditions have not been brought to the notice of the Government; but it would appear that they look to the Currency Commission to find a panacea for their troubles. Yet while trade is held up, as well as an enormous amount of capital and commodities of vital importance, the Currency Commission is enjoying a holiday of two months and does not resume its sittings until towards the end of the current month.

The only Government policy with which we have become familiar is that of pushing up the value of the rupee to keep pace with the advance in the price of silver. It would be interesting to know whether the rise in silver to 61 pence has been assisted by recent purchases by the Indian Government, and if so whether such purchases are justified when their published figures indicate reserves in silver coin of upwards of 50 crores. In any case it is to be hoped that the Currency Commission will have something to say about the last rise in the rupee value from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 10d., which might have been postponed whilst the Commission is supposed to be discussing measures to avoid it.

Whatever measures may be adopted it may be taken for granted that the very able Memorandum submitted by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce will exercise some influence. Every merchant interested in the Indian exchange problem should carefully study the views they have expressed upon the subject. Amongst other recommendations they advocate the free importation of both gold and silver.

Gold Sales.

Since the Memorandum was written Government have recognised that a certain amount of gold should be released, and have invited tenders every fortnight for about 325,000 tolahs of gold. It is their present intention to dispose of a total of 1,950,000 tolahs, and, as the price ruling in the Bombay bazaar is standing round about 32 rupees per tolah for English Bar Gold, against a pre-war figure of 24 rupees per tolah, the Government should pocket a very handsome premium.

It was suggested in one of the London newspapers that a condition should be imposed that payment for the gold should be made in rupee coin, thereby ensuring that an equivalent amount of rupees would be displaced. If this idea can be carried out, it would probably lead to an increase in currency reserves; but payment in notes would have a similar effect, because it would enable Government to withdraw redundant currency notes and curtail their present inflated issue.

It will be recollected that the last sales of gold by the Indian Government took place in 1917, when they released from their store the output of the Mysore Companies and some gold from South Africa to the extent of four million pounds. This proved to be merely a drop in the bucket and had no appreciable effect in alleviating the stringency which was then being caused by the shortage of rupees. It may, therefore, be reasonably assumed that the sales now announced will afford no more than a temporary benefit to the community, and it is earnestly to be hoped that steps will be taken promptly to remove the restrictions on imports.

Rupee Sales in America.

It is announced that at the third sale of Council drafts in New York, the amount offered will be 40 lakhs and the minimum price to be accepted will be 41 cents per rupee. This gives an equivalent of about 1s 11¾d. and is sufficient evidence of the demand for rupees. We learn on reliable authority that the premium paid in India by exporters for rupee cover has been as high as 12 per cent., and telegraphic remittances to India have been settled in the City during the past few days at 2s. 0⅛d. The Jute season in Calcutta will soon be at its height, and, unless means are devised shortly to grant relief to the market, the trade of India will be hopelessly crippled.

GOLD MOHUR.

MOROCCAN PHOSPHATES DEPOSITS FOR TENDER.

The British Vice-Consul at Rabat reports that the phosphate mines at El Boroudj will probably be put up to public tender early next year. Intending tenderers will have at least five months' warning of the call for tenders, "cahiers des charges" being published, and all possible information given to enable them to make out their offers. Competition will be open, and the concession will go to the tenderer who offers the highest amount per ton exported from the Protectorate. The concession is not one which would interest small companies, as it is expected that it will call for Frs. 100,000,000 capital. Railways of at least one metre gauge will have to be constructed by the concessionaires, and it will be probably a matter of two years before any mineral is exported. It is not yet certain which part of the district in which the deposits are found will be first put up to tender, whether the N.E. end, near Oued Zem, or the S.W. end, near El Boroudj. A well-known French company is already at work preparing for the tender. The concession is a large concern, and the Protectorate desire to eliminate small companies who will not put the matter properly in hand. They will welcome British or any capital likely to be able to work the deposits in a large way. Analysis of the deposits already explored, and a map of the district, together with railway and shipping considerations, may be obtained by British interests on application to the Near East Section, Department of Overseas Trade, 4, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, S.W.1.

The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due October 1 on Bonds of the Greek Guaranteed £2 10s. per Cent. Gold Loan of 1898; the necessary lists can be procured on application at the Dividend Pay Office, 5-6, Lombard Street, E.C.

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FOREIGN COMPANIES IN ROUMANIA.

A recent commerce report of the United States Department of Commerce contains the following interesting statement of the regulations affecting the operations of foreign companies in Roumania. The Roumanian commercial law, which is largely based upon Italian law, it is pointed out, does not contain any specific division or chapter devoted to foreign concerns doing business in the country. However, from the various provisions regarding this matter the following résumé has been compiled :—

Foreign companies may do business in two ways—(1) by establishing a company (say a joint-stock company) abroad, and later a branch or representation of that company in Roumania; or (2) by forming a company in Roumania under Roumanian law.

If the first method is employed, that is, if a branch company is established in Roumania according to the provisions of foreign law, the branch thus constituted, in order to do business in this country, must observe the following provisions of Roumanian commercial law :—

The company must first obtain authorisation from the Roumanian Government. To effect this, certain documents and deeds are required, namely :—

(*a*) The by-laws duly authenticated and all other documents proving that the company is duly and legally constituted abroad.

(*b*) A declaration of the company that it will recognise Roumanian laws, and submit to Roumanian jurisdiction.

(*c*) A declaration of the Government under which the company is formed that full reciprocity is granted to Roumanian companies there.

(*d*) The receipt of the office having charge of these companies in Bucharest that the security required by the Roumanian Government has been deposited. (Only foreign manufacturing and industrial companies come under this head. Banks or oil companies are not required to comply with this provision.) This security must be at least 100,000 lei, and may amount to 25 per cent. of the capital of the company.

(*e*) A declaration of the company duly legalised that the security is to apply only to the liabilities of the company set aside for business in Roumania.

(*f*) A declaration duly legalised as to the amount of the capital specially set aside for business in Roumania.

Further Provisions to be Complied With.

The company has furthermore to comply with the following provisions of Roumanian law :—

(*a*) It must register with the Roumanian courts, so that the rules and by-laws of the company may be published and transcribed.

(*b*) It must appoint a general representative of the company in Roumania and register and publish the names of the managers or persons representing the company in Roumania.

(*c*) It must elect domicile in a town of Roumania.

(*d*) It must publish annually the balance-sheet of its operations in Roumania according to Roumanian law.

(*e*) It must submit to the Roumanian Government all its balance-sheets covering the company abroad.

All these provisions refer only to joint-stock companies. If the principal field of the operations of the company constituted abroad is in Roumania, the company must fulfil all the provisions as mentioned hereinafter for companies formed in Roumania.

If the second method is employed—that is, if a new company is formed in Roumania—the authorisation of the local tribunal where the company intends to have its principal seat is needed. In order to obtain this authorisation, the following documents must be attached to the application therefor :—

(*a*) The rules and by-laws of the company

(*b*) The agreement showing that the entire capital has been subscribed, and that every shareholder has deposited at least 30 per cent. of the subscribed amount.

(*c*) Minutes and other documents setting forth decisions taken by the first regular meeting of the company for the formation of a joint-stock company.

At least seven charter members are required. If there is only one director, he must be a Roumanian citizen. If there is a board of directors, at least one-third of the membership must be Roumanian.

Activities of Foreign Stock Companies.

The attitude of the Roumanian Government toward foreign business houses seems likely to undergo a change in the near future, in the direction of a more detailed and stringent control and supervision. During the war most of the foreign concerns which had theretofore done business in Roumania suspended their activities. Since the cessation of hostilities, however, they are gradually resuming their efforts, and the Roumanian economic leaders recognise the service these firms can render toward the development of the natural resources of the country.

In regard to the range of activities of these organisations and their place in Roumania's development, a pamphlet giving the statistics of stock companies in Roumania for the year 1913 (latest official data obtainable), published by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, states :—

A part of our industry capable of being developed to a great extent has attracted for a long time foreign capital to our country. This investment of foreign capital in the country has been accomplished either in collaboration with our domestic companies by supplying them with capital, or in the form of shares, limited joint-stock companies, advances on account current, guaranties or securities, or by founding foreign companies having their principal office either in this country or in a foreign country. Most of these companies have their main office in a foreign country and the office of the works in this country. They are obliged to apply for and obtain the authorisation of the Government.

Up to the end of December, 1913, the foreign companies which obtained the authorisation of the Government to operate in Roumania numbered 44, with an initial capital of 251,938,055 francs ($48,624,044), of which only a part is used in this country. Most of these authorised companies are engaged in the working of petroleum. Then there follow different industries, such as mining, forestry, and electricity, which have attracted foreign companies, but in a much smaller proportion than the petroleum industry.

Considering them according to nationality, we find that these companies are for the most part English, followed by French, German, and Dutch companies.

HEAVY ROUMANIAN CROPS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 26.

The various native and foreign committees who were entrusted with the feeding of Roumania have stopped all further relief work, as the country is now in a position to look after itself in this respect. The wheat harvest is exceptionally abundant, and, in spite of the fact that only 65 per cent. of the pre-war wheat area has been cultivated, it is estimated that there will be an export surplus this year of 300,000 tons in Old Roumania alone.

In Transylvania and Bessarabia the harvest is even better than in Roumania. It is further estimated that there will be an export surplus of about 700,000 tons of maize. There is also an accumulation of about 40,000 tons of colza and 800,000 tons of oil products, and arrangements have been made for the immediate export of 70,000 tons of the latter.

The economic prospects of Roumania can, therefore, be considered as extremely hopeful, and in the course of next year she may be expected to right herself, if not, indeed, to place herself in an important commercial position. Her main difficulty at the moment lies in the lack of internal transport facilities. There are only about 250 locomotives in working order, instead of the 1,200 which were running before the war, and there does not appear to be any immediate hope of improvement in this direction.

GREEK RAILWAY IMPROVEMENTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, August 22.

The Greek Ministry of Transport is apparently taking into serious consideration the need for putting the Greek railways on an improved basis as regards material and rolling stock. Monsieur Briaud, a French railway engineer, who has been entrusted with the technical reorganisation of these railways, is, it is stated, leaving Athens shortly for a general inspection.

For the purpose of developing trade after the war, the Resident-General of the Regency of Tunis has established an organisation for the supply of commercial information on the products of and the possibilities of production in Tunis.

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"MODERN MOROCCO."

Morocco affords an apt illustration of the lack of enterprise too often shown by British traders before the war. The development work so successfully carried on by France had emphasised the potential importance of the Moroccan market, and in the circumstances it might have been expected that British traders would make a special effort to establish themselves in a field of such exceptional promise. So far from this happening, British commerce with Morocco was rapidly declining in the face of German competition, and in 1914 it did not need very much imagination to picture a time when our commerce there would be insignificant. Determined efforts have been made during the war to arouse the interest of British merchants in Morocco, and it is satisfactory to be able to record the fact that they have been attended by no small measure of success. The country's potentialities are now being realised, and the prospects appear most favourable for a great extension of British trade in that direction.

The general outlook as regards Morocco is ably dealt with in "Modern Morocco," a report on trade prospects, with some geographical and historical notes, written by Mr. W. B. Harris and the Hon. W. Cozens-Hardy, K.C., M.P., for the Bank of British West Africa. The wonderful advance of the country in recent years, its immense prospects, and the undoubted scope for enterprise that the country offers in many directions are well brought out in the work, which is a perfect mine of information on the various aspects of the country's trade and industry, and should be invaluable to traders who intend to interest themselves in the Moroccan market.

One of the most interesting chapters in the book is that in which the future development of Morocco is discussed. It is pointed out that the main lines of development will first be found in the direction of agriculture, in the introduction of new crops, and in intensive cultivation. "From fruit trees," it is added, "a great increase is to be looked for. The almonds are the only crop now worth exporting. For stock, sheep, goats, cattle, and particularly pigs, the climate and the pastorage are good. The fisheries can be made most profitable. The forests will be made available. At a later stage the mineral wealth will be developed. . . . Side by side with the agricultural development will proceed the industries directly concerned with its products. Flour mills, oil factories, tanneries, breweries, cold storage establishments, and local manufactories replacing the cottage industries will be started. . . . The rapid growth of the towns and the development of the country will bring with them all the industries which concern and are required for building and construction works of all kinds, private and public."

It naturally follows that as the country develops the natives will have a greatly increased purchasing power, and that there will be a correspondingly wider opportunity for British traders. The opening is undoubted, but if adequate advantage is to be taken of it, the market will have to be catered for much more thoroughly than in the past, and on very different lines. The market has its peculiarities, and they must be studied. One of the most important factors in the successful development of German trade with Morocco was the close attention that was given to the market requirements. In the words of the authors, "The Germans brought to Morocco exactly what the native required, and what he was desirous of purchasing, while the tendency of British merchants—except in the case of Manchester cottons, perhaps—was to send to Morocco what they thought the Moor ought to buy."

AMERICAN BLAST FURNACES FOR INDIA

It is reported in the American Press that two blast furnaces are to be sent from the United States to the Tata Iron and Steel Company, at Jamshedpur, near Bombay, India. A charcoal blast furnace is also being prepared for the state of Mysore, India, and a contract has been accepted to supply a 350-ton blast furnace for the Indian Iron and Steel Company, to be erected 125 miles from Calcutta. The latter company proposes to erect three blast furnaces, by-products coke ovens, benzol plants and a modern open-hearth steel plant and finishing mills.

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Engineering Notes.

Motor Ploughs for Egypt.

The representatives of the New Egyptian Company, now on a business visit to this country, who are large agricultural estate owners in Egypt, have mentioned some interesting facts with regard to the soil and mechanical cultivation in Egypt, which have at various times been pointed out in these Notes. In an interview they informed the representatives of a leading technical contemporary that they were desirous of acquiring information as to the manufacture of motor ploughs in this country, for which, they assert, there is a very promising opening in Egypt. A self-contained machine of a light description, and of simple design, is the type which will meet with a big demand. The reasons why this is so are obvious. In the lower regions of Egypt the artificial irrigation schemes which have to be employed make it essential that the whole of the land under cultivation shall be made the most of, and economy in headland is, therefore, a great desideratum. The fellaheen, accustomed to ploughing by oxen, are only likely to take to a machine which will act upon much the same straightforward lines, and they are not the kind of people who would expend the time or trouble to map out a system of cultivating and finish the headland off subsequently. They have one idea, and that is to finish a task, and the area of the headlands would not, to them, be worthy of subsequent notice if at the outset they were instructed temporarily to leave it alone. Under skilled supervision all, of course, would be well; but such a system would raise the cost of any ploughing scheme, and the idea of the New Egyptian Company, which is also the idea of every landowner and farmer throughout the Near East, is to introduce a machine which the native labour could efficiently run without constant oversight after the preliminary working instructions had been given. There is not exaggeration, therefore, in the assertion that British tractor and motor-plough manufacturers have to-day a golden opportunity. The above-mentioned representatives said, in their interview, that, prior to coming here, they have made an extensive tour of the engineering establishments of France and Italy upon a similar quest, but they had had to come to this country owing to the prohibitive cost of Continental products. They stated that an approximate calculation gave the cost of tractors and motor-ploughs in France and Italy at about £40 to £50 per unit of horse-power, so that a machine of any power would soon swallow up a substantial portion of a thousand pounds. To that must be added the *ad valorem* import duty upon goods going into Egypt which will proportionately increase the cost of the article. There is one more—and important—reason, therefore, to urge British engineer-manufacturers in their action to get a good footing in Egypt, as well as in the whole of the Near East, before "the prohibitive cost of Continental products" is ameliorated, and competition becomes keener.

Machinery for Poland.

The value of Poland as an agricultural machinery market has already been pointed out in these columns; and it will be regrettable if the apparent reserve of British manufacturers in entering this market, because of the present political difficulties of the country, should afford better opportunities to their foreign competitors to secure a position there which will not be so easy to alter later on. It is now definitely stated that the urgent needs of Poland for agricultural machinery are as follows: 1,500 tractors, with repair parts and suitable repairing tools; 150,000 ploughs suitable for a light soil; 3,000 harrows, complete, of iron, also iron parts for 15,000 more to be made of wood; 500 rollers with discs; 3,000 complete sowing machines (1,000 for motor, 1,000 for horse, and 1,000 for hand operation); 3,000 cultivators, dusters, rakes, diggers of all systems; 6,000 hay-mowers; 150 motor and 900 hand-driven hay baling machines; 6,000 ordinary harvesters; 3,000 binders; 750 steam-driven threshers, 1,500 gasolene-driven and 3,000 horse-driven; 3,000 separators and blowers with sufficient number of reserve sieves, also metal parts for the construction of 3,000 additional blowers to be made in Poland; 1,000 corn graders of various types; 300,600 scythes, 450,000 sickles, and 300,000 whetstones. Of small tools: 300,000 hoes, 150,000 picks, 300,000 shovels, 300,000 spades, 150,000 axes, 50,000 mattocks. Heavy wagons for oxen and horses, iron tyres, etc., for 300,000 wagons and ready-made wheels for 30,000 wagons; sprays, bellows, sulphur, copper and rafia; sprays 90,000, bellows 15,000, sulphur 700,000 lb., copper sulphate 1,200,000, rafia 1,200,000 lb. Axes 18,000 of various sizes; a large number of handsaws, rasps, spike hammers, hammers, picks, shovels, spades, hoes, chains, etc. These agricultural machinery and implements are urgently needed, and a large number of them will undoubtedly be supplied by American firms, some of which are already on the spot.

Bulgaria After the War.

The war seems to have convinced the Bulgarians that their salvation lies in hard work and the development of their industries. Our own advertisement pages are an indication that they mean to lose no time, and now comes a statement from the British Mission at Sofia that a Philippopolis limited liability company, dealing in agricultural machinery, fertilisers and all farm requisities, requires agricultural implements, tools, machinery, portable farm engines of about 5½ b.h.p., pumps, balata belting, spraying machines, etc. Information concerning the enquiry can be had from the British Department of Overseas Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C. Another proof is the arrival here of a representative of the "Vulcan" Société Bulgare par Actions, Sofia—an agricultural and industrial machinery depot—upon a mission to buy implements and machinery for the Bulgarian market.

The Northern Assurance Company has opened a branch office at St. Mark's Buildings, Alexandria, for Egypt, the Sudan, and the Near East for the transaction of fire, life, and accident business.

THE GREEK CURRANT CROP

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, August 22.

The prospects for this season's Greek currant crop are exceptionally good; it is anticipated that it will total 280 to 300 million Venetian pounds, or about 140,000 tons. The quality, provided there is no rain before the crop is lifted from the drying grounds, is extremely good. The fruit is thoroughly healthy, and there is no sign of peronosporos or mildew, as is so often the case, so that there should be no loss of fruit owing to vine disease.

The crop is a little late, owing to the late and fairly cool summer, and it is stated that the new season's fruit will not be ready for shipment until about 10 days after the date (August 9-22) fixed by the Government for the first shipments of the new season's crop. There are practically no stocks of last year's fruit left unsold, and the new crop will be well within the limit of the world's demand.

The Patras, Vostizza and Gulf crops are extremely good, but that of the Islands is small. The market here is now awaiting further developments with regard to the rumour that the British Government was considering the monopolisation of currant imports, with a view to combating profiteering.

The Special Commission of the Ministry of Finance has fixed the retention tax at 7½ per cent. in kind, and the balance up to 35 per cent. in cash; this very low rate of retention in kind has been fixed at the instance of the Privileged Company, in view of the smallness of existing stocks, the large demand to be expected, and the hardship involved on the growers when a heavy percentage of the retention tax is fixed in kind.

America has of late purchased considerable quantities of the old crop, and made heavy forward purchases of the new, and a considerable demand is expected from that quarter, owing to the general shortage this year of the world's fruit crop. Germany, which before the war was the world's third largest consumer of currants, will probably shortly re-appear in the market. It is consequently anticipated that the demand will, this year, at least be equal to the supply, and the prices ruling will be correspondingly high. The prices ruling for new fruit at the outset are fluctuating between 80s. to 90s. per 100 Venetian lbs. c.i.f. U.K. for good Patras and Gulf qualities.

A Reuter message from Belgrade to Paris states that in Southern Serbia the first harvest since 1916 is now being reaped. The principal crops are wheat and maize, and it is hoped that the harvest may greatly alleviate the sufferings which the inhabitants of the mountainous regions have endured since the armistice. Last spring the American Red Cross imported into Serbia 10,000 sacks of seed corn, and agricultural machines, including tractors, were placed by the Red Cross at the disposition of specially organised committees.—Reuter.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Trade in the market during the week has been very disappointing, and buyers have continued to adopt a waiting policy. A strong belief in lower values still exists, and there is no probability of more activity until increased confidence in prices shows itself. The American cotton crop is undoubtedly doing very well, with a tendency for estimates of the yield to be increased. Favourable news is also coming to hand relating to the Egyptian growth. Lancashire users are convinced that there will be plenty of raw material during the next twelve months. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton have continued to move off very slowly. Engagements in combed qualities remain extensive, and full rates have to be paid for anything wanted, but there are indications of some loss of ground in the position of carded counts. Only a limited inquiry has been met with in piece goods for Egypt. There are reports that the labour unrest abroad is rather adversely affecting trade. Some business has been offering for the Levant, but in many instances delivery difficulties have prevented transactions being arranged. The demand for India could scarcely be slower than at the moment, and shippers are receiving very few wires of any kind from the other side. China buyers are more disposed than ever to look on. Some small lots have been sold in grey shirtings for Java. Operations for South America have been very restricted. Export trade for all countries abroad is being hampered by the high rates of exchange. American yarns for home use have been sluggish, and prices have favoured buyers. Extra hard yarns continue in request for the Levant, but terms of fresh contracts have not been easily fixed up.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The directors of the Mysore Gold Mining Company have declared an interim dividend of 1s. per share (less income-tax at 6s. in the £) on account of the year ending December 31 next, payable on October 10 to holders registered on September 4.

The directors of the North Anantapur Gold Mines have declared a preferential dividend (less income-tax at 6s. in the £) on the preference shares for the six months ended June 30 last at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, also a dividend for the twelve months ended June 30 (less income-tax at 6s. in the £) of 6d. per share and a bonus (less income-tax at 6s. in the £) of 6d. per share on both the preference and ordinary shares, payable on October 1 to holders registered on September 4.

Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield have declared a dividend on cumulative preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (less tax) for the three months ending September 30. Dividend warrants will be posted on September 29 to shareholders registered at that date, including approved transferees whose transfers have been lodged not later than September 15.

The directors of the Wanarajah Tea Company of Ceylon announce an interim dividend of 10 per cent.

The directors of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China have declared an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 last, at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, payable on and after the 17th inst.

COMPANY MEETING.

Bengal Iron and Steel.

The ordinary meeting of the Bengal Iron and Steel Co. was held on September 5 at the Cannon Street Hotel, London. Mr. W. T. MacLellan, C.B.E., who presided, said that the profit for the past year was very much in excess of anything they had previously achieved, and they had put aside £167,000 towards the revenue of the country. This year was the first in which the company had derived any material benefit from the existing state of trade, and a part of the good result was due to the profit made in the manufacture of ferro-manganese—a profit which was not likely to recur. On the other hand, the results from their general trade were improving, and they had in hand considerable extensions, both to their blast furnace plant and to their coke oven plant. In about a year's time they hoped to increase the output of pig-iron by about 40 per cent. They had recently taken an interest in a brick-works which had now started operations, and would provide the company with firebrick, much of which they had formerly to import from this country at considerable cost. They also had negotiations in hand for the starting of industries in India which would consume a considerable portion of their output of pig-iron, and in those new industries they were taking a substantial interest.

NEW COMPANIES.

Masterson Roumanian Oil.

The Masterson Roumanian Oil Syndicate, Limited, was registered as a private company on August 9 with a capital of £20,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of extracting, pumping, drawing, transporting, and purifying and dealing in petroleum and other mineral oils, etc., and to adopt an agreement with T. S. Masterson. The subscribers (each with one share) are: T. H. Wagstaff, 23, Tennyson Avenue, Wanstead, secretary; S. J. Lee, "Lynton," Branfill Road, Upminster, accountant. Solicitors:—Lawrence Jones and Company, 4, St. Mary Axe, E.C. Registered office: 29, Great St. Helens, E.C.

Indo-Burma Oilfields.

The Indo-Burma Oilfields, Ltd., was registered as a private company on August 8, with a capital of £100 in £1 shares. Objects: To prospect for, acquire, develop, and deal in oil-bearing lands and properties in India, Burma, the Malay States and elsewhere, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—E. M. Gardner, 96, Lansdowne Road, Holland Park, W., secretary; A. H. Palmer, Melville House, Green Lanes, N., solicitor's clerk. Solicitors: Gnedalla, Jacobson and Spyer, Austin Friars House, E.C.

Adams Peak Tea Estates, Ltd.

Registered September 2. Capital £250,000 in £1 shares. To acquire any grants, concessions, leases and rights in Ceylon and elsewhere, and to carry on the business of planters of tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, rubber and other produce, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—C. Russell, 22, Hampton Road, Ilford, Essex, solicitor's clerk; B. J. Weaver, 146, Halley Road, Forest Gate, Essex, clerk, and five other clerks. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Qualification £250. Remuneration (except any managing director) £75 each per annum and a percentage of the profits. Registered office: Winchester House, E.C.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Jetinga Valley Tea.

The report of the Jetinga Valley Tea Company for 1918 states that the profit amounted to £9,146, which with £6,417 brought forward, refund excess profits duty, 1917, £697, dividends on investments and interest, £548, and transfer fees, makes £16,818. The directors propose to pay a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 7½ per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year (free of income-tax), together with a bonus of 2½ per cent. (free of tax), and to carry forward £5,231.

Lankapara Tea.

The accounts of the Lankapara Tea Company for 1918 show that the outturn was 1,220,000 lb (against 1,370,800 lb.). There was a profit of £11,866, and an available sum, including £4,507 brought forward, of £16,373. After transferring £1,000 to reserve fund for development, and deducting £5,130 for income-tax, a further dividend of 20 per cent. has been declared, making 25 per cent., less tax, for the year, the same as for 1917, leaving £1,336 to be carried forward.

Banque de Salonique.

The report presented to the shareholders of the Banque de Salonique at the recent meeting held in France shows a loss of 429,769 frs. for 1915 and profits amounting to 147,665 frs. for 1914, 648,767 frs. for 1916, 477,464 frs. for 1917, and 1,785,234 frs. for 1918. With the amount brought forward from 1913 the total profit for the war period amounts therefore to 3,040,377 frs., or £T133,766 these being calculated as usual, at the fixed rate of 4.40 piastres per franc. The report points out in this regard that the bank has been able to follow out this system because its engagements in foreign money appearing in the liabilities found their counter-part in the entries which figure in the assets for the same money. The report also mentions that the £E159,000,000 in paper money created during the war and guaranteed by £T5,000,000 in gold and by five millions of German Treasury bonds, have caused a drop in the trust funds and great difficulties in the foreign trade of Turkey. This fact, coupled with the existence of funds deposited by the Bank of Salonica in the Central Empires necessitated a deduction of £E110,000, or 2,500,000 francs to carry the special reserve to 3,500,000 frs., and to cover the eventual losses on that part of the assets. The branch at Beyrout has been transferred to the Banque Française de Syrie. The meeting authorised the directors to increase the capital from 20,000,000 frs. to 40,000,000 frs., either immediately or at various periods.

East Indian Coal.

The report of the East Indian Coal Company for the half-year ended April 30 last states that, after making the usual allowance for the depreciation of buildings, plant, and machinery, writing £10,000 off development account, and adding £5,000 to general reserve, the profit is £16,804; £698 was brought forward is £3,103. The output was 423,575 tons cent. for the half-year, less income tax, was paid on July 10 last, making 21 per cent. for the year, and the balance to be carried forward is £3,013. The output was 423,575 tons during the half-year, making 736,934 tons for the year. The prospects in the immediate future are considered to be satisfactory. The construction of the Bararee Coke Works, in which this company is largely interested, is making good progress.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

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Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Morocco Cold Storage Transport.

Quite a big programme for increasing cold storage transport is being considered by the French Minister of Public Works. The importation of frozen fish to France is particularly to the fore, especially the project for bringing it from Morocco. M. Kerzonouf, an expert in this industry, in reply to a question put to him, stated that it was much easier to refrigerate fish from Newfoundland than from Morocco, owing to the technical difficulties experienced in treating the fish from the latter country. In view, however, of the excellent results obtained at Fedalah by a French shipowner, M. Boutellier, who carries on an extensive trade in dried fish, M. Kerzonouf admits that it would be well to give the scheme a trial. On the other hand, several other members of the Commission justly remarked that Morocco had also need of cold chambers for the storage of pork and eggs for shipment to France. It has, therefore, been decided by the French Minister to appoint a special mission to examine, without delay, the work to be effected for organising the storage and transport by refrigerators of fish, meat, and eggs from Morocco. It is anticipated that the shipments will be made to Bordeaux.

The Greek steamer Styliani, reported from Arrecife to have been burnt at sea, while bound from Gibraltar for Dakar, was insured in the London market for £50,000. The Styliani was a wooden three-masted steamer, of 1,500 tons, built this year by the Doyen Shipbuilding Co., of Portland, Maine.

According to a telegram from Melbourne, the value of the Huddarm Parker Shipping shares is steadily increasing, and it is rumoured that Lord Inchcape's group has offered the company 60s. per share, with a view to absorption.

The direct shipping facilities offered since the beginning of the year between Aden and the United States have, according to the American Consul at Aden, been "the most mighty factor" making for larger exports to the United States. Another influence of importance, however, has been the high prices bid by American importers for products of this district. The period in question is described as one of great prosperity for Aden shippers.

GREEK SHIPPING.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, August 22.

Greek steamship owners have of late been purchasing a considerable number of British steamers, several of which are of 6,000 to 8,000 tons deadweight, and negotiations are going on for the transfer of many others. On the other hand, prospective purchasers of steamers at the Piraeus have received intimation that the Scandinavian, Dutch, and Danish Governments have prohibited the sale of steamers under their respective flags until the end of 1920.

The total approximate gross earnings of the Indian State railway from April 1 to July 19 1919, are more by Rs. 4,28,973 than the figures for the corresponding period of 1918.

Major J. Mackenzie Rogan

(Coldstream Guards) writes:—"Your 'De Reszke' Cigarettes are greatly appreciated. Good flavour and mildness are particularly noticeable."

Miss Peggy Kurton writes:—"The 'De Reszke' Cigarettes are delicious. There is nothing so soothing as a 'De Reszke.'"

Gervase Elwes, Esq. writes:—"I find the 'De Reszke' Cigarettes very soft and mild, and they do not have any injurious effect on the throat."

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INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated September 3:—

Rain nearly general throughout, except in North-West Frontier, where fall was local. More required Assam and parts Bengal.

All India first forecast of crops: acreage sugarcane, 2,686,000; sesamum, 1,520,000.

Bombay Cotton Market strong. Fully good broach, April-May, quoted 564. Piece-goods market no improvement. Jute market steady. Hessians steady, advanced prices. Sackings firmer, but little doing.

Bagmara-Siju-Jhankeray Railway surveys by Assam-Bengal Railways, 21 miles sanctioned.

Crops are excellent in Punjab, Berar and North Bombay, and good or satisfactory elsewhere, except in small portions of Bombay Deccan. Prices still rising in Bengal and Assam, owing to depletion of stocks, but elsewhere steady or falling slightly. Demand for Burma rice is keen in Bengal and Madras, but slack in Bombay. Fodder situation much easier and condition of cattle improved. No marked change in economic situation, but area of distress caused by famine and scarcity is gradually narrowing.

At the third sale of rupee credits to be made by the New York office of the Bank of Montreal on behalf of the Secretary of State for India, the amount offered will be 40 lakhs. The minimum price will be 41 cents per rupee.

The India Office has issued the following telegram from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agriculture Department, dated September 2:

Rainfall.—Scanty: North-West Frontier Province, Baluchistan, Berar, Hyderabad (north), Mysore, and Madras Deccan. Fair: Bay Islands, United Provinces (east), Gujarat, Bombay Deccan, Hyderabad (south), and Madras (south-east). Normal: Upper Burma, Assam, Bihar, Punjab (east and north), Kashmir, Central India (west), Malabar, and Madras Coast (north). Excess elsewhere. Normal rainfall likely continue during next week.

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AMERICAN LOAN TO GREECE

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, August 22.

Although no official announcement has been made up to the present, the news seems to be public property that the United States' Treasury has lately completed a very clever loan to Greece. According to well-informed circles here, a loan has been, or is about to be concluded, whereby Greece is to be lent Drs. 500,000,000 by the United States. The terms of the loan are stated to provide that Greece will draw this loan in kind, in the shape of American merchandise, to be shipped from America on credit, the value of this merchandise being deposited by the buyers with the National Bank of Greece, to the credit of the Greek Treasury. By this arrangement the loan takes the form rather of an internal loan instead of a foreign one.

No further details are at present available, but if this loan be successfully concluded, it remains to be seen what the effect of such an arrangement will be on the Athens and Piraeus markets.

In this connection the course of the rate of exchange on London during the last ten days has been rather interesting. About a week ago this rate was down as low as 22.70, whence it has gradually recovered, and the exchange on London is now quoted at about 24.70. This sudden decline was attributed to the fact that the greater part of the money now leaving Greece is now going to America, and that the National Bank of Greece had adopted as a standard the New York rate for bills on London.

AMERICAN COAL FOR GREECE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, August 22.

The Ministry of Transport is now publicly calling for tenders for the supply of 30,000 tons of American coal, of which 20,000 tons is to be Pocohontas or New River, and 10,000 tons gas coal. It is stipulated that the coal shall be guaranteed three-quarter large and one-quarter small, and to be delivered at Piraeus within three months. Payment is to be made at Piraeus on the arrival of each cargo, and after verification that the coal fulfils the conditions stipulated. Tenders, in sealed envelopes, were originally to be deposited up to August 12/25, but this date has now been extended until September 2 (New Style), from which it would appear that tenders are not forthcoming as freely as might be. It is stipulated that tenders are to be accompanied by a bank certificate, certifying that a sum of 100,000 dollars (about £4,000) has been deposited with a Greek bank as a guarantee of the fulfilment of the conditions, being forfeitable in the event of the non-fulfilment.

The object of the Ministry in calling for tenders for this coal, instead of asking the companies concerned to submit their lowest offers, f.o.b. American seaboard, is not clear.

The estimated traffic receipts of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the week ended August 16 were £5,972 (£15 15s. 2d. per mile).

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 437.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The new Anglo-French Agreement in regard to Syria clears up a lot of misunderstandings. It is to be hoped that it will not lead to the creation of others. In the first place, the good faith of the British Government in its negotiations with the French and with the Arabs has been established. The Agreement of 1916 may have been carried through, as far as Great Britain was concerned, with less than the full knowledge of the Cabinet; but the French were aware that the British Government was already in negotiation with the Arabs, and before the Agreement was signed they specifically accepted the exclusion from French jurisdiction of the four cities of Damascus, Hama, Homs, and Aleppo. It is, therefore, not the case that there was any contradiction between the promises made to the Shereef of Mecca and the terms of the Anglo-French Agreement.

The new Agreement supersedes the Sykes-Picot covenant, and does away with the grossly unfair line which separated French and British spheres in that document. By giving the French Mosul and the reaches of the Euphrates above Anah, while extending their zone of influence to the Persian frontier, the 1916 Agreement embodied every possible economic blunder in regard to the British sphere that could be made. It cut off the catchment area on which all irrigation schemes in Lower Mesopotamia depend, it divided the oilfields and it rendered a pipe-line to the Mediterranean out of the question. All that is now changed. It is understood that the British sphere will include Deir-el-Zor and Nisibin. The French will have Urfa, but the four cities excluded from their direct zone in 1916 will not be occupied by their troops.

A special feature of the new Agreement is that British troops are to evacuate from November 1 all the territories situated north of a frontier between Syria and Palestine. There is reason to suppose that General Allenby had no difficulty in persuading the French that it was entirely to their interest that no British troops should be withdrawn until French troops were ready to take their place. No good purpose can be served by misrepresenting the situation. The Arabs have let it be known that they did not wish to be placed under French influence, and to have allowed an interregnum between the withdrawal of the British Army and the arrival of the French troops would have only added to the difficulties of the latter. On the other hand, there is a marked tendency in the East, as we have continually insisted in these pages, to accept an accomplished fact. With tact, therefore, on the part of the French authorities it should be possible for them to inaugurate peacefully their administration or supervisory control.

It will also be very necessary for the French Press to exercise some restraint in its comments on Syria and Arab matters. The majority of the newspapers have shown themselves surprisingly ill-informed on the subject, and the new note struck by the *Liberté* has not been inspired a moment too soon. It writes:—"The French Government must bear in mind that a pretty numerous corps of occupation will be necessary, at any rate during the period of agitation of feeling now existing, and further that we must have a soldier who is at the same time an experienced administrator for the organisation of our new protectorate." If this aspect of the situation had been appreciated sooner, there would have been less excitement over British "intrigues." If the transfer to French jurisdiction takes place smoothly, it will be in no small measure due to British efforts to convert the Arabs to a reasonable frame of mind. In view of the Emir Feisal's impending visit to this country, it may be inferred that this self-imposed task is not yet at an end.

There is no inherent improbability in the report of the resignation of M. Bratianu, although it lacks at present official confirmation. Our Bucharest Correspondent, in a letter dated August 26, pointed out that it was almost certain that M. Bratianu would not sign the Treaty, and that it was to be expected that the Government would resign on this platform. The political situation in Roumania is too complex to enable it to be gauged from a distance. A Government with an eye to its own interests, which had been in a state of unstable equilibrium for some time, would naturally welcome an opportunity of pitching its resignation on a high patriotic note, in the hope that, after the invidious work of signing the Treaty had been performed by others, it might return to power with a fresh lease of life. If the Paris Conference adheres to its contention that Roumania had to signify her adherence to the Treaty by last Saturday or not at all, the question of signing the document no longer concerns the Roumanian Government. In these circumstances M. Bratianu's successor might find his task considerably simplified, and might proceed with the elections for the Constituent Assembly. There cannot be the least doubt that the country is anxious to make the unification of all the Roumanians technically complete by the election of a Parliament representative of Greater Roumania, from which great things are hoped for.

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Yugoslavia is again without a Cabinet, Dr. Davidovitch and his colleagues having last Saturday tendered their resignations, which were accepted by the Prince Regent. In view of the unyielding attitude of the Opposition, and the manner in which one group or another constantly put fresh difficulties in the way of a reconstruction of his Cabinet, the position of Dr. Davidovitch was already an extremely difficult one, and it is easy to understand that he and his friends were not eager to sign the Peace Treaty with Austria, only to make it easier for their opponents to assail them with even greater vigour. Had they been able to obtain some modification of the terms to which Yugoslavia objected, they would probably have been willing to remain in office, but as they could not prevail on Paris to alter its decisions in the slightest particular, they preferred to leave others to face the difficulties of the situation. The Prince Regent is reported to have asked Professor Raina Pavlovitch to undertake the formation of a new Cabinet. The fact that M. Pavlovitch, although a politician of experience, has never yet held any Ministerial appointment, would appear, in the present state of Yugoslavian politics, to be a point in his favour, and, as he is reported to be popular with all parties, he may succeed in forming the real "coalition" Cabinet which the country seems so urgently to require.

Our Belgrade Correspondent sends us some interesting notes on the present condition of Montenegro, as observed by an English traveller. From this and other accounts it is clear that the country of the Black Mountain is in a sorry state indeed, and the sooner its fate is settled the better it will be for everybody. At present, reports which endeavour to make up by violence of statement what they lack in other, more desirable, respects are only too numerous. In this connection we may refer to the argument that has been put forward to the effect that the Montenegrin Throne is elective; that King Nikolas was elected over the head of his father, Mirko the Firebrand; and that if to-day the Montenegrins wish to elect Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia that is their concern alone. In reply to this it may be pointed out that the Montenegrins have heretofore usually waited until the King died before electing his successor, and that, if only on the ground of good taste, it would be as well to follow precedent in this respect. As to the third point of the argument, it is not denied that the Montenegrins, as a free people, have the unchallenged right to settle their own affairs. What is earnestly to be desired is that they may be allowed to settle them freely, without the faintest suspicion of any intervention from interested parties.

On Tuesday, first Dover and then London had the opportunity of welcoming Field-Marshal Lord Allenby home for the first time since he took over the command in Palestine. By both the Cinque Port and the Capital he was accorded an enthusiastic reception, and seldom, if ever, has a British general better deserved one from his countrymen; but his achievements are too well-known to need any further reference here. England has often been very fortunate in the men who have served her in the Near East, and General Allenby will surely take rank with the best and greatest of them.

We published a few weeks ago a letter from a correspondent who was anxious that Rahmi Bey, ex-Vali of Smyrna, should be treated favourably, in recognition of the many and constant kindnesses he showed to British and Allied subjects in the Smyrna vilayet during the war. To-day we publish another appeal to the same effect, from a second correspondent, separated by wide seas from the first. It may be remembered also that last December our Cairo Correspondent bore testimony to Rahmi Bey's friendly attitude towards our countrymen throughout the war. The fact that all this evidence is offered quite voluntarily, and that the feeling of gratitude was sufficiently strong in our correspondents to prompt them to take some little trouble to make it known, would certainly seem to show that Rahmi Bey deserves well of Great Britain. In the recently-published official report on the condition of Turkish prisons, he was mentioned as being confined in one of those truly dreadful places. Unless we are mistaken he is now at Malta, and we have no doubt that he is there receiving the same kindness that he showed to British subjects and other Europeans when he had it in his power to do so.

A curious situation has arisen at Fiume, which town has been seized by insurgent Italian troops, either led or, at any rate, egged on, by Gabriele d'Annunzio, who has evidently lost none of his youthful fire yet. The act has been disavowed by the Italian Government, who clearly realise what a false position it places them in; and it is understood that the firebrands are to be brought to order by the institution of a strict blockade. Whether that measure will suffice to achieve the desired end remains to be seen. In the meantime the fact that the suburb of Shushak is reported to have been occupied by Yugoslavs is not without significance. The whole affair is very regrettable, but it is a direct consequence of the long delay in settling the Fiume question, and as such must be laid at the door of the Paris Conference.

The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Prince Firooz Mirza Nosret ed-Dowleh, is at present the honoured guest of the British Government. He left Teheran with the Shah, and has presumably come on to London in advance of his royal master in order to arrange as far as possible such business of State as may call for his Majesty's attention while in this country. The Minister, who is a son of that distinguished statesman Prince Firman Firma, is a welcome visitor for his own sake as well as for his country's, and we trust that the impressions he will gather during his visit will be entirely pleasant and favourable.

An extremely interesting letter from Sir Frederick Lugard on the subject of British Advisers and native officials in Egypt appeared in *The Times* a few days ago. The subject is a very important one; the present system is admittedly far from perfect, and Sir Frederick's suggestions, based on prolonged and successful trial in Nigeria, appear to be eminently practical, and likely, if put into practice, to bring about a marked improvement. Briefly, they amount to this: the Egyptian officials should be responsible to Egyptians—the Sheikh and Wakil to the Mudir, the Mudir to the Minister; and that the Englishman, the Inspector, should be responsible only to the British Adviser to the Minister. Needless to say, Sir Frederick does not propose an entire divorce as between the Mudir and the Inspector; the latter would report to the Mudir such cases as were necessary, would tender friendly advice whenever it was called for, and would watch over the administration of justice in the native Courts and the operations of the tax collector. But the Mudir would be free to ignore the advice, if he were prepared to justify his action to the Minister; and the Minister, in turn, would support him, if prepared to explain his action to the Adviser.

This system, as Sir Frederick Lugard points out, would preserve the dignity of the native officials in their own eyes and in those of the people—"a matter of transcendent importance to native rulers"—and at the same time it would avoid placing British Inspectors under Egyptian Governors, an alternative suggested by an earlier correspondent. From the latter arrangement, we agree with Sir Frederick, "nothing but disharmony and friction could result . . . There is no need to labour the point, the experience of the Empire attests it." On the other hand, the loyalty of Moslem Nigeria throughout the war, with its entire absence of that sympathy with Turkey and the Turks which has been so noticeable in Egypt, goes to show that the system advocated by Sir Frederick Lugard makes for real efficiency and for good relations between governors and governed.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 31.

The Strikes.

We are now entering on the fourth week of the Cairo tramway strike. The Alexandria strikers have compromised, and the service has been resumed; but the Cairo men are as obstinate as ever, and declare that they will oppose by force any attempt to run the trams without them. This declaration seems likely to be put to the test this week, as both the Government and the public are tired of being put to endless inconvenience and expense by the quarrels of the company and its servants. After all, the Tramways is a public service, and the public interests are superior to all else. The employees appear to deny to others the rights they claim for themselves. They refuse to work except under certain conditions, and they are quite free to do so. But they are not free to interfere with other men who have to earn their bread, and who choose to accept the terms the company offers. Neither are they justified in interfering in any manner whatsoever with any measures the Government or military authorities may think fit to take in the interests of the long-suffering public. If they care to try a fall with the powers that be, they will only have themselves to thank for the inevitable result.

Government Action Foreshadowed.

The Government has acted with the greatest prudence and indulgence hitherto. It has formed a competent Conciliation Committee, and done everything in its power to arrive at an arrangement. It now contemplates framing a law to regulate the conditions of syndicates and trades' unions in Egypt. It has foreseen that sooner or later it will be necessary to recognise the claims of labour to organise in self-defence. The situation in Egypt is, however a somewhat peculiar one. There are very few industries here, and consequently very few bodies of labouring men who need to incorporate themselves in a syndicate to protect their common privileges. In order that a syndicate should be required in this sense there must be common and prevailing conditions of labour affecting a whole class or category of the employed.

Government employees are excluded naturally from Syndicalism, as they are working under special contracts and engagements to perform certain duties for certain pay and advantages. This is an axiom that does not admit of discussion. What classes then remain? There are certainly the employees of the tramways, and those of companies like the gas, water, etc. If there is any prospect of prolonged trouble, the Government may be compelled to indemnify the companies and take over, or nationalise these services. This would be a short cut out of the difficulty. As to the other syndicates that are in tentative process of formation, they should be excluded by any law that is to be framed. Waiters at cafés, for instance, have no pretext for syndicating. They work under different conditions in every café, and it is absurd to attempt to fix a general contract of service for all of them. The same may be said of newspaper boys, hairdressers' assistants, lawyers' clerks, and the hundred and one denominations of those who work to live.

The condition that seems naturally essential to the needs of a syndicate is that there should be a certain and large number of men or women working under similar conditions and for one or more masters, who are themselves bound by more or less conditions and standard prices. For example, it is conceivable that workers in the cigarette industry, which is one of the few Egyptian branches of production or manufacture, should yearn to syndicate themselves. They labour under more or less the same disadvantages in general, and they may be considered as justified in forming a syndicate for themselves.

A Zaghloulite "Success."

To-day large meetings were held both in Cairo and Alexandria to celebrate the supposed success of the Zaghloul Delegation in obtaining an opinion (which is called a "decision") from the Committee of the American Senate in favour of Egyptian Independence. This news was first published in an extra edition of the *Misr*, many copies of which were sold for as much as ten piastres (2s.). The translation of the message is as follows:—

A wire has been received from America to the effect that the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the American Senate has decided that politically Egypt should be under the suzerainty neither of England nor of Turkey, and that it should be independent and self-determinating (or governing).

This was brought out at 9 o'clock on Saturday evening, and created a scene of wild excitement in the streets, students and idlers of all sorts rushing about and yelling that the British were to leave Egypt, and that "complete Independence" had been realised.

At the meetings held on Sunday in public streets of Cairo the people began shouting the usual cries of "Long live Zaghloul," "Long live the Fatherland," but as public gatherings are an offence against martial law they were dispersed after half-a-dozen arrests had been made. But the population still firmly believes that America has granted complete independence to Egypt.

The current rumour to-day is that Viscount Allenby's approaching departure on the the 3rd by the Caledonia is a consequence of the "decision" of the Senate. No paper having mentioned the fact that Sir E. Allenby was leaving Egypt for a while before the circulation of the American telegram, it is, of course, futile to make any statement now to the effect that the gallant General's journey was decided upon at least a fortnight ago. He will be temporarily replaced by Sir Milne Cheetham, who arrives, together with the new Adviser designate to the Interior, Sir G. Clayton, by the same steamer Caledonia, which will only stay two or three days before turning her nose westward again.

A MONTENEGRIN PROTEST.

Sir Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has been officially informed that the Montenegrin Government has addressed a protest to the Peace Conference and the Governments of the Great Powers in the following terms:—

"All the Allies and Associated Powers will sign the Peace Treaty with Austria, even those who have not spilt a drop of blood, yet the Peace Conference deprived Montenegro of this right, and has forgotten that she was amongst the first to range herself on the side of the Allies, that she lost over 40 per cent. of her soldiers and a third of her population, and even her liberty, which up to then had never been violated. The Royal Government of Montenegro most emphatically protests against this attitude of the Peace Conference and prays the Governments of the Great Powers to intervene, so that an end may be made to this violation of the honour and hardly won rights of Montenegro."

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 4.

The Minority Clause.

Extracts from the clauses of the peace convention to be presented to Roumania for signature have been published in the various papers here. It remains to be seen, when the entire document appears, whether these extracts give the whole case or not. Certainly the provisions for the representation of ethnical minorities and their protection by the League of Nations have had an almost stupefying effect on the people here, who look upon the demands made by the Peace Conference regarding the minorities as simply tyrannical.

It would appear from the extracts that have been published that a minority of, say, Saxons, Swabians, or Jews, who already enjoy, by virtue of the Decree of January, 1919, equal political and social rights with the original Roumanians, would, whenever dissatisfied with any law or administrative regulation, have the right, not only of placing their grievances before a Roumanian tribunal, but also of making a separate appeal to the League of Nations. The effect of this privilege would be to make Roumanian administration very difficult, if not impossible, as the Government would constantly be called upon to postpone the execution of regulations not entirely favoured by the minorities until reference had been made to the League of Nations. It can quite easily be foreseen that such an unprecedented privilege would be open to grave abuse, and, what is more, the difficulties of arriving at an equitable decision on questions concerning purely local affairs would make the task an almost impossible one for any western tribunal that might be set up.

The Peace Conference has proved on more than one occasion that it has not always been well advised concerning conditions in this part of Europe, and the minority clause is a proof to the Roumanians that the Allies do not understand local requirements, nor the character of the people with whom they are dealing. They are quick in their resentment of any suggestion of unfair treatment, and history proves that they are willing to suffer in the effort to preserve their national freedom and independence. Why, they ask, do not the Irish come under the same category as minorities here? Surely what is sauce for the goose is also sauce for the gander, and what is offered as a basis for the solution of the difficulties of the smaller peoples should be equally applicable to the difficulties of the larger Powers.

No one can truthfully deny that Roumania has been loyal to the Allied cause since her entry into the war; nor does the fact that, following a sequence of most unhappy events, she was compelled to come to a temporary arrangement with the Central Powers prove her secession from the principles on behalf of which she commenced fighting in 1916. It is, therefore, very humiliating to a nation which has suffered much in the Allied cause to be dictated to in almost the same tone as would be used to a conquered people, especially in regard to a question with which she has proved herself quite capable of dealing without outside interference. The unhappy reference in the preamble of the Convention to the terms which Bismarck sought to impose on Roumania under the treaty of 1878 is very much resented by the Roumanians, who do not appreciate the logic of excusing a present imposition by reference to a past injustice.

A consideration of the Jewish question alone is humiliating. Whatever may have been the representations made to the Peace Conference, the fact remains that the Jews have not been badly treated in Roumania, as witness the large numbers of influential and wealthy members of that race who lived here quite contentedly and peacefully before the war, and—with the exception of certain civil and political rights—enjoyed equal freedom with any Roumanian. By the Decree of January the Jews in the whole of Roumania and her extended territories—who form, by the way, about one-sixteenth of the entire population—gained equal rights with those enjoyed by that nationality in any part of the world, not excluding Great Britain. Yet the Peace Conference seeks to interfere with the smooth running of the Roumanian administrative machinery by providing for their immunity from judiciary obligations on their Sabbath, and furthermore they are to have the right of appeal to the League of Nations on any question of administrative policy with which they are not in complete agreement. The results arising from the bestowal of such a privilege are likely to be somewhat chaotic!

Requisitions in Hungary.

The text of the most recent note from the Allies protesting against the requisitions made by the Roumanian Army in Hungary has not been published here, but by way of justification of the Roumanian action certain figures have been published of the goods and commodities stated to have been seized by the enemy during the German occupation. They include the following:—2,910,000 tons of wheat, 1,630,000 tons of maize, 770,000 tons of oats, 190,000 tons of vegetables, 600,000 horses, 1,000,000 oxen and cows, 4,400,000 sheep, 400,000 calves, 2,000,000 lambs, 1,000,000 pigs, over 1,000,000 tons of agricultural implements, over 5,000 tons of wool, and large quantities of oil products, railway material, and rolling stock. Furthermore, many of the factories in Roumania were left in a state bordering on ruin.

Elections.

The general elections will take place in the early part of October throughout Roumania proper, Bessarabia, Bukovina, Transylvania, and the portion of the Banat under Roumanian rule. The election of deputies will take place on October 5, 6, and 7, and every citizen who has attained his majority and owns Roumanian rights will be entitled to vote. The basis of representation will be as follows:—One deputy for every 30,000 inhabitants of each district, and one deputy for each supplementary fraction exceeding 20,000 inhabitants. The election of senators has been arranged for October 10 and 11. Every Roumanian citizen of 40 years of age or over throughout the old and new territories will be entitled to a vote; and among the electors will also be included those citizens of Old Roumania who, although under 40 years of age, were registered in the list of voters of January 1, 1916. A senator will be elected for every 70,000 inhabitants of each district, and one senator for each supplementary fraction exceeding 47,000 inhabitants. The Universities of Bucharest, Cluj, Cernowitz, and Jassy have each the right to elect one senator.

Female Suffrage.

I learn that Transylvanian women have started a female suffrage movement in Brassov to work hand in hand with the existing "Association for the civil and political emancipation of Roumanian women," the headquarters of which are in Bucharest. The membership of this association is gradually growing and new branches are being formed in various parts of the country.

The question of female suffrage had already assumed some importance in Transylvania before the advent of Roumania, and presumably sooner or later the womenfolk will be given a voice in the government of the country on the same lines as those on which the right is enjoyed by their western sisters.

Labour Troubles.

As a direct result of the reduction in prices at the restaurants and cafés here, mentioned in my last letter, a general strike of waiters and cooks was declared at the beginning of this week. The basis of their remuneration, as fixed by an arrangement made some months ago, was a fixed percentage added to the total of every bill, and consequently the reduction of prices meant a reduction in their remuneration. This compulsory percentage has now been withdrawn, the waiters are again throwing themselves upon the generosity of the public, and the system of tips rules as before. The most noticeable effect of this changed condition of things is a resumption of the old-time politeness on the part of the waiters.

A strike of road-sweepers and other sanitary employees, which until to-day threatened to cause a serious menace to the public health in Bucharest, has now happily been settled.

Polish-Roumanian Relations.

As an example of the friendly relations existing between this country and Poland, a communication emanating from the Polish Legation in Bucharest may be cited. At the new University of Posen, the communication states, a section of the seminary for the study of Latin languages will deal exclusively with the study of the language, literature, and national development of Roumania in connection with the intellectual relations between the two countries. A large library—for which a credit has been voted by the Posen Supreme Council—will also be founded.

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BELGRADE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, September 1.

The State of Montenegro.

As the position of Montenegro has attracted considerable attention recently in England, both in the Press and in Parliament, authentic and recent news from the little country is very welcome. A well-known English resident in Belgrade, who knows the language well, recently returned from Cetinje, and the impression he gained there in every way confirms the various official statements that appear in the Serbian Press. All round those wonderful shores of the Bocche di Cattaro there are swarms of Italian troops, who, we presume, consider that they are occupying "Austrian" territory, although the place is entirely Serbian. On entering Montenegro in the small hours of the morning, the Englishman's party was held up by the militia. This is a body of volunteers organised by the younger generation of Montenegrins, who appear to be almost if not entirely in favour of union with Yugoslavia, to defend the country against the *Zelenashi*, who are the partisans of the *Raskral*, or "ex-King," Nikolas. The latter are often dressed in Italian uniform, and equipped and paid by Italy, and they find their way up from the coast and harry the mountains to exert pressure on the inhabitants. They are so active that an old soldier, whom the Englishman in question had befriended, declined to accompany him on an excursion up the Lovchen, saying that he valued his life too much, and that he had not survived the war to be shot like a dog on the Lovchen by the *Zelenashi*. In Cetinje, which has always been a dainty and cheerful, if rather monotonous, little place, there was a marked atmosphere of gloom; the women were no longer wearing their national costume, but dingy things provided by relief missions; and everybody appeared depressed.

The Serbian Government recently stated that there were only twenty Serbians there, officials all, and that with this exception, the entire civil administration was in the hands of the Montenegrins themselves. What the country wants is not protection from any domination from Belgrade, but the removal of the unjustifiable Italian incubus, which is making life miserable. The younger generations are keen on immediate and complete union with Serbia, and if ex-King Nikolas has many partisans it must be among the older men who have not shaken off the glamour of his long reign with the brilliant episodes of its earlier portion, so unfortunately darkened by the events of the later years.

A Serbian View of Ourselves.

The *Trgovinski Glasnik* (or "Commercial Messenger") is bringing out as a *feuilleton* an article describing the experiences of the Serbian Commercial Mission to England in the early part of the year. So little was our country known in Serbia before the war that stolidity was the only trait in the English character that had become known in Serbia. "As cold as an Englishman" was quite a common expression. But three years under arms together in Macedonia has made a great difference, and all who served in Salonika will have noticed what good friends Serbs and English were, from private to field officer, even if there were at times linguistic difficulties. In this connection there is a good story, that is well known, but still worth repeating. A Serbian soldier and a British Tommy became great friends in a café, although they could not understand a word of each other's language; but they showed each other the photographs of their wives or sweethearts, as the case may be; and when it came to parting the Serb, anxious to give his British friend a substantial souvenir, pressed his watch upon him, and prevailed on the Englishman to accept it. But Tommy had no valuable object to give in exchange, and racked his wits to think of something worth giving. Finally he had an inspiration, and gave the Serb . . . the Government mule that he was riding. The Serb rode the mule home. Perhaps the ride cooled his enthusiasm; at all events, on arrival he reported the incident to his officer, who in turn passed it on through the usual channels until the Serbian Liaison Officer reported to G.H.Q. that an English soldier had presented a Government mule to a Serbian private, and asked what should be done with the animal. The reply from G.H.Q. was satisfactory to all parties concerned. "What an Englishman gives," they wrote, "he does not take back. The mule remains the property of the Serbian soldier."

But to return to our Serbian Mission to London. The visitors were most anxious to see this land of contradictions, where feudal tenure and vast properties "still exist, but yet it is the home of freedom; where immense wealth jostles extreme poverty." They were specially struck with the emptiness of the streets and stillness of this "sea of houses" when it was explained to them that it was a Sunday. On the Monday the things that struck them most were the late hour of beginning work and the short luncheon interval of only an hour, or perhaps half an hour, and that the shops do not shut for lunch. This is certainly a contrast to Belgrade and to all towns of this latitude, where the afternoon siesta is the order of the day, and all shops shut for an hour or two, or even more during the heat of the day. The Serbs considered ours a very practical arrangement, as it allows the workers to live at a distance and to have some time for recreation. They, like all foreigners, were immensely impressed by the Lord Mayor, especially by the ceremonies and uniforms of parade occasions, and by the fact that the King cannot enter the precincts of the City without the Lord Mayor's permission. The gold on the luncheon table at the Mansion House made a great impression on them, and they connected this with the fact that the office is an annual one, so that many members of the Corporation may enjoy the privilege of using it in turn.

The New Provinces.

The provisional regime that obtained in the new provinces of southern Serbia or Serbian Macedonia has now been removed, and these provinces are definitely incorporated in the Kingdom, with the same constitution as other provinces. This is a curious reminder of the wars of 1912-13, which seemed so tremendous at the time, but have dropped out of memory in the welter that so shortly followed. Poor Macedonia may now perhaps begin to look forward to prosperous days. Gripped in mediæval conditions under the blighting influence of Turkish misrule, the prey to *Komitajis* and factions, where even neighbouring villages were at war with one another, with no security of life or property, the inhabitants scarcely had the power or desire to make progress. Now perhaps those wonderfully fertile valleys may be made to yield as they should, with the hope of peace and anticipation of a repose that they have not known in history. The Salonika Army, when they landed in 1915, were already accustomed to devastated districts, and so scarcely noticed the ruins of the picturesque and once prosperous town of Avret Hissar, now inhabited only by lizards and snakes; and similarly they were indifferent to the desolate and blackened portions of Kukus and of Seres and the sight of ruined villages scattered over the country. But to a traveller from peaceful climes the scenery over great areas of Southern Macedonia would have seemed like the blasted heath.

Political Rivalries.

The political situation is still obscure, as the Government is none too strong, and the Opposition appear united in their desire to overthrow it, though they are far from united in constructive policy. When the bi-monthly credits were before the House on Saturday the Opposition pressed for an adjournment, as a move to gain time; and since then there have been renewed negotiations between the Radicals and the Democrats, which are reported to be proceeding satisfactorily. There are various suggestions, but it seems that the Radicals are somewhat less exigent in their demands.

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It appears probable that before long there will be another adjustment and a Coalition Government again formed. The Radicals are reported to be pressing for the Ministry of the Interior, or at least determined that Mr. Pribitchevitch resign, and they are taking up a conservative line on the question of Agrarian reform. The attitude of Dr. Koroshets and his group remains enigmatical, but he will probably support a Coalition Cabinet.

The recent incident at Temesvar has produced an unpleasant impression in Belgrade. The rather contemptuous tolerance of the Serb for the Roumanians and their demands is passing into irritation at what is regarded as the excessive chauvinism of Bucharest. Nothing very definite is known about the incident, but rumour persistently paints it as a grave affair, and the Serbs are irritated, because they have had enough militarism to last them a long time.

BELGRADE, September 9.

In spite of the pains taken over its formation, the new Democrat-cum-Socialist Government did not feel very firm in the saddle, and when it introduced the monthly credits it ran up against a sharp opposition. Dr. Davidovitch saw that an understanding with the Radicals was inevitable, as well as highly desirable, and for over a week there have been more goings and comings and conversations and meetings of the political clubs, while a whole series of rumours and reports have been going through the town, and most business has been at a standstill. Now, at last, it is reported in the Press that an agreement has been reached by which the Government will give up five portfolios to the Radicals; but at the eleventh hour a difficulty has been raised by M. Protitch asking for representation of the small parties, or, rather, cliques, of Dissidents. Dr. Koroshets is apparently staying out; the Socialists, who are retaining their three portfolios, object to the Slovene clericals, whose attitude has been enigmatical through the whole crisis. It seems certain that M. Vulovitch and Dr. Kramer will retire and that Dr. Ninchitch will return, but to the Ministry of Trade instead of Finance. It has been persistently rumoured, too, that M. Pribitchevitch, who is a strong man, will retire from the Cabinet, as a Jonah, to appease the Radicals; it is certain that he will leave the Ministry of the Interior; but in all probability he will take some other portfolio.

Two fresh names appear among the Radical candidates for Ministerial posts. These are Dr. Srshkitch, a well-known Bosnian patriot and politician, connected by marriage with the leading Radical families, and Dr. Slavka Miletitch, a lawyer from Vrshitsa in the Voivodina, where he is well known as a prominent lawyer and politician. His father was a well-known patriot, who died in prison some fifteen years ago, a victim of the Hapsburg methods.

Meanwhile, while the crisis has been dragging on its weary way, everything but routine business has stood still. The reputation of Serbia has suffered in Paris and London; reconstruction, development, and important negotiations have been at a standstill, while the enemies of Serbia are rubbing their hands at the pleasing anticipation of internal dissensions. But the country will largely throw the blame upon the Radicals, who are losing strength, while the Democrats are growing stronger every day. A few days ago at Sombor, the Radical stronghold in the Voivodina, a meeting was held at which some three thousand people attended. The Democrats cleared the day easily, with a sweeping majority in favour of the immediate execution of the Democratic programme of land reform.

The Serbians in England.

The *Trgovinski Glasnik* continues its account of the visit of the Serbian Commercial Mission to England. This week it gave an account of Birmingham and Coventry; the members took a special interest in the latter town, which has raised 80,000 francs in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund. They were particularly interested, too, in the story of Lady Godiva, but omitted the description of her wonderful head of hair, though Peeping Tom got his deserts. They were delighted also with a visit to the Tower of London, where they could not fail to be struck by the continuity of English history and the slow development of our liberty through the centuries. After describing the relics of the execution of Anne Boleyn and other sufferers, they refer to the martyrdom, for her religious opinions, of "*Gospodjitsa* Asquith," an historical incident that will probably be unfamiliar to most readers of THE NEAR EAST. They were also struck by the fact that Englishmen are not such bad linguists as they are popularly supposed to be; for wherever they went they usually found someone who could talk in French to them, though unwillingly, for few could speak it well. But the Serbs are enthusiastic in their appreciation of our good old English hospitality, which they received in full measure, and were pleasantly surprised to find that it rivals their own.

SMYRNA NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SMYRNA, September 3.

Despite the vigorous work accomplished in the Smyrna Province by the "Advanced British Headquarters" in separating the Greek and Turkish forces, the situation is aggravated every day by numerous bands fleeing to the mountains and becoming brigands. In a few days the Turks will celebrate their Bairam festival, which corresponds to the Christian Easter; and it is feared that a great effort will be made to drive the Greek still nearer to the coast towns. A few British troops have been sent to occupy the No Man's Land near Pergamus, and it is fervently hoped that another regiment will do likewise at Aidin.

British troops have not yet been used to protect the British Railway, Smyrna to Aidin and Egedir, hence the greater part of the line has for the past two months been in the hands of whatever band of brigands operates near the line. No goods are now carried down to Smyrna, and the only receipts are the payments made by the Greek Government for transport of troops and ammunition to Aidin. The French railway, Smyrna to Afium and to Panderma, has since the Armistice been protected by French troops, and the tricolour floats from the roof of every station on the line.

MALTA NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MALTA, September 1.

The Riot Commission.

The inquiry by this Commission is still going on, and constitutes the chief topic of the day in the island. All witnesses are examined on oath, and the evidence forthcoming is putting the matter of the riots in a very different light from what was generally supposed. There is no need to go into full details as far as the readers of THE NEAR EAST are concerned, but a few of the salient points evolved cannot but be of interest. Up to the present they are as follows:—The mob fired the first shot; the British troops were attacked with all kinds of missiles; the Royal Malta Artillery troops (the local regiment) were cheered on their arrival; the police have admitted their inability to cope with the crowd, and that they begged for help from the military. The causes of the riots are put down to a developed anti-English feeling, Italian agitators, the abuses, real or imaginary practised by the local administration, and the profiteering of certain merchants, who, it is stated, received preferential treatment at the hands of the Food Control Committee. The rabid nature of the vernacular Press has had a great deal to do with the past and present discontent. The Commission is proceeding, and on very exact and precise lines, with the result that many facts of the utmost value are being elicited. Good must result from this. It should be added that the population are only conducting their religious *festas* in part, no doubt as a protest—and a futile one—against the action of the troops on the occasion referred to.

The Court Martial.

This is proceeding contemporaneously with the above inquiry, and some of the sentences meted out to the guilty parties are exemplary. The latest are one year with hard labour, two years' hard labour, and fifteen years' hard labour.

"Olla Podrida."

Four German prisoners escaped from the prisoners' camp, taking advantage of the privilege of being allowed to bathe at Marsa Scala. They have all been recaptured. Two new regiments have just arrived in Malta, the 3rd Battalion of the Essex Regiment and the Loyal North Lancashires. Their arrival will mean the demobilisation of the local troops—a serious matter for the island in its poverty, but it is stated that there are to be formed Maltese local corps for work in France. It is also mooted that an infantry regiment is to be raised locally.

TO PHOTOGRAPHERS.

The Editor will be glad to consider photographs of Near Eastern scenery, types, places of interest, etc., etc., suitable for reproduction in THE NEAR EAST. *When desired, payment will be made for the right of reproducing such photographs. Readers should state, when forwarding pictures, whether payment is desired or not.*

Photographs should be sent either packed between stout cards or rolled in a cardboard tube, and should on no account be folded. Titles and notes should be attached to each photo., and should be very clearly written.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Outbreak of Smallpox.

There is an unfortunate outbreak of smallpox at Upper Platres, a village situate about 2,000 ft. below the camp and summer quarters at Troodos. About a mile lower down the road lies the village of Lower Platres. Both places have been gazetted as infected with contagious and infectious disease. Precautions for isolation of cases are being taken by the medical department, but alarm keeps many persons from going to and from the areas of danger, which border on the main carriage road, and many plans are upset. The disease is believed to have been introduced from Egypt. Upper Platres has grown from small beginnings into a large place, and is the fashionable resort, especially for Greeks, both of the island and from Egypt. The rising slopes are dotted with numerous houses and bungalows, and there are two hotels of considerable size.

Enemy Aliens.

A draft Bill is to be introduced in the Legislative Council to prevent the entry into the island, without permission, of former enemy aliens for three years. It provides for penalties and orders of deportation.

The Cyprus Deputation.

Letters from the Greek Archbishop and deputation in London continue to be published with monotonous regularity. One of the leading members has been in Paris for some weeks, and his dispatches indicate that there is likely to be considerable delay over negotiations affecting Cyprus; but the people are urged not to be discouraged. The latest London letters state that the Mission considers it advisable in the circumstances to remain there pending developments, and further funds are called for.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PASSAGE MUDDLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The interruption in passenger traffic with India is causing great distress to hundreds of applicants. Amongst them are High Court judges wishing to return to duty after their long vacation, civil officials whose leave has expired, and business men whose presence in India is indispensable. The injury inflicted in the Empire's economic life passes all calculation. Who is to blame for the muddle and want of foresight which is fraught with such disastrous consequence? Applicants are told by the India Office staff that all berths on outward-bound steamers have been commandeered by the War Office in order to take out troops relieving territorials, to whom a pledge has been given that they shall be repatriated before Christmas. But "A Traveller" tells us in to-day's *Times* that, in the course of a journey eastward he found "quite a number of empty berths" on steamers bound for India. There is evidently some lack of co-ordination between Government Departments, and it would be easy for the India Office to furnish shipping companies with lists of controlled berths which are not required for troops. I suggest that the Royal Navy, relieved from the tremendous pressure of war-time, should put a number of vessels in commission for the purpose of conveying reliefs to India.—I am, etc., F. H. S.

September 15.

ZIONISTS AND PALESTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I trust you will permit me to call attention to, and correct, two statements which appear in your issue of September 12:—

On page 275, in a communication from a Jerusalem correspondent, appears the sentence:—"The Jews, on the other hand—and more so the Zionists—are still pouring out their money, hoping thereby to gain the votes of the people—a remote prospect." If this means anything at all, it means that the Jews, and especially the Zionists, are bribing the non-Jewish population for political purposes—a suggestion which I must indignantly repudiate as utterly unfounded. If your correspondent intended to mean something else, it is a pity that he did not express himself more clearly.

On page 278, in the course of an article on the "Problem of Turkey," appears the sentence: "The people of Palestine, with the exception of a Zionist minority, favour a British or American protection." As the whole world knows, all Zionists have from the very beginning been in favour of a British Mandate for Palestine, and as you must likewise be acquainted with this fact, it is difficult to understand how you could have permitted the correspondent to make such a statement without at least adding an editorial footnote by way of correction.—I am, etc.,

Israel Cohen.

The Zionist Organisation (Central Office),
77, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1,
September 17, 1919.

ON BEHALF OF RAHMI BEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—From The Near East of August 8, 1919, I learned of the arrest in Constantinople of Rahmi Bey, former Governor-General (Vali) at Smyrna, Turkey, in the vilayet of Aidin, and his deportation to Malta, where he is to be tried by the British or Allied Military Courts.

I was in Turkey from December, 1914, to May, 1917, and had the pleasure of the personal acquaintance of Rhami Bey, and, as is known to *all* foreigners living in Turkey during this official's term of office, he was at all times the friend of the belligerents, even of the much-persecuted Armenians. It was within his power and was urgently suggested by certain military generals other than Turks, that the British, French, and other belligerents be deported to the interior towns, but Rahmi Bey absolutely refused to consider this. Records will prove that more than one foreign General, and also Consul-General, was removed from office at Smyrna at the request of Rahmi Bey—or I might more truthfully say, "orders"—simply because they insisted that such deportations be made.

British and French homes in Smyrna, Bournabat, Boudjah, and Cordellio were practically held inviolable, and such belligerent residents were permitted to continue in their homes with the same ease and safety as in pre-war times. Only those homes that were vacant were sequestered for military purposes, and then only in cases where such housing was absolutely necessary.

Everyone who was in Smyrna in 1916 during the air raid made from Mitylene, and who witnessed the air duel between two British planes and one enemy plane, in which both of the British planes were shot down, one having both of the two brave aviators killed in the fall of their plane, will recall the beautiful military funeral given those two brave Britons. The funeral procession was headed by two British ministers, the ceremony was held in the British Church, and from there the caskets draped with the British Union Jack were carried through the streets of Smyrna to the British cemetery for their last resting. Rahmi Bey personally had inserted in the newspapers a notice requesting the British residents of Smyrna to attend the funeral, and permitted them to send floral offerings.

As to his treatment of the Armenians, one only has to recall the horrors practised in every other vilayet in the Turkish Empire, and contrast it with the protection and fair treatment he accorded to those Armenians fortunate enough to reside within his jurisdiction. My information is not hearsay, but my own personal observations, and I could mention many acts of fair treatment by him to belligerents when it would have been much easier, and also to his advantage, to have acted other than he did.

I have no personal interest in writing in behalf of this now exiled Turkish official other than to see justice done; and I hope that what I have written may come to the attention of the court that may try him, and that they will endeavour to have my statements corroborated, which can easily be done by many Britons, Frenchmen, and other foreigners living in Smyrna and personally known to me.

If I were a member of the tribunal that eventually will try Rahmi Bey I would sit out till Doomsday for his dismissal and exoneration of any wilful violation of the usages of civilised warfare, or maltreatment of any kind to the belligerents within his vilayet.—I am, etc., C. A. B.

"THE PROBLEM OF TURKEY."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The author of the article on "The Problem of Turkey" in The Near East (September 12, 1919) seems altogether to ignore the fact that England is pledged, by a public speech of Mr. Lloyd George in January, 1918, to assign "Asia Minor and Thrace, which are predominantly Turkish in race," with Constantinople as the capital, to Turkey. That utterance was accepted by the Moslems of the British Empire, as it was unquestionably intended that it should be accepted, as a solemn undertaking on the part of England. It reassured the Moslems at a crucial moment of the war, and if it is not kept it will diminish England's honour, not only among Moslems, but throughout all Asia. Your correspondent may object that there are parts of Asia Minor which are not predominantly Turkish in race, and the figures which he has given make it seem so. But he obtains his Greek majority, as M. Venizelos has done before him, by reckoning the Greek Islands (already separated from Turkey as regards administration) as part of Asia Minor; and even then the proportion he assigns to the Greek population is much in excess of all accessible estimates except the Greek "official" (*i.e.*, propagandist) estimate.—I am, etc.,

Khalid Sheldrake.

87, Westbourne Grove, W., September 15, 1919.

TO LECTURERS AND OTHERS.—For Sale, a number of Photographic Lantern Slides of places and people in the Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia.—For list and full particulars apply, MUHANDIS, Box 141, c/o THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square London, E.C.2.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

In glancing through the advertisement pages of the *Egyptian Gazette* the other day, I came across an announcement of a "cinema" show, in which the programme was given as:—

SOPHIA OF KRAVONIA.

From Anthony Hope's "Prisoner of Zinda."

Now I happen to be a warm admirer of "Anthony Hope," and I know his "Prisoner of Zenda" and his "Sophy of Kravonia," and like them both. But I do not believe he ever wrote a "Prisoner of Zinda," and even if he did, I can hardly believe that a play—even a film play!—founded on that work would be called "Sophia of Kravonia." The cinema management appears to have got as muddled over Anthony Hope's books as most cinema frequenters are over most things. What a pity such folk do not draw their "inspiration" solely from transatlantic sources!

***

Mr. Bullitt's sensational statements regarding the Prinkipo conference that did not come off have set people's thoughts running on the pretty island again. I feel, therefore, that the following exquisite verses will be valued by my readers as dealing with "a topic of the moment":—

Said Wilson to Lenin and crew:
"Won't you meet us at fair Prinkipo?"
Said Lenin: "No fear!
I prefer to stay here.
But I don't care a rap what you do."

Mr. Bullitt and David L.-G.
Aren't such friends as they once used to be.
And the nose of young Bullitt
L.-G. 'ld like to pull it.
And, oh, what a twist it would be!

It is all very sad and beautiful—I refer to the incident, not to my "pome," which is beautiful without being sad. I am credibly informed that upon being told of Mr. Bullitt's statement Mr. Lloyd George, who had just been reading the Stock Exchange news, exclaimed: "I can't bear it." And may I suggest that the name of the island might appropriately be changed to Prinkipoobah Island?

***

We are truly a remarkable people—as has been observed a good many times before. On this occasion the platitude is drawn from me by reading a screed which has been issued by a certain young Greek in London in favour of ex-King Constantine's return to Greece. It consists of two long "galleys" of windy declamations, and is accompanied by the picture of its young Greek author; and it is issued, I gather, in the hope that the London Press will feel tempted to reproduce it, or portions of it. At any rate, I observe that it "was on June 24 last sent to the American Press," though I am quite unable to say whether the American Press made any use of it. As to its pleadings on behalf of the ex-King, I have nothing to say, for the subject really does not interest me. But what does interest me is the fact that the young Greek author of these outpourings should have the effrontery to talk of England and France being "the enemies of our [*i.e.*, the Greeks'] freedom," of the "unjust sufferings and humiliations" caused to the Greeks by France and England, and so forth and so on. If this is such a tyrannical country, how comes it that an impudent young foreigner is suffered by the authorities to write and publish abuse of it in this style? And how can his noble soul stand such an atmosphere of oppression? Poor martyr!

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A MISSIONARY'S VIEW OF THE PEOPLES OF PALESTINE.*

Although written mainly for the supporters of the C.M.S., there is much in this slim volume of interest to the general reader, especially at the present time. The author, who spent some years there as a missionary, writes from intimate knowledge of Palestine and of its people, and shows a sympathetic spirit towards religions other than his own. Many will endorse his view that "the unmistakable welcome accorded to the British in Palestine is in no small degree due to the reputation which has been built up for British Christianity by the self-denying labours of the missionaries."

After a brief sketch of the physical characteristics of Palestine there are chapters on the fellaheen, the Bedouin, and the Jews, which give the outstanding characteristics of the various inhabitants. While showing a sympathetic side towards the present political ambitions of the Zionists, the writer points out some practical difficulties which are often overlooked by those who have no personal knowledge of the Holy Land. How are the indigenous inhabitants of the land, who have held it "longer, indeed, than the period of its occupation by Israel," to be reconciled to Jewish domination? Is it possible to restore the site of the Temple to the Jews without rousing "a storm of indignation throughout the Mahommedan world"? How are the Jews to acquire the necessary lands without crushing the fellaheen out of their communal property? Will any great number of Jews be content to remain peasants upon a land which is certainly not of extraordinary fertility, according to modern ideas? He states that one summer holiday he visited "a number of these Jewish colonies, and was saddened by the evident failure of promising attempts. Places on which huge sums of money had been spent in the first instance were lying desolate and neglected through the apathy and lack of public spirit of the colonists."

On the "Religion of the Land" and "The Creed of the Arab" the writer has recorded many facts of interest. Throughout the book is written with moderation and fairness to other points of view than the author's own, and the chapters on missionary work are rather a statement of facts than a mere appeal to sentiment.

NEW EUROPE.†

A map of the new Europe, although necessarily provisional, is essential to everyone who wishes to follow intelligently the course of contemporary events at the present time. Even with many boundaries not yet finally fixed, it is well to have a general idea of the position of Czecho-Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Roumania, and of their relative positions to one another. Bartholemew's map meets this requirement in an effective way; different colours show the countries as they were in July, 1914, while the new boundaries are marked in thick red lines. In addition to the countries named, the map traces the approximate frontiers of Poland, Lithuania, the Ukraine, etc.

BOOK NOTES.

Macmillan's Autumn List includes the "Life of Lord Kitchener," in three volumes, by Sir George Arthur; "Deserts and Oases of Central Asia," by Miss Ella Sykes and Sir Percy Sykes; "Europe in the Melting-pot," by Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson, and "Europe in the Nineteenth Century," by Professor F. J. C. Hearnshaw.

There are many war-books in Mr. Edward Arnold's list of forthcoming books, including "With the Persian Expedition," by Major M. H. Donohoe; "Mons, Anzac, and Kut," by "An M.P."; "London Men in Palestine," by Rowlands Caldicott; and "Caught by the Turks," by Francis Yeats-Brown.

Mr. Herbert Jenkins is publishing at once "Sir Stanley Maude and other Memories," by Mrs. Stuart Menzies.

Mr. Alex Devine, the well-known champion of the Montenegrin cause, has issued a small pamphlet on "A New Educational Era." He writes on this subject with knowledge and experience. His points are worth the notice of all educationalists.

* "The Land of Promise." By Rev. H. G. Harding. (London: Church Missionary Society, 1919. 2s. net.)

† General War Map of Europe and the Mediterranean. (John Bartholomew and Son, Ltd., Edinburgh.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. September	1919. September		1337. Julheggia.	5679. Elul.
19	6	Friday	24	24
20	7	Saturday.....	25	25
21	8	Sunday	26	26
22	9	Monday	27	27
23	10	Tuesday	28	28
24	11	Wednesday	29	29
				5680 Tishri
25	12	Thursday	30	1

The Shah of Persia is staying with his suite at the Hotel Victoria, Interlaken.

The Chief Justice of Bengal (Sir Lancelot Sanderson) is expected to arrive in England to-day.

M. Kyriakos Venizelos, Secretary to the Greek Legation, has left London for Aix-les-Bains.

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., left London for India on September 13.

M. George Mélas has been appointed Secretary to the Greek Legation, and has entered upon his duties.

Colonel L. H. S. Amery, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, left Malta on September 13.

The Emir Faisal arrived at Marseilles on September 17 on a British destroyer. After visiting Paris he will probably proceed to London.

Sahibzada Aftab Ahmed Khan, member of the India Council, has left for India under medical advice. He was in India last winter as a member of Lord Southborough's Franchise Committee.

Sir Roper Parkington, the Consul-General for Montenegro and Hon. Treasurer Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund, and Lady Roper Parkington have arrived at Claridge's Hotel from Harrogate.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (September 9) :—
H.R.H. Princess Helena of Serbia has returned to Belgrade from Russia.
General Franchet d'Espérey has returned to Belgrade.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain C. Armine Willis, Assistant Director of Intelligence, Sudan Government, son of the late J. Armine Willis, Esq., Education Department, and the Hon. Clare Hamilton, youngest daughter of Lady Holm-Patrick.

The engagement is announced of Major-General A. E. Wardrop, C.B., C.M.G., only son of the late Major-General A. Wardrop, Bombay Army, and Mrs. Wardrop, and Amy, elder daughter of Mr. Edward Norton, J.P., and Mrs. Norton, of Uplands, Fareham, Hants.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant H. J. Hartnoll, D.S.O., R.N., eldest son of Sir Henry Hartnoll, I.C.S. (retired), residing at The Old Glebe House, Eggesford, North Devon, and Grace, elder daughter of E. P. Frederick, of The Wells House, Malvern Wells.

Sir Oswald Stoll and Mr. Arthur Croxton have been informed by M. Koyitch, Chargé d'Affaires of the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, that the Order of the Serbian Red Cross has been conferred upon them for "services and friendship shown to the Serbian people during the war."

At the Church of St. Sophia, in Moscow Road, Bayswater, a special service was held on September 14 in celebration of the name-day of the King of the Hellenes. The Archimandrite, the Rev. Agathangelos Moschovakis, officiated. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom a Te Deum was sung. Among those present were the Greek Minister, the *personnel* of the Legation, and many members of the Greek Colony.

Prince Firooz Mirza Nosret-ed-Dowleh, Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who left Teheran with the Shah, has arrived in London as the guest of the British Government. He was met on arrival by Sir Robert Synge on behalf of the Government, by Mr. Oliphant, of the Persian Department of the Foreign Office, and by the Persian Minister. The Prince visited the Foreign Office on September 15. Among the official arrangements made for entertaining his Highness was a dinner last night at the Carlton Hotel.

The Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, M. Boeresco, was, Reuter says, entertained at luncheon in the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor on Tuesday on the occasion of the presentation to the latter of the insignia of Grand Officer of the Crown of Roumania, conferred upon the Lord Mayor by the King of that country.

The marriage was celebrated on September 3, at St. Stephen's, Ootacamund, by the Right Rev. the Bishop in Tinnevelly and Madura, between Charles Edgar Wood, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Harrison Wood, of Bellword, Ripon, and Janet Mary Cardew, younger daughter of Sir Alexander Cardew, K.C.S.I., and Lady Cardew.

A Simla telegram states that the delegates from India to the Washington Labour Congress will be Mr. J. Kershaw, of the India Office; Mr. A. Chatterjee, Indian Civil Service, Government member; Mr. A. Murray, chairman of the Indian Jute Association, member for the employers; and Mr. Narayan Joshi, of Bombay, member for the employed.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in London, between Lieut.-Colonel R. W. A. Denne, Indian Army (retired), son of the late Rev. R. H. Denne, of Brimpsfield Rectory, Gloucester, and the late Mrs. Denne, and Anne Mannooch Welch, second daughter of the late Captain Welch, R.N., of Arle House, Cheltenham, and the late Mrs. Welch.

The engagement is announced of Brevet Lieut.-Colonel C. F. Meares, D.S.O., Royal Irish Fusiliers, son of the late Colonel George Brooke Meares, Royal Fusiliers, and Mrs. Meares, to Mary Katharine, widow of Lieut.-Colonel J. C. Russell, D.S.O., 9th Hodgson's Horse, I.A., daughter of the Rev. E. M. and Mrs. Clements, Barkston Rectory, Grantham.

The marriage was celebrated on September 8, at the Registrar's Office, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, between Captain Overton Preston, M.C., R.A.F., second son of the late Martin Inett Preston and Mrs. Preston, The Park, Nottingham, and Victoria Mary, third daughter of the Rev. Peter Donaldson, M.A., B.D., late Pro-Consul at Salonika.

The marriage was celebrated on September 9, at Epping Parish Church, by the Rev. C. Spencer, assisted by Canon Olivier, vicar of the parish, between Edward Backhouse Robinson, B.A., of Alma, Maturata, Ceylon, eldest son of the Rev. E. C. and Mrs. Robinson, of Chadsmore, Malvern, and Isaline Margaret, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Horn, of Ivylands, Epping.

The King of the Serbians, Croats, and Slovenes having bestowed the Order of St. Sava, Fourth Class, on Sir Cecil Harcourt Smith, Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Order of St. Sava, Fifth Class, on Mr. Eric Maclagan, Assistant Keeper of the Department of Architecture and Sculpture, in that museum, King George has granted permission to those gentlemen to wear the decorations.

A gift from the King of five shearling lambs, as well as 600 head of pedigree Shorthorn cattle, 30 Shorthorn bulls, and 2,000 prize chickens, which constitute the fortieth gift of stock made by British farmers to devastated areas, is being sent by the Relief of Allies' Committee of the Royal Agricultural Society to Serbia. His Majesty's is his second gift to the committee. The farmers' gift is the first despatched to Serbia, other consignments having been distributed in France, Belgium, and Poland.

Our Malta Correspondent writes (September 1) :—
The Hon. J. Zammit, L.P., Commendatore J. Howard, O.B.E., and Mr. H. Casolani, M.B.E., have left for Paris in connection with the local emigration question. Emigration is the only matter which can save or ease the economic condition of Malta, but the departure for Paris of the above members of the committee has been severely criticised in some quarters.
The Right Rev. Mgr. Portelli is seriously indisposed.

The marriage was celebrated on September 9, at Christ Church, Ealing, by the Rev. W. Templeton King, B.D., and the Rev. E. J. Cardigan Williams, Bt., between Major E. Leslie Ricketts, the 96th Infantry, Indian Army, and General Staff, only son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Ricketts, Fyzabad, India, and Mildred Ethel, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Towers, Hanger Hill, Ealing, late of Montevideo, South America.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

Our Cyprus correspondent writes :—Mr. J. M. Ellis has been appointed Assistant Secretary in the office of the Chief Secretary to Government.

Mr. C. F. Fenn has been appointed to act as British Delegate of Evkaf, his colleague being the Hon. M. Irfan Bey, M.L.C., M.E.C. Mr. Fenn, who ably acts as Chief Secretary, is likely to proceed to East Africa to take up a new appointment.

Our Belgrade Correspondent reports (September 9) that Lieut.-Colonel Jordan Bell, R.E., has been appointed President for Central Europe of the Inter-Allied Railway Commission of the Supreme Economic Council.

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Our Malta Correspondent writes:—Professor the Hon. M. Refalo, O.B.E., LL.D., B.A., has been appointed Chief Justice and President of his Majesty's Court of Appeal, and Professor A. Mercieca, LL.D., succeeds him as Crown Advocate.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* understands that Sir Paul Harvey will very possibly be appointed to the vacant Financial Adviserships to the Egyptian Government. Sir Paul held the post from 1907 to 1912, when he was appointed Chief Auditor to the National Health Insurance Commission. This reappointment would be very popular in Egypt.

Sir Benjamin Robertson, Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, will be the official representative of India upon the Commission of Inquiry into the Indian question now being set up by the Union Government. In all probability the Commission will include a non-official Indian member. It may be recalled that Sir B. Robertson was on special duty in South Africa shortly before the war with the Commission to inquire into the grievances of Indians within the Union.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on September 8, at the White House, Burton-Bradstock, of William George Mackilligin, late of Mercara, Coorg, India, aged 79.

Mr. David Goodyear, a veteran in possession of the Crimea and Turkish medals, with a clasp for Sebastopol, recently died, aged 82, at St. Mary Bourne, Hampshire.

The death occurred on September 13, at Uckfield Lodge, Crowborough, Sussex, of John James Street Driberg, late Inspector-General of Police, Assam, India, aged seventy-nine.

The death occurred on August 27, at Srinagar, Kashmere, of Lieut.-Colonel James Knighton Condon, I.A. Bombay Political Department, eldest son of the late Brig.-Surgeon J. H. Condon, I.M.S., aged fifty-one.

Captain William Eveleigh Darwall, Royal Navy, died on September 12 at Folkestone at the age of seventy-six. He had been engaged chiefly on the African continent. In the naval and military operations in the Eastern Sudan in 1884 he commanded the Ranger. He was mentioned in despatches and received the Egyptian medal and the Khedive's Star. In the following year he was in command of the Tyne during the operations at Suakin and received the clasp.

Major-General William Rooke, late Royal Artillery, died on September 7 at Ryde, Isle of Wight, at the age of eighty-two. He entered the Army in 1854. In the Crimean campaign he was at the siege and fall of Sevastopol, and received the medal with clasp and the Turkish medal.

Colonel Edward R. J. Presgrave, C.B., D.S.O., late of the Indian Army, died on September 12 in London at the age of sixty-four. He took part in the repression of the Rumpa Rebellion in 1879, and was engaged in the Afghan War in 1879-80. Subsequently he saw service with the Burmese and Manipur Expeditions, and for three years was actively engaged in Burma.

The death is announced from Athens of a distinguished and popular Greek poet, M. Gheorgios Souris. Born at Syra in 1852, M. Souris distinguished himself by writing several volumes of lyrical verse, and later he obtained an extraordinary reputation among his countrymen by his weekly satirical review of topical and world events, published in the form of a small weekly paper, *O Romios* ("The Greek"). Throughout the war M. Souris most strongly supported the Allies, even during the Constantine reign of pro-Germanism.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

An aeroplane piloted by Lieutenant Kennedy left St. Raphael (Var) on September 10 on a flight to India *viâ* Taranto and Egypt.

A telegram from Bucharest announces the abrogation of the state of martial law proclaimed by the Hungarian Government in Transylvania.

A very heavy downpour of rain descended upon Ceuta on Sunday evening as the result of a water-spout. The torrent lasted six hours and caused great damage.

A Reuter message from Vienna, dated September 12, states:—Acting under instructions from Admiral Troubridge, in command on the Danube, Captain Dutton has informed the Minister, M. Zerdik, that the Danube is now open for mercantile traffic.

With reference to the report from Constantinople that 12,000 British troops have landed at Scutari, Reuter's Agency learns, the fact is that 1,200 troops landed there. It is merely an ordinary movement of British troops from Batoum.

According to a telegram from Constantinople, Captain Leune, accompanied by a Greek aviator, arrived there September 15, thus concluding his Paris-Rome-Constantinople flight. The aviators report that they passed through a violent thunderstorm while crossing the Albanian mountains.

Reuter's Simla correspondent reports (September 13):—News has been received that an aeroplane, while trying to land in the Residency at Quetta, crashed to the ground and burst into flames. A passenger, Captain Steele, and two Brahmins were killed. The pilot, an officer of the Air Force, was severely shaken.

About half of the Indian troops who came to England to take part in the Peace Celebrations left their camp at Hampton Court at the end of last week. The remaining troops left this week. Brigadier-General E. W. Costello, V.C., commanding the contingent, and a number of British officers went to Tilbury to see them off.

A Reuter message from Colombo, dated September 13, states:—Diamonds, valued at £65,000, have mysteriously disappeared between London and Ceylon. On August 7 a London firm despatched to Colombo four packages of diamonds. When the vessel arrived in Bombay the parcels were found to be missing. This is believed to be the largest consignment of diamonds ever lost between London and the East.

With reference to the telegram from the Madras Dravidian Association, which appeared in *The Times* of August 29, protesting against the alleged refusal of the Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament on the Government of India Bill to hear further evidence from non-Brahmins, the India Office point out that the Committee heard Rai Bahadur K. V. Reddi for the South Indian Liberal Federation on August 12, and on August 25 Mr. L. K. Tulasiram, Mr. K. Appa Rao Naidu, of the same federation, and Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, of the Madras Dravidian Association.

Sir Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received the following telegram from the Montenegrin Government:—The rising of the Montenegrins against the Serbian troops now in occupation of their country is daily assuming greater proportions. The Montenegrins have just occupied the district of Lievarieka, thus cutting off the Serbian communications between the centre of Montenegro and the northern territory. The rising has also commenced to spread in the Cattaro region, where the Montenegrins have, in course of a fierce encounter near Zelenika, killed some sixty Serbian soldiers.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1919.

TURKISH SOVEREIGNTY AND MOSLEM SENTIMENT.

Much has been written on the vexed question of the future of Turkish sovereignty, but we have seen no more important contribution to the discussion than the Address presented last week to Mr. Lloyd George, in which the signatories described the state of Moslem sentiment and urged the dangers which must follow if that sentiment is ignored. The Address stands on an entirely different footing from the shrill outpourings of interested agitators, of which we have heard so much; the men whose names are appended to it are not agitators, but statesmen and administrators, soldiers and students, united only by their knowledge of some portion of the Moslem world and by their sympathy for the feelings of its inhabitants; and while some of them may be scarcely known to the man in the street, the great majority speak with an authority which commands respect. Men like Sir William Garstin and Sir John Hewett, Sir Theodore Morrison and Sir Francis Younghusband, to take only a few instances, cannot be suspected of courting publicity or giving way to the desire for sensationalism, and when they are moved to come forward by their sense of the momentous interests at stake, the public may rest assured that their solicitude is real, and that their message is too serious to be lightly set aside. In substance that message is not new. The signatories lay stress on the indignation and resentment with which Moslems hear of proposals to drive the Turk out of Europe, to deprive him of his capital, and to divide Asia Minor among the Allies; they insist that, while this consideration affects the whole world, it is of special importance to the British Empire; and they call upon the Prime Minister to give the world a lead in the sense of the declaration which he made in January, 1918, when the fortune of war was not yet declared. The words of that declaration may be recalled: "We are not," said Mr. Lloyd George, "fighting to deprive Turkey of its capital, or of the rich and renowned lands of Asia Minor and Thrace, which are predominantly Turkish in race." Those words struck home in India and throughout the Moslem world, and the plea now put forward is that they should receive effect in the settlement which has for so long been under discussion by the victorious Allies.

It is well to make clear that this plea is based on the existence of a sentiment, and not on any historical or actual justification which that sentiment can claim. Students of history may question the validity of the Sultan's title as Khalif, or spiritual head of Islam, and plain men may maintain that recent Turkish administrations can be regarded as representing no religion except the faith of force and fraud, but Moslem sentiment is independent of such considerations as these. The sympathy of Mohammedans throughout the world has been concentrated on the Turkish Empire as the last temporal representative of a common civilisation and common ideals, and if Turkey should disappear from the map, they would regard its downfall as symbolic of the downfall of Islam as a whole. To insist on this attitude, as the Address insists, is no mere flabby sentimentality: in statecraft sentiments are things, and often the things that matter most, and disregard of Moslem feelings in this instance may constitute a great political blunder, pregnant with danger to the world's future peace. If countries with a predominantly Turkish population are placed under alien rule, they are certain to become centres of disturbances which will spread through Asia and Africa, and as the world now stands no Western nation can contemplate that risk with equanimity. Nor is it possible to hope that the present solidarity of sentiment will quickly disappear. Islam is broken into sects, less numerous indeed but not less bitter than those of Christendom, but feeling on this matter transcends the boundaries of sectarian opinion, and communities which would brand one another as heretics have here a common meeting-ground. The progress of knowledge and alterations in the environment may in process of time bring about a change, and new national ideals may come to fill the place now occupied by the ghosts of a historic past, but knowledge spreads slowly in the East, and before such a change is complete the nations may be at each other's throats once and yet again.

Such is the case presented in this Address, and it is not a case which can be lightly brushed aside. It must, in our opinion, be admitted that British interests point in the same direction as Moslem sentiment, that is to say, to the preservation of the Turkish nation, shorn indeed of its unassimilated conquests in Arabia and elsewhere, but remaining as a definite political entity in possession of those regions to which the name properly applies. Unfortunately, however, British interests and Moslem sentiments are not the only forces in operation. Asia and Africa have no monopoly of unreasoned sentiment, while interests of other nations than our own are also deeply involved. The strains of European sentiment vary in importance, and we are not disposed to attach very much weight to the contentions urged so forcibly by some representatives of militant Anglo-Saxon Christianity; the advocates are undoubtedly sincere, but we find some difficulty in harmonising their position on this question with the great ideals of their creed, while those who best know the story of Constantinople as a Christian city are least anxious to do anything which might recall that story to a not too charitable world. Of the interests and the feelings of other European nations, it behoves us to speak with caution as well as respect. Englishmen sometimes fail to realise that the narrow waters of the Eastern Mediterranean have for many centuries united rather than divided the opposing coasts, and that the resulting relations are very different from those which prevail in northerly seas. We forget, too, that other nations have not our experience of Imperial rule; accustomed as we are to balance resources against responsibilities, we are apt to underrate the strength of the call to great ventures in the ears of those who see the achievement of England and ignore the not less instructive examples furnished by Spain and Portugal. For the moment it must suffice to say that these European interests and sentiments are important factors of the problem which the Allied and associated statesmen have to face; Europe cannot afford to disregard the feelings of Asia and Africa, but neither can Islam neglect the forces at work in Europe. In its essence the problem is to satisfy, so far as may be, these European claims, while preserving a Turkish State with so much of continuity as shall appeal to the bulk of moderate Moslem sentiment. There is no possibility of satisfying the extremists on both sides, but we think it may fairly be said that a settlement is possible which shall not cause undue disappointment to the saner elements of the various nations concerned; and we may be permitted to express the hope that such a settlement may be formulated with the least possible delay. The data of the problem must by this time be familiar to the statesmen in Paris, and when the data have once been grasped the decision should follow swiftly, for every week's postponement means the growth of hopes which cannot be realised, and the spread of fears which experience may show to have been unnecessary. Meanwhile an obvious duty rests upon the public in this country and abroad, to face the facts squarely, to realise the opposing points of view, to impute no unworthy motives, to abandon hopes of any ideally perfect settlement, and to prepare to accept with as good a grace as possible arrangements which must almost inevitably be something of a disappointment to every ardent partisan.

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CYPRIOTE SHRINES.

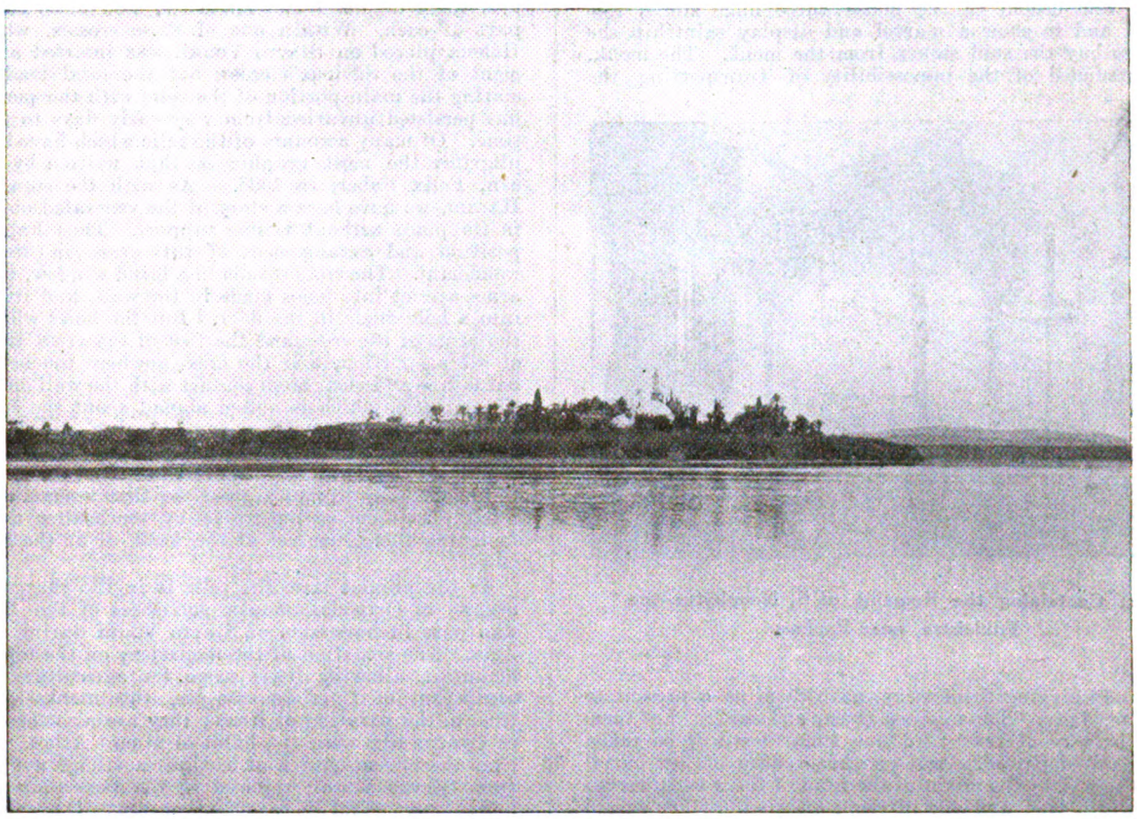
By Lieut.-Comdr. H. C. LUKE, R.N.V.R.

Those who know the East in general and the Levant in particular will have observed how often the outstanding features of the landscape, be they mountain or valley or spring or grove, are the objects of religious tradition. They will also have observed the tenacity with which such tradition is maintained despite the passage of peoples and the changes of faiths. A sacred spring that is under the protection of a classical divinity in pagan times does not lose its attributes because paganism happens to have been supplanted. Very quickly a Christian saint comes forward to take the place of the dispossessed Olympian as its patron and familiar; and, if the district is also inhabited by Moslems, some Pir or Peyghamber collaborates no less readily in preserving the sanctity of the place in the eyes of all men.

Such shrines have existed from the time when "the memory of man runneth not to the contrary," with no difference beyond a change of name on the part of the tutelary deity. Aphrodite is perpetuated as the Panagia; Poseidon becomes S. Nicholas; S. George, himself the successor of a pagan god, preserves his identity among Moslems under the alias of Sheikh Khidr. But successive faiths have also added their quota of holy places to those already in existence. Each fragment of the True Cross, each icon painted by S. Luke, becomes the nucleus of a monastery; the bones of wonder-working Sheikhs lead to the construction of white-domed *türbés* adjoined by a *tekyé*, or convent of Dervishes. So we find the countryside in the Levant thickly dotted with churches and chapels, many of them partly or utterly in ruins. Nevertheless, if no more than a heap of stones marks their site, they are visited once a year, at least, on the day of the patron saint, for the reading of the liturgy and the celebration of a *panegyris*, or fair. Not infrequently, in these dry lands, a spring of water was originally responsible for the shrine. If so, you will find the well, now called the *ayasma* (ἁγίασμα, holy and beneficial spring), in the nave or apse of the church, and will be told of its efficacy in healing. Similarly, you will find a host of little Moslem shrines scattered through towns, villages, and open country, sharing with their Christian counterparts the wisps of hair or clothing left by those who wish thereby to place themselves in contact with the shrine's presiding spirit.

It is but natural that Cyprus, exposed as she has been to the influence of numerous civilizations, should be fully as prolific in religious sites as other parts of the Levant. Of monasteries alone she has eighty-two, while the number of her churches, chapels, *zaviehs*, *türbés*, and lesser shrines is beyond computation. In age they range from relatively recent times to the most hoary antiquity; and three in particular have preserved a continuity of religious association for as long, perhaps, as the most venerable of all shrines, the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

The largest of these three prehistoric buildings lies five miles north of Famagusta, midway between the ruins of Salamis and the great Byzantine church of S. Barnabas, a well-known landmark in the eastern Mesaoria. For reasons which are not clear, it is known to the Orthodox population of modern Cyprus as "Saint Katharine's Prison," and the liturgy is celebrated there once a year, on Saint Katharine's day. The level of the soil around it has risen considerably since its foundation, and from without little more than the barrel-shaped roof is visible. The cyclopean construction of the building is best seen from within, where the vast size and weight of the stones employed recall the substructures of the temple of Jupiter Heliopolitanus at Ba'albek. Adjoining the temple—if such was its purpose—is a little grove of *prosopis* trees, to which a curious belief is attached. It is held throughout Cyprus that disease will inevitably overtake him who cuts down or injures any one of these trees; and to this circumstance the grove owes its immunity from the villagers' depredations.[1] The second building of this class, a little west of Larnaca, is known as the Hagia Phaneromene, and is likewise the scene of an occasional Orthodox service; the third, beautifully situated on the edge of the Larnaca Salt Lake, four miles from the town, has become in a very curious manner one of the most revered shrines of the Moslem world.



Khalat -Sultan Tekye and Larnaca Salt Lake.

In the year 649 A.D. there took place one of the first of the Arab invasions of Cyprus, which continued to ravage the island for the ensuing three centuries. In command of the expedition was Mu'awiya, then Governor of Syria, and subsequently the first Khalif of the Omayyad dynasty, and in his train there followed one 'Ubada ibn-as-Samit, a Companion of the Prophet, with his wife Umm Haram, daughter of Milhan the Ansari. This worshipful lady was of the kin of Mohammed, and according to some authorities was also his

1 This the only example I know of in Cyprus of the belief, so common in Asia Minor, which forbids groves or thickets in the neighbourhood of shrines to be touched. The one exception generally made is that it is permissible to cut wood from such groves for the purpose of making a coffin.

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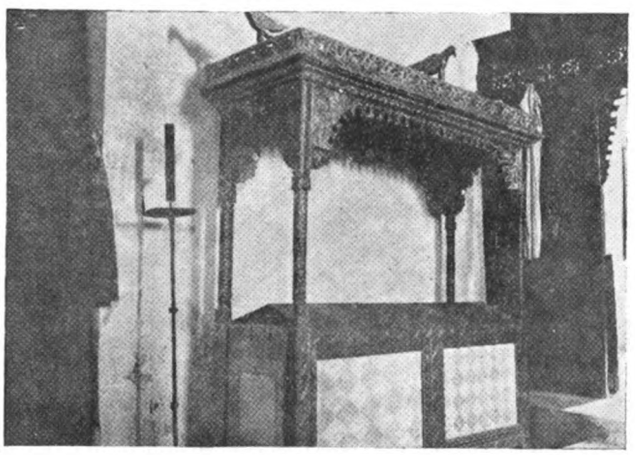
foster-mother. Moreover, to quote the Turkish manuscript preserved at the shrine,[2] "our Prophet (may the favour and blessing of God be upon him!) gave leave to the honoured mother to search on his holy head for lice, for being his maternal aunt he might be intimate with her, for her ancestors were of his tribe." Umm Haram, then, landed with the expedition at a spot in the neighbourhood of the port of Larnaca, where "the holy woman (may God be pleased with her!) was set with all honour on a mule; and on arriving at the place where now her luminous tomb is seen, they were attacked by Genoese infidels, and falling from her beast she broke her pellucid neck, and yielded up her victorious soul, and in that fragrant spot was at once buried."

Now the tomb in which the body of Umm Haram was laid is a prehistoric monolithic structure consisting of three enormous stones, two of which are upright and support the third, which lies horizontally across them. And since it was evident to those of Umm Haram's days that no human agency could have manipulated stones of such vast dimensions, a more credible explanation of their presence we sought and found. *Pace* the manuscript, it is as follows: "On her journey from Jerusalem to Ramleh the exalted lady alighted on her way as a guest at the house of a Christian monk. She beheld in the house three huge stones like columns, and to show a marvel and display saintship she desired to buy the said stones from the monk. The monk, fully persuaded of the impossibility of transporting the



Chest Containing the Remains of S. Neophytus, the Enkleistra, near Paphos.

stones and carrying them away, gave them as a present to the exalted lady. She accepted them, and said: 'Let them remain by way of trust; in due time they will be taken away,' and departed. And on the evening of her burial the said stones, by the might of the Lord of the worlds, moved from their place; and one of them set itself at her sacred head, one at her holy feet, and the other stone, as though suspended over them, rested there by the power of God. And now, if we look to be instructed, the elevation and juxtaposition with other stones of a stone so huge must be deemed an impossibility. It is therefore clear and manifest that the stone is suspended."

When in the course of time the tomb was enclosed within a domed building suitable to its importance, and there were added mosque, minarets, and all the appurtenances of a well-endowed *tekyé*, the two upright stones were swathed in black velvet hangings, leaving only the horizontal stone visible. Thus, dimly lighted and shrouded in mystery, the tomb appears at the present day. Contact with the upright stones is prevented by a bronze balustrade; and the illusion of the monolith floating in mid-air over the aunt of the Prophet is sufficiently maintained, even now, to convince the devout and none too critical pilgrim.

[2] Published and translated by the late C. D. Cobham, C.M.G., Commissioner of Larnaca, in the J.R.A.S., January, 1897.

The Khalat-i-Sultan *tekyé*, to give the shrine its official name, owes much to the charm of its situation. Standing within sight of the sea, it is thus able to receive the salute due to it from all vessels flying the Ottoman flag. In the evening its domes and minaret, embowered in verdure, are reflected in the waters of the lake, that are unruffled save by flocks of stately flamingoes. And immediately to the west there rises, a worthy background, the isolated peak of Santa Croce, or Stavro Vouni, to which we will now turn our attention.

It is to a lady, also, that Stavro Vouni owes its repute as a holy place. In 327 Saint Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine the Great, landed in Cyprus on her return journey to Constantinople after her successful quest for the True Cross. By way of encouraging the spread of Christianity in Cyprus, she endowed the island with fragments of some of the relics which she had recovered in the Holy Land, the most prominent of these being that which she deposited on the peak consequently known as Stavro Vouni, the Mountain of the Holy Cross. The early traditions regarding this relic represent it as a blend of the crosses of the penitent and the impenitent thief, for the Empress, on discovering the three crosses, and being unable to distinguish which of the lesser crosses had belonged to the penitent thief, took them to pieces and made two new ones, containing a part of each. Within one of these crosses, which Saint Helena placed on Stavro Vouni, was inserted a tiny fragment of the Saviour's cross, but the local tradition associating the main portion of the relic with the penitent thief has persisted unvaried from very early days to the present time. Of many accounts of the relic which have been left by pilgrims the most graphic is that written by a Dominican, Felix Faber, in 1483. As with the stone of Umm Haram, we have here a story of the venerated object resting in its place without visible support. Thus Faber:—"The position and arrangement of this cross in its place is wonderful. The cross stands in a blind window, and both its arms are let into holes made in the wall, and its foot is let into a hole made in the floor. But the holes which contain the arms of the cross and the foot of the cross are large out of all proportion, and the cross nowhere touches the wall, but is free and clear from contact with the wall on every side. The miracle, which is noised abroad about the cross is that it hangs in the air without any fastening, and withal stands as firm as though it were fixed with the strongest nails, or built into the wall, which nevertheless it is not, because all the three holes are very great, so that a man can put his hand into them and perceive by touch that there is no fastening there, nor yet at the back, or at the head of the cross."

At the present time the relic is in the charge of a community of Orthodox monks, successors of the Benedictines who were in possession of Stavro Vouni during the Middle Ages. The situation of the monastery on the top of a steep mountain allowing little scope for agriculture, the usual occupation of Cypriote καλόγεροι, the monks devote their time to the painting of icons; they are also the only monks in Cyprus who wear the habit of Mount Athos. For a long time the parish church of Tokhni, a village not far distant from Stavro Vouni, rejoiced in the possession of an even holier relic—namely, a cross constructed by the Empress Helena from the *suppedaneum*, or footrest, of the Saviour's Cross. But this treasure, after undergoing during the Middle Ages many startling adventures and vicissitudes too long to be related here, was finally lost sight of, and its present whereabouts, if indeed it still exists, is unknown. There is, however, a delightful superstition connected with the building of Tokhni church, which deserves to be mentioned. It appears that at one time the village was infested by forty devils, to the mortification of the inhabitants, who were mocked at by the people of the vicinity as being unwholesome and undesirable neighbours. After much thought, therefore, they hit upon an ingenious device to render the devils harmless. At some expense they secured the services of a priest of great holiness, who with exorcisms and incantations enticed the devils into a well. No sooner had the devils entered the well than the villagers, who had masons waiting in readiness, built their church upon it; so the devils are still bottled up in the well, and, while the church stands, are unable to get out.

(To be continued.)

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
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KING GEORGE
KING OF SPAIN

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

England and the East.

In the *Morning Post* of September 8, Lieut.-Col. Repington, in characteristic and refreshing fashion, hits on the head what he considers the nails of the situation. Our policy, he says, has been incredibly stupid:—

Apart from the original error of undertaking all these adventures, policy has bungled things badly in our Eastern war theatres. Policy made a written agreement with the King of the Hedjaz in 1914, promising the Arabs certain things not yet publicly confessed, and the Arabs fought for us, not because they loved us, but for the sake of their independence and because they trusted us to keep our word to them. Then policy trotted off again with naïve insouciance in 1916, and made another written agreement with the French, already disclosed by those chasteners of diplomatic secretiveness, the Bolsheviks, and it is supposed, rightly or wrongly, that we promised certain similar things and places both to the Arabs and the French. Not having yet done enough for fame, policy took the Zionists to its thoughtless if palpitating bosom, and promised them Jerusalem, that happy home, where 10 per cent. of Jews are surrounded by 90 per cent. of other people, who would very gladly cut all their throats. Three million Arabs, besides, with at least a quarter of a million rifles, hate all comers into their land impartially, including the French, who entertain the pleasing illusion that everybody loves them as we do, and so policy has amassed in the Middle East all the elements of first-class chaos.

He says that the criticism of the French policy is quite comprehensible and justified, but that for the French to understand our position is difficult:—

How can the clear, logical French minds think it possible that we should promise things to them which we had already promised to the Arabs? How can they credit for an instant that our governmental political right hand has done what its left hand knew not? How can they be expected to understand that to honour our Zionist Bill means to bring trouble and disorder without end into Palestine? Cannot at least our quick-witted neighbours see the immense and, indeed, lawful humour of the last and greatest of the Crusades ending with a Jewish guard over the Holy Sepulchre? Can we place such a strain upon the credulity of the French as to assure them that we ask nothing better than to clear out of Syria and Palestine too, and to leave anyone else who likes the job to protect the Zionists from extinction, and to take on another twenty years of war with another Abdel Kader in Arabia? Nothing can make us take umbrage at French criticisms, because, on the apparent face of things, we have deserved them. We are certainly not going to say one word to resurrect the old Anglo-French colonial rivalry which brought our two countries twice to the verge of war in recent years and served no interests but those of Germany. If our honesty of purpose towards our neighbours has not been proved to the meanest mind in France by the events of the last few years, then it will not be proved if Christ rises again among the Yiddish guards. We do not envy Lyons and Marseilles any of their expected commercial profits in Syria. . . . So little do we want Syria and Palestine that we have given them already to everyone who wanted them, and have kept on giving them when they were already given.

Cairo and Cairo.

That there are two Cairos is common knowledge. In the *New Witness* of September 5, "B. M." describes the old and the modern cities with, apparently, the impatient vigour of youth. He says (and we are in sympathy, though not in vehement agreement, with him):—

A glance will tell you there are two cities here, not segregated and juxtaposed, but intermingled—the one preying on the other like a graft on a rose tree. One is of great charm, the other blatantly ugly like its life. The one has secrets that only the initiated may ever hope to know; the other flaunts itself to the world. For is not the one Arab and of the East Eastern, the City of the Faithful, while the other is odiously Levantine, the home of Greeks, Jews, and Armenians and Oriental French and bastard Italians? Its prosperity is an offence to the Mosques of Allah. Its ugly rococco architecture screams to heaven. It is the tourists' paradise. Here absurd people come to Cairo to winter. At those enormous stucco hotels their bills run into hundreds of piastres, while the guides at the distant Ghizeh pyramids thrive on their folly. At Baroque cafés, eupeptic or hypochondriac, they sip their aperitifs. And though they help to feed Cairo, they are not of Cairo, and the call to prayer from those three thousand minarets is not for such as them. While Cairo, the real Cairo, ever adaptable, smiles with Oriental charm, creating for them some specialities at a tourist price, some extraordinarily bad cigarettes and vast caravanserais like Shepheards. Around these strangers batten fat Levantines and multinational strumpets, while these birds of passage of society have only served to send up the cost of living, create a fictitious winter season, make honest Arabs rascals, and become themselves the prey of Levantine rogues and harpies. But away from the Continental, away from Shepheards, out of the Place Ezbekieh, far from Levantines fattened on olive oil, into the maze of the narrow little Arab streets full of dark corners and quaint turnings and strange smells and perpetual hubbub, let us go if we would seek the soul of Cairo, find the City of the Arabian Nights.

Bulgaria, Albania, and the Balkans.

In the *New Europe* of August 28, Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson examines, in an article called "Bulgaria Before the Conference," the whole Balkan problem. In the hopes of a lasting settlement, he seeks for a permanent principle on which to build:—

"The Balkans for the Balkan peoples" is the only basis upon which sound results can be obtained. The first step towards its realisation is that our three Balkan Allies should no longer be treated as mere suitors in a case which concerns them even more intimately and directly than the fate of Belgium concerns France and Britain, but should be duly represented on whatever body ultimately decides the fate of the peninsula, and, therefore, their own fate. It seems strange that public opinion should still need to be reminded that such a step, which is so consonant with the elements of justice and common sense, should none the less be the exact opposite of the method hitherto adopted in Paris by the autocrats who claim to represent democracy. It is not suggested for a moment that the Great Powers have not great and legitimate interests to defend, or that the Balkan States have yet learned the necessary lesson of "give and take"; but this, while entitling the former to lead and even control the negotiations, does not entitle them to restrict the latter to a merely consultative *rôle*.

But, Dr. Seton-Watson says, before any discussion between all the Balkan States is possible, a treaty of peace must be concluded with Bulgaria, and this treaty must be based upon loyalty and justice:—

Members of the Bulgarophile school are far too fond of arguing that there can be no settlement unless Bulgaria's territorial aspirations be satisfied at the expense of her neighbours. Those

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who hold other views will reply that conversely there can be no settlement if our Allies are forcibly deprived of territory which they regard as theirs for the benefit of an enemy who has twice treacherously attacked them in the back; that it is unthinkable that we should ever employ the force necessary to eject them; and that the war has swept away the treaties of 1912 and 1913 as effectually as those of Brest or of Frankfurt, but that, if we had to select one of these now obsolete documents for our adherence, there is at least as much to be said for that which favours our three friends as for that which it suits our common enemy to revive. Knowledge of the various agreements of 1878, 1912, 1913, and so on is essential to an understanding of Balkan politics, but it will not suffice to help us out of the present dilemma. The root-fact in the whole situation, too often obscured by mutually conflicting *ex parte* statements, is simply this: that no human ingenuity can establish the line of racial cleavage in Macedonia, still less devise a frontier such as the rival nations would ever accept as just. No matter what line of frontier is adopted by the Conference, there will be keen discontent and heartburnings in many quarters. The aim of all those who desire a permanent settlement must be to render territorial and frontier questions, so far as possible, of secondary importance.

He then examines the thorny Albanian question, and suggests renunciations both by Albania and her enemies. His conclusions are:—

When these modifications have been made it should prove possible to establish Albania as a virtually independent State, organised on a loose tribal and cantonal basis, with absolute equality of the three religions. It is assumed that Valona will be left in the possession of Italy, and that if such an institution as the pre-war Dutch gendarmerie or its successors should prove inadequate, and if an Albanian mandate is to be created, Italy is the only serious candidate, and could not be expected to accept the claims of any other State. But it must be obvious to all thoughtful Italians that the acquisition of Balkan territory by any of the Great Powers—or, indeed, by any alien State whatever—would be viewed with extreme aversion by all its neighbours, and would tend either to promote a coalition of forces against it or to maintain those conditions of unrest and intrigue from which Europe has so long suffered in the past. It will be one of the first tasks of the still non-existent League of Nations to find a common factor between the impotence of Albania, the interests of Italy, and the suspicions of the Balkan States.

Central Asia.

In the *Glasgow Herald* recently Miss Louise Peralta examined the possible effects of the disintegration of Russia and of Turkey. Though the potentialities of Mid-Asia are little known, she says, Germany at least recognises the value of the Caucasus.

It will be remembered that the railways of Caucasia and Western Turkestan were linked with the railway system of European Russia by two long single lines—that from Rostoff on the Don to Baku, and that from Orenburg to Tashkent. These railways were laid with a view to political and military eventualities, a secondary object being the opening up to the best advantage of the regions through which they ran. Tracts which no caravan route had connected were linked together, certainly, but many regions were separated which, by the medium of the kalifas, had been associated both by trade and by tradition. When Russia ceased to hold together, the Caucasus-Turkestan Railway system also broke down, for where it crossed the steppe the Orenburg-Tashkent Railway was at once cut by the Kirghiz, just as the Arabs cut Abdul Hamid's Hedjaz Railway. The mountain tribes of Daghestan likewise quickly made a thing of the past of that portion of the Rostoff-Baku line which skirts the Caspian shore. These trunk lines having been severed, the local railway systems of Caucasia and Transcaspia were left in the air. Turko-German expansionists have been making unwearied efforts to switch these latter lines on to their own trunk line in Anatolia. But before this project can be accomplished Turkey must have brought the Caucasus under military control. Tiflis, normally in railway communication with Bukhara by Baku and the Trans-Caspian line, is the crux of the situation. To capture Tiflis the expansionists will spare no cost.

The political consequences of a Tiflis achieved by the expansionists would be disastrous in the extreme. The world would find itself faced with a new Balkan problem in the Caucasus; with various new Armenias in the shape of Christian nationalities subjected to a dominant Muslim element; with independent Musalman Khanates in Mawara-en-Nahr harbouring hordes of restless fanatical reactionaries inspired from Bukhara and ever thirsting for the Jihad; with a so-called "settled" Persia constantly subjected to the pressure of the Othmanli Turk on the one side, and of the Chagatai Turk on the other. There are certain other very weak "links," which, however, may ultimately be strengthened: the Anglo-Musalman Khalifate, which at present relies upon eventualities; the establishment, on as yet insecure bases of an Arab Empire extending from Mekka to Damascus. The recent surprise of Amadia, in Central Kurdistan, by a British punitive expedition directs attention upon another weak part of the British Damascus-to-Tehran Kafila. Turkish intrigue is still very active throughout the whole of Irak, as various Kurd risings, at Suleimaniya and elsewhere, testify.

Kurdistan must remain peculiarly a danger zone, for Irak Arabi—where Ishmaels still live their hard-bitten lives—seems to have been chosen by Nature as the terrain of her interminable blind struggle to dissolve in other forms and forces.

PERSIA'S "CRYING NEEDS."

The following are extracts from an interesting paper on Persia, which was read by Lieut.-Colonel G. F. Napier before the British Association at Bournemouth on September 12. Further extracts, dealing with trade and transport in Persia, will be found on another page:—

"The crying needs of Persia at the present time are order and security in the provinces and cheap and efficient transport. In the past local governors have too often failed to see that they would gain far more by maintaining order and ensuring prosperity in their districts than by accepting bribes to wink at the depredations of robber chiefs. Owing to German intrigues, the Gendarmerie under Swedish officers never was a complete success, while the Persian cossacks, under Russian officers, in the north also never fully justified their creation. During the war Sir Percy Sykes raised a force, under British officers, known as the South Persian Rifles. This latter force, though struggling since its inception against untold difficulties, has performed much useful work, and should furnish a valuable nucleus for the uniform Persian Army which is now to be raised.

"This summer some 300 of the South Persian Rifles moved up from Shiraz to Ispahan at the request of Sardar-i-Jang, the Governor, and successfully co-operated with the latter's force of Bakhtiari against the powerful robber combine under Reza Khan and Jafa'ar Quli. The robbers were decisively beaten, and the leaders either killed or captured and subsequently executed. This baneful influence, which has for so long lain over Ispahan and stifled its trade and enterprise, is now a thing of the past, and its elimination, together with that of the Jangalis under Kuchik Khan, on the shores of the Caspian, should go far towards restoring tranquillity and giving confidence to traders."

CHESS.

Senor Capablanca paid a brief visit to London following the conclusion of the Hastings Tournament, and gave a simultaneous exhibition at the Gambit Café, where he met thirty-nine opponents and won all but one of the games. The opposition was not so strong as on the occasion of his two previous displays, but the performance was, all the same, most meritorious. Senor Capablanca is now in France, but will return next week, and if a sufficient number of clubs desire simultaneous exhibitions he will then undertake a short series of games.

Cambridge is suggested as the venue for next year's congress of the British Chess Federation.

By a printer's error the last move of black in the game between Senor Capablanca and Sir George Thomas was given as Kt x Kt instead of R—K. Fortunately the course of the play made the correct move obvious.

The following game was played in the Hastings Tournament between Mr. R. H. V. Scott and Mr. R. P. Michell, the former having the move:—1, P—Q4, P—Q4; 2, Kt—KB3, Kt—KB3; 3, P—B4, P—K3; 4, P—K3, P—B4; 5, QKt—Q2, Kt—B3; 6, P—QR3, BP x QP; 7, KP x P, P x P; 8, Kt x P, B—K2; 9, P—QKt4, 0 0 ;10, B—Q3, P—QKt3; 11, 0 0, B—Kt2; 12, B—Kt2, B—Q3; 13, KKt—K5, Kt—K2; 14, Q—K2, R—B; 15, P—B4, B—Kt; 16, R—B2, Kt K2)—Q4; 17, P—B5, P—QKt4; 18, Kt x P(1), R x Kt; 19, P x P, R—B; 20, Kt—K5, P—QR3; 21, QR—KB, Kt—B6; 22, Q—K3, B—R2; 23, Kt—Q7, Kt (B6)—Q4; 24, Q—R3, P—R3; 25, Q—B5, R—QB2; 26, Kt x R, Q x Kt; 27, Q—Kt6, B—B3; 28, K—R, B—K; 29, Q—Kt3, B—Kt; 30, Q—K5, R—B; 31, Q x Kt (Q4) and wins.

(1) Enterprise which succeeded.

In "Charousek's Games of Chess" (G. Bell and Sons, 7s. 6d. net) Mr. P. W. Sergeant has made a notable addition to English chess literature. Charousek, who was born in 1873 at Lometz, Bohemia, learnt to play chess in 1889, and a few years later stood in the front rank of the masters. In his all-too-brief career—he died in 1900, and his last tournament was in 1898—he showed rare genius, and it is well that there should be some permanent record of one who has been ranked with Morphy. Mr. Sergeant gives a collection of 146 games played by Charousek in tournaments, matches, and on other occasions, the interest of which is immensely increased by the admirable annotations. The book is one which should be in every chess-player's library.

INDIAN ADMINISTRATION

A Committee has been appointed by the Government of India to inquire into the organisation and procedure of the Civil Secretariats of that Government. The Committee, which is expected to begin its work in India towards the end of this month, will consist of Sir Hubert Llewellyn Smith, G.C.B., Joint Permanent Secretary to the Board of Trade (Chairman); Mr. W. M. Hailey, C.S.I., C.I.E., Indian Civil Service; Mr. R. J. Watson, Inspector of Judicial Offices, Bengal; Mr. R. L. B. Gall, of Calcutta. Mr. A. C. MacWatters, C.I.E., Indian Civil Service, will act as Secretary to the Committee. Mr. W. Carter, Principal Clerk, Board of Trade, accompanies the Chairman as Confidential Assistant. The terms of reference are as follows:—"(*a*) To examine the system under which business is allocated among departments and conducted in civil secretariats and attached offices; (*b*) to report in what respects the system can be made more efficient and expeditious; (*c*) to make detailed recommendations where changes are required; and (*d*) to examine, so far as may be necessary for the above, the system of recruitment and organisation of the office staff."

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The rise in Rupee exchange which was forecasted by our correspondent in last week's article took very little time to materialise, and the announcement which appeared in the Press on Tuesday morning that Indian exchange had been advanced to 2s. created no surprise. It has already been said that merchants were prepared for this move, and it now remains to be seen whether those with rupees to send home will take advantage of the rate, or whether the cut-throat competition for cover will compel importers to seek an even higher exchange from those exporters with homeward shipments to finance.

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In some quarters it was hoped that the rise to 2s. would be followed by an intimation from the Government that they would be prepared to release more gold, or that additional Council bills would be provided; but it is probable that the Government will elect to wait and see what effect the even money exchange may have upon remittances from India, because it has been predicted with some confidence that large amounts of money have been held back for the present level of exchange. Be that as it may, the situation is still surrounded with uncertainty.

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No indication has yet been given of the official attitude towards unrestricted imports of gold, and rumours are rife about recent purchases of silver by the India Government at the present inflated price which are not calculated to inspire confidence. It seems useless to make any attempt to dissipate the mists of official reticence, but until the India Government come out with a plain statement of their policy regarding the currency question, operations between this country and our great dependency will be hedged round with difficulties, which are causing an increasing feeling of uneasiness.

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One effect of these advances in the rupee must not be lost sight of, and that is the handicap placed on exports. In pre-war days, for every pound sterling the exporter received round about 15 rupees. At present he has to accept ten rupees, and it may be reasonably assumed that a goodly portion of the shrinkage must come off the price of Indian produce. The cultivator will thereby suffer, and may not unnaturally refuse to part with the fruits of his toil if prices are still further reduced. In that case the volume of exports will decrease, less shipping space will be required, and the whole trade of the country will be seriously affected. For it stands to reason that, if the cultivator cannot sell his produce, he will not have the wherewithal to buy piece goods.

The preliminary statement of India's overseas trade for the past financial year, issued by the Director of Statistics, provides a fresh reminder of the increasing hold which Japan is obtaining upon Indian markets. It is, of course, an old story now, but it calls for continual attention none the less. The Japanese now come second to the British in the list of countries exporting to India, with a percentage of 20 compared with our 46 per cent. They are thus, no doubt, a long way behind, but the tendency to creep up is unmistakable. Behind it lie primarily an infinite capacity for taking pains and the policy of shipping subsidies and rebates. The ground has been most carefully prepared for a number of years, for India has been investigated by the ubiquitous Japanese agent almost as systematically as China. Little or no exception can be taken to this practice, but the question of the support given to Japanese traders and manufacturers by their Government merits close scrutiny.

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As things are, Japan, it is stated, can buy cotton in India, take it to Japan, spin it, and deliver it in China at transport charges that are no heavier than those which the Bombay mills would pay for sending the finished product to China. Further, she can bring back to Bombay from Japan cloth woven from Indian cotton and compete for the local trade for it. All this is only possible on the strength of the special facilities afforded by Japan's commercial policy. One effect is to damage India's export trade, for the China market is gradually being lost to her. The remedy that is being pressed for in India is the securing of cheaper transport and the levy of an export duty on cotton consigned to non-British countries. In the ideal commonwealth care would be taken that shipping rates did not handicap manufacturers to an extent that brought within the bounds of possibility the crippling of an industry which feeds the shipping.

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The Government of India has introduced a Bill imposing an export duty of 15 per cent. on raw hides and skins, with a rebate of 10 per cent. on those that are to be tanned within the Empire. This measure, it will be remembered, has for some time been advocated by the United Tanners' Federation of Great Britain and Ireland, which has declared its ability to handle increasing quantities of kips up to four millions in the third year after the conclusion of the war. Primarily the tax is intended to meet the situation existing in India at the outbreak of the war, when the trade was almost exclusively in Austro-German hands and three-fourths of the hides and skins were shipped to foreign countries. At the same time it is intended to help the tanneries which have sprung up in India during the last few years, and which will now be for the most part without the large Government orders that so materially assisted them in their early days. Incidentally it may be mentioned that an *ad valorem* duty is preferable to a tax, which was at one time contemplated, based on the weight of the hides exported to countries outside the British Empire. The effect of such a tax would have been to have sent the lightest and best hides to the countries with which we have lately been at war.

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Next week will witness the departure from Cardiff of a notable shipload. The Theseus is due to sail for Fiume with from six hundred to seven hundred head of cattle and several thousands of poultry—the largest consignment of live stock for breeding purposes that has so far been sent from this country to Serbia. The animals are a gift from British farmers to Serbian farmers; they have been collected by the Royal Agricultural Society's Agricultural Relief of Allies Committee, and their transport has been facilitated by the British Government. As an indication of the thoroughness with which the scheme has been planned and carried out, it may be mentioned that the Theseus also carries coal for the train journey from Fiume to Serbia, to say nothing of some three hundred tons of provender for the chief "passengers." A very practical token of British esteem for our Serbian Allies, which goes under the auspices of a single organisation, but is accompanied by the greetings and good wishes of the whole nation.

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In the letter published in this issue from our Constantinople Correspondent

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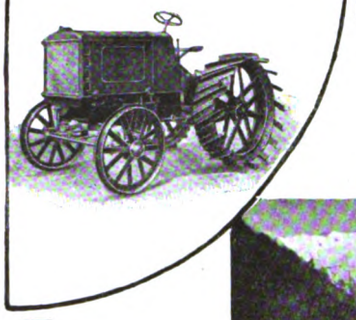

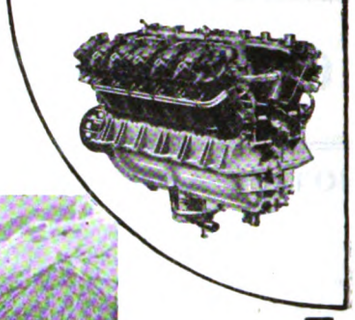

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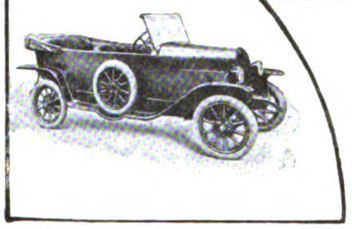

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reference is made to a "big British firm" which quotes as its terms, "Goods despatched only when net cash credit is opened in England for full amount of the order." No objection will be raised to a firm making such terms its rule of business, but a strong point can be made against a firm attempting to do business on such lines in the Balkans at the present moment. It is apt to cause the potential purchaser to blaspheme and to transfer his order to another country. A firm which is not prepared to do business on more generous terms had much better not turn its attention overseas at all, certainly not to the countries now suffering from a depreciated currency. On the other hand, if it is recognised that sooner or later the home market demands will be slowing down and that it will be necessary to have an overseas connection, then some readiness must be displayed to adapt terms to the exigencies of the situation.

***

In a country where exchange is practically four times its pre-war figure and fluctuating daily, it is useless to expect any large orders when goods have to be paid for in advance. The more so as the goods may take months to reach their destination. If care is taken in the selection of an agent and normal precautions are observed, there need be no risk attaching to any transaction. In most cases full cover will be deposited in a local bank; but the purchaser not unreasonably objects to buying pounds sterling at, say, 400 piastres to pay for goods which will reach him when the rate of exchange has fallen 10 per cent. or more. On the other hand, he will show little hesitation on account of the exchange in paying for goods delivered. Hence the advantage of goods on consignment—again to, and in consultation with, a reliable agent—if a large turn-over is sought.

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The state of the drachma exchange is attracting attention in France, where it now stands at a premium of between 40 and 45 per cent. in relation to the franc. It seems to be felt that, in spite of the fall of the French franc in regard to the English pound and American dollar, certain conditions existing in regard to Greece should have a steadying effect on the relations between the franc and the drachma. For instance, France advanced money to the Greek Government during the war, and the French military authorities have been selling large quantities of war stores accumulated at Salonika. An attempt is being made to prove unfair manipulation, into which there is no need to enter here. It is a fact that a general impression obtained long ago in business circles in Athens that there was something artificial in the movement of Greek exchange, but I have not heard of anyone who had any definite statement to make on the subject.

***

The necessity of increasing the supply of capital in India was emphasised by Mr. E. H. Ashworth, I.C.S., in his speech at the opening of the Lucknow branch of the Tata Industrial Bank, Limited. Capital, he pointed out, was the life-blood of industrial enterprise, and the industrial system in India was sluggish because the arteries that circulated this life-blood were choked. A new industry, sponsored by an established firm of repute, might find no difficulty in attracting capital, but for the industrial regeneration of India it was necessary, he stated, that small industries should be started by obscure persons.

COMMENTATOR.

Constantinople Business Letter

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 29.

Our Commercial Competitors.

In a previous letter I laid stress upon the severity of the coming struggle for the capture of the Near Eastern market, and events have fully justified the warning. The Americans and the French are leaving no stone unturned in their efforts to establish themselves in the Near East. An American company, which evidently has plenty of money behind it, is doing big business, and a French Levant Company has just been formed with active assistance of Schneider and other big French capitalists.

In both cases the methods are similar. The market is first carefully studied by men sent out specially for the purpose, men who are specially fitted for that particular job, not men who are pitchforked into it for some other reason. The Americans and the French are employing experts. Once the situation has been thoroughly grasped and the needs of the market ascertained, large quantities of goods are sent here ON CONSIGNMENT. The policy is paying hand over fist.

Over Caution.

In contrast with the above tactics there are still many British firms who have not yet realised apparently that they are losing an unequalled opportunity by sticking to early Victorian methods of business. For instance, there is the case of a certain big British firm which quotes the following terms:—F.O.B. Hull, nett cash against documents; goods despatched only when nett cash credit is opened in England for full amount of the order—and the agent is offered 1 per cent. commission. These terms are explained as being due "to existing conditions."

Whatever the existing conditions may be there is no reason why British merchants should not be satisfied with cash against documents here in Constantinople and a 20 per cent. deposit with the order. What risk is there in such conditions?

Even if the exchange were not fluctuating, the nett cash in advance system would be a severe drawback; but under the "existing conditions" the buyer here is taking a heavy risk in paying in advance for goods which may not be delivered for two or three months or more. The £ sterling to-day is 370 piastres, whereas two months ago it was nearly 400 piastres, which would mean a loss of 7½ per cent. on the exchange alone, if payments in advance had been made in June for goods to be delivered this month. Is it likely that any man of business is going to give orders on such terms?

Unless our manufacturers really make up their minds to take the Near Eastern market seriously, within two years the Germans will most certainly be back in their old position here. The rate of exchange is very much in their favour, and the Italians are acting as their carriers, so that they have already begun to do business here, in spite of heavy handicaps. Those handicaps must be removed sooner or later in the natural course of things, and if that is all we have in our favour we shall once again lag behind.

Motor Bicycles.

During the war the roads around Constantinople were very much improved, and it is now possible to get about a considerable part of the country in comfort. Good roads create a demand for cars and motor bicycles, and although no doubt when the Army sells out there will be a good many second-hand machines on the market, yet there will surely be a demand for new ones. British motors and motor-cycles have an excellent reputation out here. During the war I met a Turkish transport officer who told me that he had twenty lorries in his section, and of the lot there were only two that he could constantly rely upon. These were a couple of ancient 'buses that had roughed it, and had racketed over the cruel roads of Constantinople for years before the war, and had been requisitioned for the Turkish army. They were made by a certain very famous British firm, and were never laid up except for trifling matters, although they were worked twice as hard as the German and Austrian lorries, which were brand new.

There have been many similar instances brought to my notice, and I am sure that certain types of British cars will sell out here very readily. Of course, the Fords or "Tin Lizzies" at present hold the market for cheapness, and the ultra-luxurious cars would not do out here, because, although there has been a big improvement in the roads, in comparison with English or French roads there is still much to be desired both as to quality and quantity.

Motor cycles, however, are increasingly popular, especially as the present means of communication with the surrounding districts by tram and steamboat are most inadequate. I am told that a light 2½ horse-power cycle is best suited to this country, as the roads are not good enough for a heavier machine.

The General Situation.

Business has been very quiet for the last few weeks, but the progress made by the Volunteer Army in opening up South Russia is reviving hopes of some improvement in the near future. All the same, things will not be straightened out until the country has settled down and the Anatolian farmers can get back to regular work.

The rate of exchange is still the chief hindrance to trade, and, so far as can be seen, the only thing that is likely to bring it down is exportation. Agricultural produce being the principal export of the country, there can be no improvement in the situation until Anatolia is at peace again.

BELGRADE NOTES.

BELGRADE, September 9.

Great interest is naturally provoked in Belgrade by Mr. Lloyd George's announcement that the British Government has earmarked twenty-six million pounds as a guarantee fund for the encouragement of trade with the three new Slavonic states, Yugoslavia, Czecho-Slovakia and Poland, and now they look forward to a real beginning of business relations on a large scale. There is no doubt that British enterprise and determination will overcome the undoubted difficulties, and take full advantage of this occasion to make good headway in new markets, but the first thing to do is to make up their own mind whether they seriously intend to or not. If they do, most British houses must mend their methods, and learn to send out goods on consignment, to make use of the metric system, and to quote prices delivered at Fiume or Salonika as the case may be. It is sheer waste of time offering Serbs prices f.o.b. at an English port, and quoting with British weights and measures is mere laziness, though, of course, until the exchange assumes some steadiness, the use of English currency is unavoidable.

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Our Malta Correspondent writes, September 1:—Mr. Henry Twelves has been elected a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

A telegram from Burma reports that the total production of crude oil by the British Burma Petroleum Company and the Rangoon Oil Company amounted to 84,782 barrels for the month of August.

The traffic returns of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the period ended August 20 amounted to £E10,219, making the total for the year £E89,070. The corresponding figures for 1918 were £E10,337 and £E113,208.

Mr. Theophilus Henry Beavan Long, of 11, George Row, Northampton, senior representative in India of Burroughs, Wellcome and Company, who died on March 25 last at Agra, left estate valued at £1,356 gross, with net personalty £1,146.

Mr. Robert Stewart Menzies, of 59, London Lane, Bromley, Kent, formerly of 13, Fenchurch Avenue, E.C., of Messrs. Bullock Brothers and Company, Ltd., Burma and London, who died on July 19 last, aged 51 years, left estate valued at £12,811 gross, with net personalty £12,512.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, for the week ending September 11 were:—Cattle markets, £188; general markets, £274; total, £462 (Bairam holidays). Total to date £39,686. Figures for the corresponding week in 1918 ending September 12 were:—Cattle markets, £545; general markets, £493; total, £1,038. Total to date, £36,318.

Anglo-Baltic and Mediterranean Bank.—In connection with the formation of the Anglo-Baltic and Mediterranean Bank (Limited) it is announced that Bergens Handelsbank, Bergen, Nordisk Bankinstitut A/S, and Skogeirbanken A/S, Christiania, are taking a financial interest in that institution, and that Mr. Henrik Ameln, chairman of Bergens Handelsbank, has accepted nomination as a local director. It is understood that the Anglo-Baltic and Mediterranean Bank (Limited) will act as London agents of the above-named banks.

A British Trade Mission has been despatched to Roumania in order to study the possibility of further trade between Great Britain and that country. The head of the mission, Reuter's Agency states, is the Hon. W. H. Cozens-Hardy, who left earlier for Roumania. The mission includes legal and financial advisers as well as manufacturers. Before its departure the members were entertained to luncheon by Colonel Walton, a member of the British Military Mission in Roumania, among the guests being the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended August 23 were £5,252.

The Council of Administration have elected Lord St. Davids as a director of the company, in the place of Lord Rathmore, deceased, and to act as President of the Council.

Numbers are announced of Four-and-a-Half per cent. Bonds of the Piraeus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway, drawn for repayment at par on October 15, at R. Raphael and Sons, Austin Friars House, E.C.2.

Sir Boverton Redwood, Bart., the well-known petroleum expert, of 4, Bishopsgate, E.C., and the Cloisters, 18, Avenue Road, Hampstead, who died on June 4, left estate of the value of £165,013.

Owing to extensive developments taking place in Whitehead, Morris and Co., Ltd., of 9, Fenchurch Street, E.C., Westminster and Egypt, a new company has been registered under the title of Whitehead, Morris, Ltd. The directors and staff remain unchanged.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company, Ltd., for the week ended August 9, amounted to Rs. 7,62,224; total from April 1, Rs. 1,33,36,425. The figures for the corresponding periods last year were Rs. 7,26,867 and Rs. 1,33,36,425.

The *Algemeen Handelsblad* learns that, contrary to previous reports, Roumania is now in a position to export 600,000 tons of wheat at the comparatively high figure of 1,000 francs per ton. Traffic is held up owing to the utter absence of transport organisation, which is also affecting the petrol industries. Official papers point out that over 300,000 tons of oil are being held up at the ports.

Part of the loan of 6,000,000 drachmae to be floated by the municipality of Athens is to be expended in providing for the transportation of sea water for use in street watering. Pumps, piping, and machinery for this project have already been ordered from the Continent. The water will be pumped from a station to be erected at Phaleron, near Syngros Avenue, and will be stored in a reservoir on the summit of the Hill of Philopappos. Eight months, it is reported by the American Consul, are judged to be necessary for this construction work. The remainder of the fund raised by this loan will be spent in repairing the walls of the city cemetery and in completing certain waterworks extensions and city paving. The paving will be of a substance similar to the bitulithic paving employed in America; machinery for its laying has been already ordered in England.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT £3½% GUARANTEED BONDS.

The COUPONS falling due on the 1st October, 1919, on these Bonds should be PRESENTED for PAYMENT between the hours of 10 and 2.30 (Saturdays 10-12), at the Bank of England Dividend Pay Office, Lombard Street, E.C.3, where lists may be obtained. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

DISTRESS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agriculture Department, dated September 12:—

Prospects of crops good or satisfactory, but damage by excessive rain and floods again reported in parts of Bihar and Orissa, United Provinces, Central India, and Bombay. Much needed break has set in in Central Provinces. Light rain has fallen in Deccan, where it was much needed. Relief works in Poona District and relief in Panch Mahals, Kaira, and Rewa Kantha Districts of Bombay Presidency have been closed.

Numbers relieved:—Bengal: relief works, 8,923; test works, 32; gratuitous relief, 14,724. Bihar and Orissa: relief works, 2,571; test works, 3,307; gratuitous relief, 58,603. Feudatory States of Orissa: test works, 5,997; gratuitous relief, 29,517. United Provinces: test works, 166; gratuitous relief, 4,963. Ajmer-Merwara: gratuitous relief, 169. Central India: relief works, 5,500; gratuitous relief, 4,400. Central Provinces: relief works, 10,752; test works, 5,454; gratuitous relief, 28,676. Bombay: relief works, 11,641; dependants, 5,889; village works, 1,121; gratuitous relief, 37,167. Hyderabad report not received. Madras: relief works, 49,640; test works, 188; gratuitous relief (incomplete figures), 93,608.

Foodstuffs' position improving, except in Bengal. Demands for Burma rice practically ceased, except in south of the Peninsula and Bengal. Prices in Bengal have risen rapidly, and large supplies of Burma rice are being imported. Elsewhere prices show a tendency to fall.

FRENCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN BUCHAREST.

According to the *Exportateur Français* the new French Chamber of Commerce in Bucharest will be a comprehensive affair. There is a large economic library, a special hall for catalogues and samples, numerous writing-rooms and others designed for interviews between Roumanian merchants and French representatives. Part of the duties of the Chamber will be the erection of sample bureaus in all the principal Roumanian commercial centres; it aims, too, at the suppression of the flooding of the market with cheap Austrian and German goods.

Suez Canal Receipts.—The receipts from the 4th inst. to the 9th inst., inclusive, amounted to 2,910,000fr., compared with 1,290,000fr. for the same days last year.

A Proclamation appears in the *Journal Officiel* of Egypt of August 25, 1919, signed by Field-Marshal Allenby, the General Officer Commanding H.M. Forces in Egypt, followed by a notice under the proclamation signed by Mr. Clive Preen, F.C.A., Deputy-Controller of Enemy Property in Egypt and the Sudan, and War Trade and Licensing Officer, permitting free and unrestricted Egyptian trade (with minor formalities) with Germany, Hungary, and German Austria. Mr. Clive Preen, F.C.A., a member of the firm of Messrs. Harvey, Preen and Co., was sent to Egypt after serving in the war (1914 to 1916) to assist in the financial department of the Government.

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Persian Trade and Transport.

Lecturing on Persia, at a meeting of the British Association at Bournemouth, on September 12, Colonel G. F. Napier said that in addition to strategic and political reasons, there were commercial reasons that we should desire Persia to be prosperous and independent. Persia, even in her present undeveloped state, could absorb a considerable amount of British and Indian cotton and other goods, which she could pay for with her exports of carpets, wool, hides, seeds, nuts, etc. In the past she also took from her northern neighbour considerable quantities of crockery, glass, cheap lamps, matches, sugar, etc., all of which we could equally well supply.

The following are extracts from Colonel Napier's paper:—

The commandeering of transport animals during the war, combined with a succession of bad harvests, has caused a very grave shortage of transport in Persia. The consequent heavy cost to transport is bound to delay the active resumption of import and export trade which the friends of Persia would like to see. Under paragraph 5 of the New Agreement we undertake to co-operate with the Persian Government in railway construction and other forms of transport, and it is to be hoped that immediate steps will be taken to ameliorate transport difficulties.

At the present time two railways have actually reached the Persian frontier: that from Quetta via Nushki to Duzdab in the east, and that from Baghdad to the foot of the Zagros range on the west. In addition a small military railway of about 52 miles in length has been constructed from Bushire to Borazjun on the road to Shiraz. This line was built to facilitate the operations against the disaffected elements in the mountainous region between Shiraz and the coast. I hear that since order has been restored the line already shows signs of paying its way.

In addition a practicable motor route, which avoids the terrible Kotal-i-Dukhtar and Pir-i-Zan passes, has been discovered, and already a motor lorry has driven from Shiraz to Bushire. This route avoids the Pir-i-Zan and Kotal-i-Dukhtar by passing to the north of them. Eventually the Baghdad-Khanikin and Nushki-Duzdab railways will be continued into Persia, but for some years to come it is doubtful whether railways will pay commercially in Persia, owing to the number of passes which have to be negotiated in every direction.

The immediate requirement of Persia is fleets of motor lorries operating on existing roads. The motor-car is the true pioneer to the railway, and owing to the proximity of the Persian and Baku oilfields cheap petrol will be available in unlimited quantities, and, given cheap and rapid transport, the trade and resources of Persia will increase by leaps and bounds. The first motor-route which should be developed is that from Khanikin on the western frontier, at railhead from Baghdad via Kermanshah, Hamadan and Kazvin to Teheran.

Sir Percy Sykes realised the paramount importance of improving the roads in Southern Persia, and owing to his initiative active work was in progress to improve the important system of roads radiating from Bandar Abbas to the north-east and north-west. Work, however, slackened as a result of the armistice, and the Tang-i-Zagh section, where the road rises from the coast to the Persian Plateau, still requires two or three months' work on it. With this exception, however, the roads between Bandar Abbas and Kerman and Bandar Abbas and Shiraz, from Kerman via Yzed to Ispahan, and from Shiraz via Ispahan, Kashan and Kum to Teheran are all available for motor traffic. The necessary road maintenance and repair could be defrayed by a system of tolls, as is now done on the so-called Lynch road from Teheran to Ispahan.

The Baghdad-Khanikin line, constructed as a military railway, should serve a very useful purpose in developing the country and stimulating trade from England and India. As it runs over the delta with practically a level gradient all the way, its operating expenses would not be high, and now that its military necessity has disappeared it is to be hoped that the Government will sell or leave it to a private company who will build the necessary stations and sidings and supply the rolling stock required to make it a real asset to the country.

As, from Bandar Abbas, the Persian Plateau has to be reached by climbing the Tang-i-Zagh, so from Khanikin the Plateau is reached by ascending the Zagros range by the Tak-i-Girreh. It is a stiff climb, but the worst gradients have been improved, and it is practicable for light motor lorries.

In Persia the rivers generally run in spot for two or three months and are drybeds for the remaining nine or ten months in the year.

Near Karej, about thirty miles west of Teheran, it would be possible to construct a barrage which would supply sufficient water to irrigate the whole of this plain, and as the soil is good, the whole plain from Teheran to Kazvin might be turned into a waving cornfield at an expenditure which has been estimated at a quarter of a million. A small beginning in this direction has been made by Vali Khan, the Sepahsalar-i-Azam near Kazvin. He is the big landowner of those parts and has constructed a dam which it was estimated would supply 70 new villages with water besides securing Kazvin against famine.

The returns of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended September 4 were:—Cattle Markets, £352; General Markets, £469; Total for Week, £821; Total for Year, £39,224. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918 were:—Cattle Markets, £530; General Markets, £507; Total, £1,037; Total for Year, £35,280.

BUSINESS AGENTS IN THE BALKANS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, September 6.

English manufacturers are not all proceeding on the right lines in developing British trade in the Balkans.

A representative of a well-known manufacturer of agricultural implements, who before the war did a big business out here through a German agency, recently visited Belgrade to appoint a new agent. It is true that he did not apply for a German, but he appears to have made no effort to find a British representative or even a Serbian one—and there are Serbs here trained in America and England who would make good agents, to say nothing of Englishmen. The gentleman in question, however, appears to have gone straight to the representative of a neutral country.

It is to be hoped that not many houses will follow this policy, especially when there are Englishmen ready and qualified for the work. No little indignation is felt in the English colony here at the incident.

CYPRUS CROPS.

(From Our Correspondent.)

In spite of the discouraging reports on Cyprus tobacco received from London, hopes have been revived in some localities. The Brothers Hadjisangarides, of Agia Phyla, a village three miles from Limassol, who have been enterprising growers, have sent a quantity of their crop of 3,500 okes (9,800 lbs.) to England, where 3s. 6d. a pound is offered—i.e., 10s. the oke. Not more than 5s. is offered by manufacturers in Cyprus. Expenses, however, are so great that this price is hardly likely to afford sufficient profit. The growers are nevertheless quite sanguine regarding the outlook, and a great deal more should be done before there should be any thought of abandonment in this new field of enterprise.

New Carobs are being sold at 28s. the Aleppo kantar (180 okes, or 540 lbs.).

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

TANNING INDUSTRY.

Reuter's Simla correspondent, in a delayed message dated September 11, writes:—Sir George Stapylton Barnes has introduced a Bill in the Viceroy's Council imposing an export duty of 15 per cent. on hides and skins, with a rebate of 10 per cent. on those exported to other parts of the Empire and tanned there. The object of the Bill is to keep the promising Indian tanning industry on its feet. The Bill is interesting as the first application of the principle of Imperial preference. The measure received a warm welcome from the representatives of the Bombay and Calcutta Chambers of Commerce and from several Indians.

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Engineering Notes.

Self-Acting Pumps.

Villages or country houses in the Near East are, as a rule, situated on a high level The top of a hill, the slope of a mountain, a rising ground in a plain are the spots selected for building; yet little thought is paid to the water supply. That has to be brought in pitchers or buckets from some distant low-lying stream by water-carriers or the village women—as is often depicted in Oriental landscape. But while this occupation forms part of the villagers' life, they have an unceasing wish that the water was nearer home; and by the application of a hydraulic ram pump their wish could be fulfilled. The water could be brought up to their village, or to the level desired without much trouble, and very cheaply. By means of this simple automatic appliance water can be pumped from low-lying streams where is either a natural or easily arranged fall of a few feet to comparatively long distances without any cost beyond the initial outlay and the cost of repairs, if any become necessary. The hydraulic ram once fixed does not require any attention. It works day and night, and as long as water runs through it. It is a self-acting pump by which water for home use, for cattle, and in dry weather for the ground, can be easily obtained. It is surprising that engineers in the Near East have not introduced this very simple and inexpensive contrivance for the water supply of numerous villages, country-houses, farms, gardens, factories, etc., which suffer from scarcity of water, especially during the dry season, while the water is not far off, but happens to be on a low level.

American Competition.

The systematic energy which American manufacturers have shown since the cessation of hostilities, and the possible effect that this competition may have on British trade, are questions which are occupying the attention of British industrial circles, with, perhaps, a certain amount of uneasiness. This competitive energy, however, was not quite unexpected. From the beginning of the war attention was drawn to American activities by a section of the Press, in particular frequent reference has been made in these columns to the well organised campaign that the United States had inaugurated in the Near East. In the markets of South-Eastern Europe both Americans and Italians are exploiting the existing shortage of almost every thing, by offering cheap goods in order to secure a footing there. Their goods, however, as a rule are only taken *fqute de mieux*. As in the case of engines and machinery, other articles, such as hardware, cutlery, firearms, tools and implements are wanted "real good English"—a common expression in the East—but in the absence of English sellers, or the means of finding them, buyers are often reluctantly compelled to have recourse to what others offer them.

With regard to machinery, hardware, etc., it is said that British manufacturers think that, owing to the coal and labour troubles, cost of materials, etc., it will be difficult to compete with the American manufacturers. But, according to recent reports, American manufacturers appear to be having precisely the same experiences as British manufacturers in the matter of labour and kindred problems. "Some United States manufacturers," says a good authority, "have 'got the wind up' far more than the steady-going Britisher; for according to certain American papers, prices of materials, labour, cost of living, and similar factors show the same tendency as in England." At any rate, a careful study of the situation on the other side indicates broadly that whatever may be the difficulties which British manufacturers have to face, there is reason to believe that the war has not left us with any particular trade handicap which the United States have not to contest also. As a matter of fact, they have recently been at special pains to acquaint themselves with processes and methods of production in which it was thought they were already far ahead. Therefore, in the circumstances, British manufacturers can easily put out of action their American competitors in the markets of the Near and Middle East. But the former must above all come in close contact with the buyers.

Polish Mercantile Marine.

Considerable attention has recently been directed in the Polish Press to shipping matters, and, apparently, an active propaganda is being carried on in favour of Polish shipping. At the beginning of 1918 a Polish Shipping Co., Ltd., was floated in Cracow, and a branch of this company has recently been formed in Warsaw. The company, it is said, is not only to be a propaganda association, but also to carry on industrial undertakings. Each member of the company has to subscribe at least 100 mks. The company is to agitate for the development of the Polish waterways, especially the Vistula, and to promote the creation of a Polish mercantile marine. So far as is known, the company has not started yet any industrial undertakings, owing, it is said, to the lack of capital, but it is closely connected with a Polish import and export company, recently formed in Copenhagen, which intends to buy or hire cargo-space for Poles; but, as the capital is only 50,000 kr., its activities are limited. There is no reason, however, why Poland should not possess a mercantile marine of its own, and recently the Polish Technical Association in Warsaw has started a department for shipping employees formerly in the Vistula fleet of the Russian Navy.

An Anglo-Italian Company.

A new Anglo-Italian metallurgical company has been formed, under the title of La Societa Anonima di Metallurgia e Mechanica Armstrong-Ilva. The parties are the Armstrong Puzzuoli Company and the Ilva concerns, and the capital of 30,000,000 lire (or francs) is being subscribed. The company's office will be in Rome, and its manufacturing activities in the region of Puzzuoli.

British Enterprise in Serbia.

Just when British firms were beginning to take an active interest in Serbian enterprises, and concessions were being granted, the war broke out, and, of course, things changed. One or two of these undertakings may be recalled. There was an agreement between a London firm of contractors and the Serbian Government for the tracing and planning of the Prilep-Shtip-Kotchane railway line, a distance of about 140 kilometres, for which the company would be paid at the rate of 700 francs per kilometre, and would obtain the contract for the entire construction of the line, providing the company's estimate for the construction was approved of. At the same time another enterprising London firm went to Belgrade with the object of submitting to the Serbian Government a project for irrigating valuable tracts of land, while another British group of financiers sent a well-known Serbian of high position to make important financial proposals to the Serbian Government on behalf of the group. All these came to a sudden stop by the declaration of war.

An Iron Industry.

Another important enterprise was the proposed erection of an iron foundry at Belgrade, for which the necessary Government permission was being obtained when the war began. This latter enterprise had great prospects, for, as is known, iron ore has been found in abundance in Serbia, but the difficulty hitherto has been the question of conveyance. Now, however, with the reconstruction of railways, which will traverse Serbia in all directions, this enterprise will benefit not only the iron industry, but will tend greatly to increase the working of antimony and copper mines which were, before the war, in a comparatively flourishing state.

The question now arises: will these concessions, or agreements, or preliminary arrangements in the hands of the British firms be of any value in the forthcoming development of Serbian enterprises?

A Baghdad correspondent telegraphs to *The Times*:—It is understood that owing to the lack of commercial prospects sufficient to justify the great expense, it has been found necessary to postpone the inauguration of the Cairo-Karachi air-mail service. A survey party recently crossed the desert from Damascus in cars to Abu Kemal, on the Euphrates, and thence to Baghdad, and marked landing grounds at intervals of twenty miles in the desert.

MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, September 1.

Local Enterprise.

For a considerable time past there has been a great outcry against the exorbitant price of fish which has been demanded from the public. Prices have more than trebled, and it has not been an unfounded statement that it is the middlemen who have been profiteering to a great extent. Hence it comes as good news that a local fishing company has been floated, with a capital of £14,000. The directors are men of the keenest business acumen, and the general public should reap the benefit of the venture. What makes it all the more gratifying is that it marks a beginning of the utilisation of local capital for local enterprise. Naturally, the company has received its baptism of criticism—probably from the middlemen.

Difficulties.

Potato growers are in a quandary, as the exportation of seed potatoes from the United Kingdom is still restricted, but every effort is being made by the local Government to obtain export licences for about 2,000 tons of seed required for the spring crop of 1920.

Sugar troubles have not ceased with the signing of peace. The Control Board very wisely keep a reserve stock of 200 tons, and this, owing to the delay in the stock of sugar coming from England, has only just escaped being drawn upon during the past week. There was a general shortage, but in the nick of time 244 tons arrived, which cargo, of course, is put out to traders on definite terms.

Shipping.

The past week has been brisk. The latest news on this subject is as follows:—

Arrivals.

Norwegian s.s. Hermes, from Marseilles, with general cargo.

British s.s. Ashwin, from Port Said, with general cargo.

British s.s. Eden Hall, from Smyrna, with general cargo.

Italian s.s. Libia, from Sfax, with a cargo of phosphate.

British s.s. City of Oxford, from Liverpool, with general cargo.

British s.s. Swainby, from Naples, with ballast.

P. and O. Caledonian, troops and general cargo.

OIL-WORKERS' PAY IN ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 4.

The minimum wages to which the oilfield and refinery workers are entitled in accordance with the recent settlement of their dispute range from 4 to 23 lei per day in the case of the former, and from 8 to 28 lei per day in the case of the latter. Overtime is to be paid for at the rate of 50 per cent. above ordinary rates, and work during holidays at the rate of 100 per cent. above the normal wage.

The Very Rev. W. R. Inge, D.D. writes:—"My friends say your 'De Reszke' Cigarettes are excellent."

Arthur Wimperis, Esq. writes:—"I am still smoking your 'De Reszke' Cigarettes with great enjoyment. My working day is now divided between Darewski and 'De Reszke.'"

A. E. Matthews, Esq. writes:—"Without doubt the 'De Reszke' American is the one cigarette worth trying to get to-day."

Miss Perceval Allen writes:—"I have pleasure in telling you how much I appreciate the really delicious 'De Reszke' Cigarettes. They surely are the nicest cigarettes!"

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Manchester, Wednesday.

The market this week has presented a rather more cheerful appearance. Trade has not developed on free lines, but the outlook is certainly brighter. There is now less anticipation of lower values. Favourable reports continue to be received relating to the prospects for the Egyptian crop. The plants are late but the weather conditions remain satisfactory. Futures in Liverpool have been rather irregular. In yarns made from Egyptian cotton no particular change can be recorded either as regards prices or demand. Most users are well bought, and can afford to wait. Activity in piece goods for Egypt has not been very prominent, but for several Near Eastern outlets a considerable inquiry has been met with. Steady buying has occurred for Constantinople, and more trade has recently come round for Salonika. Goods that can be delivered quickly command a ready sale. Shippers to India have again shown interest in prices, and rather more trade has been done in grey shirtings and light bleaching cloths. A few more lines have also been booked for China, and the minor markets of the Far East in standard makes and fancies. Manufacturers as a body are looking forward to securing more contracts. American yarns have been steadier in quotation with a slightly improved offtake, but transactions of weight have not been numerous. In export yarns an encouraging demand continues to be met with for the Levant. Dyed qualities have also moved off fairly well for India.

OPIUM REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows under date September 5:—

We confirm our respects of the 14th ulto., since when our opium market has been kept busy with purchases for the Continent and the States. In all some 135 cases have changed hands at 8s. 6d. to 12s. for low-grade, and 13s. to 17s. for 11 per cent. to 11½ per cent. Our exchange for sterling and dollars has kept on the whole steady, and to-day it is Ps. 365 for bank cheque and Ps. 362 for first-class sight drafts per £ sterling on private firms. The dollar being in better demand, its exchange is slightly better.

A CHANGE OF NAME.

The change of name of the British Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, Ltd., to that of Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Company, Ltd., follows as a result of amalgamation with the extensive Vickers interests and the Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon and Finance Co., Ltd. From its inception in 1899 until 1917 the British Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., was controlled by American shareholders, but in the latter year the American holding was taken over by the Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon and Finance Co., Ltd., and later amalgamation with the Vickers interests became effected. The company, therefore, becomes entirely British. The change of name, it is announced, will not affect the general policy of the company, except that a broader field for advancement will be opened up. The Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., will carry on just the same, but ultimately and inevitably will proceed to greater development.

NEW COMPANIES.

Balkan Cigarette Company, Ltd.

With the above title a private company was registered on September 8, with a capital of £50,000 in £1 shares. The object is to carry on the business of merchants, tobacco and cigarette manufacturers and dealers, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—T. S. Lyons, 10, Drapers' Gardens, E.C., cigarette manufacturer; W. J. Lyons, 10 Drapers' Gardens, E.C., company director. The permanent directors are:—T. S. Lyons and W. J. Lyons. Qualification: £100. Solicitor: F. Budd, Devonshire Chambers, 146, Bishopsgate, E.C. The registered office of the company is at 10, Drapers' Gardens, E.C.

G. and A. Baker, Limited.

A private company with the above title was registered on September 10, with a capital of £300,000 in £1 shares, to enter into (1) a sale agreement with A. and A. W. Baker; (2) a pooling agreement with Edwards and Sons (Near East), Limited; and (3) a share subscription agreement between F. and A. Swanzy, Limited, this company, Edwards and Sons (Near East), Limited, A. Baker, C.B.E., Captain A. W. Baker, W. G. M. Edwards, and Lieut.-Col. C. E. Binns, and to take over the business of general merchants and universal providers formerly carried on by A. and A. W. Baker as G. and A. Baker at Constantinople and elsewhere. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—W. S. Crocker, Cedar Grange, Caterham Valley, Surrey, company secretary; F. H. Swanzy, 35, Launceston Place, W.8, director. The first directors are:—A. Baker, C.B.E., Capt. A. W. Baker, M.C., W. G. M. Edwards, Lieut.-Col. C. E. Binns, R.M., O.B.E., and five to be nominated by F. and A. Swanzy, Limited. So long as A. and A. W. Baker or one of them shall not hold less than two-thirds of the shares to be allotted to them under above-mentioned agreement, they or he may nominate four of the directors. A director need not hold any share qualification. The solicitors are Messrs. Janson, Cobb, Pearson and Company, 22, College Hill, E.C.4.

Edwards and Sons (Near East), Ltd.

A private company with the above title was registered on September 10, with a capital of £200,000 in £1 shares, for the purpose of entering into: (1) A sale agreement with W. G. M. Edwards and C. E. Binns; (2) a pooling agreement with G. and A. Baker, Limited; and (3) a share subscription agreement between F. and A. Swanzy, Limited, G. and A. Baker, this company, A. Baker, C.B.E., Capt. A. W. Baker, W. G. M. Edwards, and Lieut.-Col. C. E. Binns, and to acquire the business of general merchants and universal providers, formerly carried on by W. G. M. Edwards and C. E. Binns as Edwards and Sons, at Constantinople and elsewhere. The subscribers and directors are as in G. and A. Baker, Limited (see above). F. and A. Swanzy, Limited, may, while holding the majority of the issued shares, nominate five directors, and W. G. M. Edwards and C. E. Binns may nominate four directors while holding two-thirds of the shares to be allotted to them under the sale agreement. The solicitors are Messrs. Janson, Cobb, Pearson and Company, 22, College Hill, E.C.4.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

The final dividend declared by the directors of the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways in respect of 1918-19 is at the 5 per cent. rate that ruled in the two years preceding, but in this instance a bonus of 1 per cent. is added, making 6 per cent. for the year.

Caucasian (Tchermoeff).

The report of Caucasian (Tchermoeff) Oilfields, Ltd., states that no accounts have been received from Russia. Direct communication with the property has not been possible during the year owing to the Russian revolution. One of the Russian directors, however, General Tchermoeff, reports that, according to his information, no actual destruction took place at Tchir-Urt. A claim for damages suffered by the company has been lodged with the Foreign Claims Department of the British Foreign Office. The depths of the wells when closed down on the Tchermoeff property were 2,098 and 2,877 ft. respectively, and of the well on the Tchir-Urt property 882 ft.

New Caucasian.

The report of New Caucasian Oilfields, Ltd., states that no accounts from Russia have been received. The directors have not been in direct communication with the property during the past year owing to the interruption caused by the war and the Russian revolution. One of the Russian directors, however, General Tchermoeff, reports as follows:—"In November, 1917, during the Bolshevist revolution, and following serious riots in Grozny, the Grozny new oilfields were destroyed, the derricks burnt down and the machinery and stores stolen. The casings and the underground apparatus were, of course, untouched. But I particularly want to draw your attention to the fact that all the companies working there suffered equally from these riots, and are in just the same position as we are." A claim for damages suffered by the company has been lodged with the Foreign Claims Department of the British Foreign Office. Grozny was evacuated by the Bolshevists in February last, and all their decrees of nationalisation were rescinded. The depths of the wells when closed down were 2,422 and 2,502 ft. respectively.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

Associated Tea Estates of Ceylon.—Profit for the year, including £5,288 brought in, £14,223. Dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares; to reserve, £1,500; balance forward, £5,223. Yield of tea for the year, 654,065 lb.

The directors of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company announce a dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the cumulative preference shares, less income-tax at the rate of 6s. in the £, for the six months to June 30 last, payable September 30.

The directors of Burma Ruby Mines have declared an interim dividend of 6d. per share, free of tax, on account of the current year, payable about the end of October.

The directors of the National Bank of India have declared an ad interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, payable on and after September 25.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TURKEY.

The following are extracts from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

BILEDJIK, July 31.

Cereals.

The crop of cereals which was stated to be very good in May and June has not come up to expectations, and is 30 per cent. below what it formerly was. This falling-off is largely owing to the bad quality of the cereals—the deterioration being due to the heavy rains in May and June. The price of a kilo (i.e., 25 okes) of corn is between 280 and 320 piastres, as against 450 to 470 piastres last year.

Opium.

The yield of opium has suffered, in consequence of the rains of May and June, a decrease of 50 per cent., namely, about 2,000 kilos as against 4,000 kilos in 1918.

Cocoons.

The crop of the new season's cocoons is about 50,000 kilos as against 80,000 kilos last year. Prices for opium and for cocoons have been nearly the same as during the preceding year.

Silk.

The great activity in the last two weeks of July enabled our spinners to sell a part of their stocks at the price of Ltq. 1,200 to 1,300 the ball of 100 kilos.

Corn-Mills.

The production for this month has increased by about 400 sacks. 1,000 sacks are for local consumption (Biledjik and Kuplu), 400 sacks have been sent to Yeni-Cheio, 800 sacks to Ismidt, and 1,800 sacks to Constantinople.

Exports.

Exports for the month of July amounted to Ltq. 52,000 as against Ltq. 23,300 in 1918.

Imports.

Imports for the month of July amounted to Ltq. 34,300 as against Ltq. 7,000 in 1918.

Tithes.

The sale of tithes has increased to the very important figure of about Ltq. 150,000.

Monetary Situation.

The Ltq. is worth between 380 and 370 paper piastres. 20 piastres in Medjidie are worth 46 piastres in Treasury notes.

Adalia, July 31.

The intensification of commercial life is carrying with it as a logical consequence the necessity of establishing certain industries which already have shown themselves capable of, in fact, certain of, producing good results. Such industries are glass, beer, the spinning of silk, the tanning of hides, the extraction of oil from sesame, etc. The movement is actually more important for imports than for exports. So far, certain events in the Ottoman Empire, especially in the vilayet of Aidin, have partially paralysed the commerce of our town, everyone choosing rather to wait than to run risks. The fear of unfavourable events (possibly imaginary), the continual fluctuations in the prices of new goods, and the order of the Minister at Constantinople which prohibits the foreigner to export corn and flour, have all helped to disorder the commerce of our district.

In spite of this state of affairs, the greater part of the goods imported since the armistice have been paid for in ready cash.

What is necessary in our opinion to get British and French goods sold is:—

1. That prices be not competitive at the start, so as to accustom the commercial world as well as the populace to prefer these goods to all others, and so to lose the idea engrained in business men here that the British and French markets are inaccessible.
2. To create depots of all articles that have not actually been imported, such as clothing, lingerie, hosiery, lace, shoes, toys, liqueurs, wines, musical instruments, pianos, pharmaceutical products, etc.
3. To allow a personnel, not too numerous, to accompany these wares.
4. To obtain steamers from the respective Governments to avoid freight expenses from the West.
5. To buy in exchange goods from our district and to sell them in the markets of Britain and France.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER: 25, Pall Mall.
MARSEILLES: 41-43, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.
(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 438.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Last Friday the draft Treaty containing the peace terms offered by the Allies to Bulgaria was presented to the Bulgarian delegates, who are allowed a period of twenty-five days in which to make observations. M. Theodoroff, who received the draft from M. Clemenceau, made a speech, in which he protested that the Bulgarian people were innocent, though their Government had been guilty; and the ceremony, which had been very brief, then closed. The terms of the Treaty are discussed in our leading article.

Direct news from Roumania is so scarce as to give rise to a doubt whether the blockade imposed on that country affects the news service. If, however, the *Echo de Paris* is correctly informed, the Roumanian Government, which is "carrying on" until its successor is ready to take up the burden, will give all possible satisfaction to the demands of the Allies. Roumania is prepared to recall her troops from Budapest, to help the Powers in maintaining order in Hungary, and to submit an inventory of the war material and rolling stock seized by her in Hungary, and regarding the fate of which Paris has shown so much solicitude. This surely is a frame of mind of which the Olympians must approve; and if it has been produced by Sir George Clerk's handling of affairs—as seems to be the case— it would seem that the messenger was more tactful than those who sent him to Bucharest.

At the time of writing Yugoslavia is still in the unfortunate position of having no Cabinet, though it is hoped that the return from Paris of M. Pashitch and Dr. Trumbitch may result in the negotiations which are now in progress being brought to a successful conclusion very shortly. Clearly, the people are tired of all the manœuvring for party advantages that has been going on; they feel that they have done everything in their power for their country, and that it is high time the politicians followed their example. What they desire is to see the early election of the Constituent Assembly, followed by the General Election. It is a thousand pities that the Davidovitch Cabinet was unable to pass the Bill which must be the first step towards the fulfilment of this programme.

Possibly the extraordinary developments at Fiume may serve to make the Yugoslav politicians realise that indulging in the game of ins and outs at the present time is not unlike playing with fire in a powder magazine. Signor d'Annunzio has been describing himself as the "master of Fiume," and declaring that his "daring knows no bounds," and we must, therefore, conclude that he is entirely satisfied with himself and his exploit. Outsiders can hardly bring themselves to regard either quite seriously yet; but he has caused the Italian Government very real embarrassment, and it is obvious that the situation is fraught with danger. The Allied Powers appear to be withdrawing their troops from the town in all haste, evidently with a view to minimising the risk of an explosion. Fortunately, the Italian public is taking a fairly level-headed view of the situation, but there are indications that Signor Nitti's political rivals intend to turn it to their own advantage by hook or by crook. Meanwhile President Wilson is reported to be unwilling to say anything definite regarding the proposed settlement of the Fiume dispute so long as Signor d'Annunzio continues to "occupy" the town with his following of mutineers.

Presiding at the dinner given last week by the Government to H.H. Firooz Mirza, the Persian Foreign Minister, Lord Curzon made a notable speech upon Anglo-Persian relations, with especial regard to the recent Agreement. He reminded his hearers that during the past 120 years Persia's relations with Great Britain had been closer than with any other Power, and that they had grown still more intimate during the war. He then went on to say that he regarded the Anglo-Russian Agreement—of which he had never been an admirer—as dead; he emphasised this country's sincere desire to see a strong and independent Persia; and he concluded by declaring that Great Britain and Persia were jointly prepared to defend the Anglo-Persian Agreement, and looked forward to the vindication of its real character by its success. In responding, the Persian Foreign Minister paid a high compliment to the constancy with which the British Government had supported the Persian nation in its struggle for freedom and progress, and expressed his confidence that England would continue to follow the same policy. He also referred pointedly to certain "inaccurate interpretations" that had been given to the recent Agreement, and repeated what Lord Curzon had already said—that the text of the Agreement will eventually be laid before the League of Nations. It is to be hoped that these declarations will be noted by self-appointed critics of the Agreement.

A semi-official statement issued in the latter part of last week announced that a British Mission which had been dispatched to the Imam of Yemen had fallen into the hands of some independent Arabs at Bajil, a little town some thirty-two miles from Hodeida, on the road to Sanaa. The announcement also referred to fighting that had taken place at Hodeida, but only for the

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purpose of adding that "the reinforcements which were sent immediately must by now have reached the port and should have made everything secure." In the same optimistic vein it was announced that the release of the British Mission was probable. The capture appears to have been effected by some of the ever-restless maritime tribes, with a view to being in a position to put pressure on the Imam, with whom the captors are at feud; and though they have threatened to kill their captives, they are most unlikely to carry their threat into execution; for the Arab, though he may kill in hot blood, is averse from taking life under other conditions. It is, however, not a little remarkable that in view of the recent trouble at Hodeida and the notoriously unsettled character of this particular region, a British Mission should have been sent through notoriously lawless country without an adequate escort.

The composition of the Special Mission which, under the presidency of Lord Milner, is to go out to Egypt for the purpose of inquiring into the causes of the late disturbances, and to report on the present situation and the form of constitution best suited to the country, is now announced. Besides the Chairman, the Commission will consist of General Sir J. G. Maxwell, Sir Rennell Rodd, Brigadier-General Sir Owen Thomas, M.P., Mr. J. A. Spender, and Mr. C. J. B. Hurst, while Mr. A. T. Loyd will act as secretary and Mr. E. M. B. Ingram as assistant secretary. Lord Milner could wish for no better man at his right hand than General Maxwell, who is assured, also, of a good reception in Egypt from natives no less than from Europeans. Perhaps the inclusion of one member with Indian experience would have strengthened the Commission. The situation in India has many similarities in essentials to that in Egypt, and it is possible to argue that a first-hand knowledge of recent successes—and mistakes—in handling Indian problems would have been as valuable to the Commission as other qualifications.

The breach between Zaghloul Pasha and a very considerable number of his followers appears to be widening steadily. The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* reports that Sidky Pasha and another prominent member, who have returned to Egypt, have been, in effect, officially disowned at the Zaghloulite headquarters. At all events, it is announced that they "no longer form part of the delegation" to Paris; and the defection of sixty others, we are told definitely, will shortly be announced. The most interesting point about these quarrels is that they should have arisen, as seems to be the case, over the question of the delegation coming on to London or continuing its present tactics in Paris. The dissidents favoured the former course, but Zaghloul, with an obstinacy that is no new feature of his character, refused his consent. While it is unlikely that the "delegation" would have been afforded any official recognition in London, it is at least possible that unofficially it might have accomplished some good, if only in the way of enabling its members to grasp the realities of the situation. Indeed, the recognition that it is to London rather than to any other point outside Egypt that the Egyptians must look for help and genuine sympathy argues that some members of the delegation are slowly awaking to the true facts.

To the more reasonable of the "Nationalists" and the Zaghloulites we would recommend the careful consideration of a letter on the subject of British rule in Egypt, written to *The Times* by Mr. William D. McCrackan, Vice-President of the Anglo-American Society of America. Since the extremists have been, and to a certain extent still are, pinning their hopes of "independence" upon America, the fact that Mr. McCrackan is an American should lend his letter particular value in their eyes, and to this may be added the fact that his acquaintance with Egypt dates back ten years. His object, he says frankly, is "to pay a tribute to the good accomplished by British rule" in Egypt, which rule "is occupied in preserving order for the benefit of all concerned." His remark that "a garbled report of the Committee of Foreign Relations of the American Senate has been going the rounds of the Press here [Egypt], and has been used by Nationalist agitators to misrepresent American sentiment," should be carefully considered by those who are likely to be misled by such doctored reports. His opinion that "the sentiment of gratitude seems to be entirely absent from the native mind" may also be worth pondering by the Zaghloulites, as coming from one who cannot well be charged with having any ulterior motive in putting forward such views.

The Indian politicians now in this country appear to be able to do without a holiday, and they have been spending the period of the recess taken by the members of the Joint Committee in a carefully planned propaganda directed to the widening of the official proposals for reform. A clear statement of the Moderates' wishes in this matter was given last week by Mr. Chintamani in a long letter to *The Times*, the contents of which adhered closely to the accepted formula—Take all that is offered and ask for a good deal more. Its practical interest lies for the moment in the reply which it elicited from Sir Archdale Earle, urging two further concessions, the immediate introduction of a measure of "responsibility" into the central government, and increased influence in the determination of the fiscal policy of the country. Sir Archdale, of course, speaks only for himself, but we gather that there is a certain drift of opinion in the direction indicated by him. Sir James Brunyate, in his minute on the reform of the India Office, has already indicated the lines of a possible dyarchy at headquarters, while it is widely recognised that increased powers in the matter of tariffs would do more than anything else to "grease the wheels" of the new machine, which will certainly need all the grease that can be got.

Whether this drift of opinion will affect the conclusions of the Joint Committee is, of course, an entirely different question. It was mainly in regard to the Central Government that Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu stiffened their backs. "We have carried," they wrote, "the advance right up to the line beyond which our principles forbid us to go," and they even went so far as to counter the impatience of the politicians by quoting a somewhat hackneyed Persian proverb. Mr. Montagu may, of course, change his mind, and he may carry the Committee with him, but the words we have quoted show that with him it is a matter of principle rather than expediency, and it is not always easy to adapt principles to the changing facts of politics. The situation is, at any rate, interesting, and we shall not attempt to forecast its development; but it is only fair to say that the "Moderates" appear to be playing their hand with considerable skill, and that the existing atmosphere is of the kind where principles look rather fluid, and sharp edges tend to disappear.

The official announcement of the appointment of the Committee to examine the procedure of the Indian secretariats will have served to disillusion some of our contemporaries, who had previously described Sir Hubert Llewellyn Smith's mission as directed to the reform of the Government of India. The Committee have not to face that particular task, but their work is nevertheless important The technique of the Indian secretariats is far ahead of anything that can be seen in this country, in the sense that it ensures the presence of all relevant information before any question is decided: its weakness lies partly in the time which it consumes and partly in the fact that newly arrived Viceroys and other inexperienced persons are rather apt to be overwhelmed by the mass of data which it produces on any given topic. It needs to be speeded up, and possibly simplified—particularly for the benefit of Indian Ministers, who will usually assume office with little knowledge of its working, and we hope the Committee will be able to secure this result, though we confess to a certain sentimental admiration for a system which is so distinctively Indian, and which has been aptly compared to the elephant of the country—capable of any task but absolutely refusing to be hurried.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 11.

The two important events of the week are the departure of the Special High Commissioner and the attempt on the life of the Prime Minister, Mohammed Pasha Said. Viscount Allenby is expected back in Egypt early in October, in which month the Milner Commisson is due to arrive here.

With regard to the latter I find in Egyptian circles, among the more instructed members thereof, the feeling that as that Commission is not only to inquire into the causes of the recent disturbances, but also to formulate proposals for the form which the British Protectorate is to take and the Constitutional reforms which are to be introduced, it would be advisable for it to postpone its arrival in Egypt until after the Peace terms with Turkey have been settled and the Turkish overlordship over Egypt, such as it was, has been definitely done away with. They admit that the Peace Treaty has already settled that Egypt is a British Protectorate; but they say that it will be easier for them to discuss matters with the Commission, and that more Egyptians will be prepared to come forward with evidence, etc., if what appears to them to be an obstacle to their collaboration in the matter has previously been removed. This is a point of view which is interesting; it serves, moreover, to emphasise the mistake made in not settling the Peace terms with Turkey before the dividing up of the Ottoman Empire was embarked on.

The Attempt on the Prime Minister.

The attempt on the life of Mohammed Pasha Said took place on the morning of the 2nd instant. As the Prime Minister, who was driving as usual from his house to the Government Offices, passed the Gianaclis Station on the Ramleh tram line, a man suddenly threw a package at the car. The missile hit the window and fell to the ground, when a terrific explosion was heard. The Prime Minister continued on his way, and the man was arrested. Examination of the ground showed that the bomb had been concealed in a basket of grapes, and there is no doubt that the fortunate circumstance of the window of the car being shut saved the Prime Minister from certain death; for otherwise the bomb, which was very well aimed, would have fallen inside the car and would have exploded there.

The news of the attempt was quickly known in town —the explosion was distinctly heard at the Residency, three stations further on—and notables immediately flocked to the Government offices to offer their congratulations to the Prime Minister, who proceeded to transact the business of the day just as if nothing had happened. (When I saw Said Pasha an hour afterwards one would never have known from his behaviour that he had just narrowly escaped a terrible death.) The Sultan and Viscount Allenby were amongst the first to convey their congratulations to the Prime Minister, and in the afternoon the Sultan drove out from Ras el-Tin to call on him. Throughout the day, and, in fact, during the whole of the feast of Bairam, the road to his house has been thronged with motor-cars and carriages, and deputations have come up from all parts of the country to assure the Prime Minister of the public sympathy.

The assailant is a young student of the "Maahad," one of the religious institutions in Alexandria, and is of the same *exalté* type as Ibrahim Wardani, the assassin of Boutros Pasha Ghali. At first he refused to give any information, but later on he gave the names of several persons, who have all been brought to the Parquet, and three of whom have been kept under arrest (at the house of one of these people two other bombs were found) Exactly what the ramifications of this attempt are it is not possible to say at the present juncture, especially as the inquiry is being conducted very secretly: but it seems clear that it was not the sole work of this man, and that he was assisted, if not actually inspired, by others. Whether the Extremist party has had a direct hand in this attempt remains to be seen, but that it is morally responsible for it there can be no doubt.

The Removal of the Censorship.

Indeed, in this respect the removal of the censorship has been no unmixed blessing. For us foreign correspondents the disappearance of these restrictions has, of course, been a tremendous relief; but there is no doubt that the licence allowed to the local, particularly to a section of the vernacular, Press has been taken advantage of to an extent which, far from bringing about that calming of public feeling which is so necessary at the present moment, in view of the grave political, industrial, and economic problems confronting Egypt, is inciting the general public in a manner that has rarely been seen in this country. Had the censorship been in existence we should not, amongst other things, have had the stupid incident connected with Zaghlul Pasha's telegram on the subject of the declaration of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the American Senate. Three months ago his telegram would have been held up, and quite rightly too, until official confirmation had been obtained; and in this case, since inquiry would have proved its complete inaccuracy, it would never have got outside the Censor's room. As it is, the publication of the telegram gave rise to tremendous excitement, as reported in last week's letter, and the American Agent had to issue an official *dementi*. The mischief had, however, been done already. The official contradiction has, indeed, had no effect except to make the *Intellicentsia* believe that the news was true after all, but that Great Britain persuaded the American Government to over-rule the decision. It does not appear to have discredited Zaghlul Pasha, to whom funds are still being sent, though it is to be hoped that the publication in Europe of the details of this incident will make those who have so far been inclined to sympathise with his cause less ready to credit all his statements as to British misrule in Egypt and the conditions and desires of his compatriots.

The Strikes.

There is no improvement in the industrial position. The strike of the Cairo Trams and Metropolitan Railway continues, and the men of the Alexandria Tramways have also gone out on strike. All efforts at compromise have proved unavailing, and the men, encouraged by the foreign element which has fostered the strikes and introduced Trade Unionism into Egypt, are becoming more exacting in their demands. The situation requires very firm handling, and action should certainly be taken in regard to this foreign element, which has used the present economic situation for its own ends. There are rumours of impending strikes amongst the artisans and labourers employed by the Government Departments. Every effort is being made to provide these men with the extra pay required to meet the increased cost of living; but these efforts will be unavailing in bringing about a cessation of the troubles unless very energetic action is taken in regard to those who are encouraging the men in persisting in impossible demands.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 11.

The Political Situation.

Amidst the rumours which surround and becloud the political situation to-day, two facts stand out clearly. They are: first, that the Roumanian delegates at St. Germain, in company with the Yugoslavs, have refused to sign the treaty with Austria, and second, that M. Bratiano has definitely communicated to the King his intention of resigning. The fact that the Roumanian delegates have not signed the treaty is a surprise to nobody, and it was fully expected, after their formal request to be allowed to sign "with reservations" met with the refusal of the Supreme Council, that they would absent themselves from the ceremony.

The resignation of the Government coincides, as was foreseen, with the signing of the Austrian treaty, and will probably be accepted by King Ferdinand. No doubt by the time this letter reaches London a new Government will have been formed, but the situation at the time of writing is chaotic. The inevitable mud-slinging campaign is being carried on by the Press, the Opposition accusing M. Bratiano of having brought the country to its present difficult and somewhat humiliating position by neglecting to look after Roumania's interests at the Peace table. The Liberals, on the other hand, deploring the unreasonable and unbending attitude taken by the Allies on the questions of the protection of minorities and free transport, point out the impossibility of the treaty being signed in its present form; and accuse the Opposition of fanning an anti-patriotic spark and aiding those who wish to thwart Roumania's rights, and leave the matter there, without suggesting a solution of the difficulty. The Government, having no further policy, resigns on a platform of which it obviously intends to make good future use.

The Opposition—under the leadership of M. Take Jonescu and General Averescu—faced with the possibility of having to find a way out of the present deadlock by adopting a more compromising and less chauvinistic attitude, are naturally averse to the Liberal Party making political capital out of the present position, and therefore label the Government as incompetent and responsible for the existing *impasse* through lack of statesmanship and diplomacy, and dilate upon the difficulties confronting the next Government in smoothing the way to an acceptable settlement of the present grave differences with the Allies. The name of M. Maniu, President of the Directing Committee of Transylvania, is being mentioned in connection with the change of Government, and he is said to have been requested to try to form a new Cabinet, which would probably be a temporary one, existing merely for the purpose of signing the treaty. It is hardly likely that he will do so, in view of the possible loss of prestige which he would suffer in Transylvania if he, of all men, should affix his signature to a treaty renouncing the Torontal district of the Banat. In a national Government his responsibility would be much lessened. In the circumstances a transitory Government may be formed—possibly under the leadership of a non-politician recommended by the Liberals—a solution which would enable the Liberals to retain control of the Governmental strings.

The U.S. and Roumania.

The proposal of the United States' delegate at the Peace Conference that a naval demonstration in the Black Sea would persuade Roumania to make up her mind to sign the treaty was caustically commented upon by the Press here. *L'Indépendence Roumaine*, the inspired Government organ, says:—"The American proposition constitutes a curious innovation in the contemporary policy of the United States. It lays bare the weakness of the arguments used by Mr. Wilson's representative with regard to Roumania, and demonstrates the lack of justice which is the basis of the conditions that are being imposed upon her. For the American diplomatist to have dreamt of the employment of force it must have been obvious to him that he no longer had right on his side. This is a method which the Allies have, up to the present, condemned, because it was practised by their enemies to the detriment of the rights of the peoples of Europe."

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Forest Fire.

A disastrous forest fire broke out on the night of August 18 in the Tylliria district, north of Troodos. Numbers of visitors at the summer-quarters went to various points to watch the conflagration, the glare being visible over a wide area. The Principal Forest Officer, Mr. A. K. Bovill, at once proceeded to the spot, and took all possible measures. About 1,500 men were engaged in fighting the flames. This is one of the most serious and extensive forest fires that has occurred for many years in Cyprus, and the loss will be very considerable. There is reason to believe that it was caused maliciously, as is only too often the case. Several days passed before it was extinguished.

Small-pox Epidemic.

The small-pox epidemic has caused widespread panic. Two more villages have been declared infected, fresh cases occurring at Mandria, also on the main road to Limassol. All cases have to be removed to an infectious disease hospital. Many persons are hastening to be vaccinated. The papers call upon the Government to send lay-vaccinators to the localities. Great inconvenience is caused, as Platres is now the rendezvous for many meetings, not only of pleasure but of business. Directions have been given that the annual summer fair at the Trooditissa Monastery, which attracts many persons, cannot be held.

Aliens' Bill.

The Acting High Commissioner summoned a special meeting of the Legislative Council on August 30, the chief matter for discussion being the draft Aliens Law, which provides that no person from the four late enemy countries may land in Cyprus for three years without authority from the Government, under penalty of £50 fine, or imprisonment, or both.

The Future of the Island.

The Greek papers, discussing "the exact political position," state that the critical moment has now arrived, since the Cyprus question will soon be placed before the British House of Commons. Admitting that many politicians are strongly opposed to cession, they nevertheless believe in a sympathetic solution, as otherwise the matter would not be brought before the House. A leading local paper in a long article says that as regards the strategic value of Cyprus, Britain can be satisfied by the possession of a harbour and aerodrome, and it offers advice to the Premier. "What Mr. Lloyd George has to say to the House of Commons is very simple. It is this: The cession of Cyprus to Greece strengthens and increases the honour and greatness of England, whereas the retention of the island would lower English reputation, would tarnish her liberal traditions, and would be a reproach and disgrace to Great Britain." The Turkish community feel quite confident that their cause is in safe keeping, and have moreover been encouraged by strong assurances to that effect from England.

Press Restrictions.

The Press is protesting very naturally against the order which still prohibits the despatch of newspapers from the island. This muzzling is really no longer justifiable, Cyprus being probably the only place in the world where such a restriction is deemed necessary so long after war has ceased. Even during the war the regulation seemed hardly called for, seeing that a strict censorship was exercised; but it is now preposterous that the interests of responsible proprietors and editors should suffer, as they undoubtedly do. They will probably combine in presenting a strong remonstrance to the Government.

Miscellaneous.

An Order in Council appropriates the sum of £950 from the Locust Fund, the half to be applied to the Famagusta harbour and half to the Government railway. The latter is a great boon to travellers landing in the east of the island and proceeding to Mt. Troodos. It runs from Famagusta and Nicosia through the central plain to the village of Evrikou, the present terminus.

Quarantine regulations (medical inspection and disinfection of third-class passengers' effects) are still imposed against Egypt on account of plague, and against Syria and Asia Minor on account of plague and cholera.

The Kurban Bairam is being quietly celebrated in Nicosia and the Moslem centres.

The Nicosia Winter Race Meeting has been fixed for November 22 and 24.

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BELGRADE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, September 1.

Serbia and the Treaty.

In the midst of the throes of domestic political squabbles, when people were preparing themselves for a general election as the only possible escape from the present *impasse* of two evenly-balanced political groups, the country was suddenly brought to its senses by a severe shock. The peace treaty with Austria was put before its delegates in Paris, with the request for immediate signature. The delegates protested that they had not been consulted in the drafting of the treaty, in which they were so deeply interested, and declared that they could not accept the responsibility, especially as there is an objectionable clause, No. 51, dealing with the protection of minorities. The Serbs at once saw in this a direct attack upon their sovereign rights as a nation, and felt deeply hurt. It will doubtless be remembered that when Austria sent in that terrible ultimatum five years ago, in order to force war upon the country, Serbia gave way to all the unprecedented demands, in her desire for peace, but could not abrogate her sovereign rights and allow a foreign power to dismiss her judges and officers, nor interfere in such purely domestic matters, in which the Serbian Government alone has voice. Rather than yield she faced the trial of war, exhausted as she was by the two Balkan wars, and in spite of the terrible odds. So much does this high-spirited people value its own tradition of complete independence. That a demand for interference in her purely domestic and interior matters should come from her great Allies, who have shown their good disposition towards them, the Serbs cannot understand. They think it must be due to that ignorance of Balkan affairs for which the west of Europe is notorious, and not to any ill-disposition towards them.

Directly the news was received the Government consulted with the leaders of the other parties, putting aside their differences for a moment in the face of the external trouble, and they decided that to sign would mean the abrogation of the sovereign rights over their own subjects, rights which they had won from the Turks on the field of battle over a hundred years ago, and the surrender of the freedom for which they had fought so hard and so long, to some international tribunal, of which Italy, admittedly hostile, would be one of the judges. No Serb would dare put his signature to such a treaty; if he did, he would be hounded from the country amid the execration of his people, and branded a traitor, if worse did not befall him. There was no alternative for the Government, and on September 12 Dr. Davidovitch tendered his resignation to the Regent on the grounds that the treaty contained clauses damaging their national sovereignty as a State without reciprocity, and threatening their peaceful development in the future. The Prince accepted his resignation.

In conversation all Serbs take the matter very seriously. They cannot understand why the Olympians did not take their delegates into their confidence, or at least consult them, in the drafting of clauses which are so vital to them, and they can hardly be blamed if in this they see the hand of Italy. They admit that such clauses, which are destined to afford protection to minorities, are justifiable in the cases of new States, such as Poland and Czecho-Slovakia, for whom the treaty is a birth certificate, and, too, even in the case of their new provinces: but surely, they argue, the Powers forget that Serbia is a free and independent State, that won her own freedom with the sword a century ago, not only without any help from the Powers, but in the teeth of every discouragement from them--for in those days even England supported the Turk in her old Russophobe policy—they forget that Serbia is an ally, and a true and loyal one, who has never listened to the repeated cajolery of the enemy who tried to seduce her from her allegiance in the darkest days of their exile.

Besides, even her enemies have never been able to reproach Serbia with her treatment of minorities. When Roumania invited the numerous Vlachs living in the eastern provinces to migrate to their motherland, few or none went, for they were happy and prosperous, enjoying full rights of citizenship, and they preferred remaining free Serbians, if not Serb in blood, to crossing the Danube. Neither Turks, Albanians, nor Jews have ever had any cause of complaint, and the great majority of Jews in Belgrade to-day call themselves Serbs first and Jews afterwards. Otherwise, why did so many flee to Salonika? Besides, they ask pertinently, among the Powers that will "protect" the minorities in Serbia will be Italy; but who will protect the half million or thereabouts of Yugoslavs who are allotted to Italy?

Why Serbia Objects.

It must not be thought that the Serbs are objecting on merely theoretical grounds, or that they are hypersensitive; it must be remembered that they are surrounded by jealous or hostile neighbours on every side. As the populations around them are mixed, it is inevitable that there shall be some minorities on each side of the line; by all means let there be protection of these minorities, but let it be reciprocal.

The demand for signature was put before the Serbian delegates almost in the form of an ultimatum; a telegram was received at Belgrade at 6 p.m., demanding a reply by midnight, which is physically impossible. The Government are not intransigent; they said they would sign and trust to the sense of justice and fairplay of the Allies for a modification of the obnoxious terms, such as the insertion of a reciprocity clause, or the specific elimination of the territories within the old frontiers, if that was indispensable to the vast interests involved in this very comprehensive peace. But the Government included only two parties, the Democrats and the Socialists, and for such a self-denying ordinance all parties must be associated together, otherwise those who signed would be for ever damned in the eyes of their countrymen. So a new Cabinet is being formed as rapidly as possible, to include every shade of opinion, to deal with this crisis, and then to carry out a general election. On Saturday the Regent sent for Dr. Pavlovitch, Speaker of the Skupshtina, and it is anticipated that a provisional coalition Cabinet will be formed as soon as Mr. Pashitch, Dr. Trumbitch, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Smodlaka arrive from Paris for consultation. They have been summoned by telegram.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the Great Powers will realise what this means to Serbia and show a little flexibility; their treatment of our loyal and long-suffering ally is more like that meted out to a conquered country, and, after all, a very slight modification would meet the Serbs' very natural demands, either reciprocity, so that the kingdom of the S.H.S. has a voice in the protection of the half million Yugoslavs who are allotted to Italy, or the omission of the pre-war territories of Serbia from the operation of the clause.

Prolific Serbia.

The women of Serbia are doing their duty indeed, if many follow the example of a mother in southern Serbia who, a few days ago, gave birth to quadruplets, three boys and one girl, all of whom are normal and healthy children. This is just the right proportion of sexes for the needs of the country. It is interesting to note, as statistics have shown, that before the war Serbia was one of the few countries, if not the only country, in Europe where the proportion of males born exceeded that of the females.

A Montenegrin Incident.

The *Zelenshi* of Montenegro are reported to have recently murdered a fine old veteran, Serdar Jagosh Radovitch, a former member of the Montenegrin Senate, father of Andrija Radovitch, late President of Council at Cetinje and President of the Montenegrin Committee for National Union. The criminals attacked the old man in his own

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home. He at once drew his sword, and rushed out to defend himself, when he fell mortally wounded under a perfect hail of bullets.

The Question of Communications.

The new Minister of Communications, Mr. Drashkovitch, has put energy into his task, the results of which are already visible. Train services are becoming more regular, in spite of the shortage of locomotives and great dearth of coal. The Save bridge has been almost complete for a long time, and should have been finished in July; but a strike at the Reshitsa Steelworks held things up, and then difficulties were involved when the demarcation line was drawn through the works. Now that district has been definitely allotted to Roumania, who will not allow the few steel structures remaining to be forwarded to Serbia. Through communication to Constantinople is paralysed by this action, and traffic in Serbia suffers for want of rolling stock, and above all, of locomotives, for there is a good quality available north of the river. If the remaining steel structures required to complete the bridge were delivered, the work could be finished in a week or two, and the country would at once feel an immense benefit, and it is thought that there would be a reduction in the high cost of living, which is at present crushing in Belgrade, and indeed throughout Serbia, which before the war was the cheapest country in Europe. It is to be hoped that success will reward Mr. Drashkovitch's efforts. His name is suggested as the new leader of the Democratic party, and possible President of Council, as Dr. Davidovitch is retiring from that onerous post.

The Regent has signed a decree authorising an eight-hour working day.

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.

The conception of a League of Nations has deserved to have more practical sponsors than the people who have fiddled with its constitution while Europe was burning. It savours of hypocrisy or muddleheadedness that the loudest supporters of the scheme should be devoting their efforts to proselytising on its behalf, when the real work of the Paris Conference is still unfinished, and in certain spheres shows no sign of having been begun. During the week two communications have been issued to the Press regarding Montenegro. One is from the Montenegrin Government, and runs:—"The rising of the Montenegrins against the Serbian troops, now in occupation of their country, is daily assuming greater proportions. . . . The rising has also commenced to spread in the Cattaro region, where the Montenegrins have in the course of a fierce encounter near Zelenika, killed some sixty Serbian soldiers." The Serbian *communiqué* begins: "All the statements and all the reports published on the so-called revolution in Montenegro are false. It is true there is in Montenegro a certain number of rebels who from time to time leave their refuges in the mountainous parts of the country in order to carry out raids. . . . The number of troops in Montenegrin territory is not more than 6,600, of whom three battalions have been recruited exclusively from the Montenegrins."

Quite apart from the question whether either or neither of these communications is correct, it is a disgrace to the Paris Conference that they should have been issued. Both Montenegro and Serbia have been our Allies in the war, and only ignorance and supineness on the part of the Supreme Council could have brought about the state of affairs now existing in Montenegro. Whichever version is accepted—Serbian or Montenegrin—it is obvious that things are not as they should be. Far too late in the day the Conference or the British Government sent Count de Salis to investigate conditions in Montenegro. His report, there is reason to believe, has already reached this country. It would be of interest to know whether any action has been taken upon it by the Allied Powers. Every day's delay means more lives lost in Montenegro, and yet President Wilson can complacently discuss the merits of the League of Nations when the whole spirit of the scheme is being outraged through the delay of the Supreme Council to do the work for which it was convened. What is happening to-day in Montenegro—whether Montenegrin or Serbian soldiers are being killed—will retard the settlement of the Balkans, for until the position is cleared up it must continue to grow worse. At least let Count de Salis's report be published. It is the work of someone who knows the country and is neither Montenegrin nor Serbian.

The Secretary of State for India announces that a grant of 60 days' after war leave has been sanctioned for officers on the Indian Establishment holding appointments in India or with Indian Expeditionary Forces, on vacation of which they would normally revert to unemployed pay or half-pay on ceasing to be employed. Full pay of the last appointment held will be admissible when it is available; otherwise the pay of the last substantive appointment which the officer has held. This decision has retrospective effect from January 1, 1909.

LETTER FROM BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, August 18.

After-War Effects.

The calumnies spread by Bulgaria's neighbours regarding revolts, military concentrations, and so forth, and the false rumours spread by their agents about the intention of Paris to strip Bulgaria of her present territories, have resulted in the rapid depreciation of the Bulgarian *leva*, and an enormous rise in the price of articles of first necessity, which are being bought up by speculators who hope to make exorbitant profits. The cost of living has consequently become so high that both in Sofia and in various towns throughout the country national committees have been organised for the purpose of counteracting these evils. On August 11, Sofia's National Committee elected three members as delegates to petition the Cabinet to take temporary measures, in accordance with Article 47 of the Constitution, for the restriction of speculation and contraband, and to counteract the dearth. The institution of a special and exclusive tribunal is demanded, to impose heavy fines, to confiscate all contraband goods, and, in extreme cases, to impose the penalty of hanging. There is also some talk of lynching.

Socialists and Communists.

Last Thursday, M. Pastouchoff, the leader of the Moderate Socialists, and present Minister of the Interior, gave his last pre-electoral address in the large hall of the Municipal Casino, which was filled to overflowing. In the course of his long speech, he declared: "Our policy rests upon the Monroe Doctrine: the Balkans for the Balkan people. It rests upon a harmonious understanding in the Balkans." He then turned to criticism of the Extreme Socialists, or Communists, and Anarchists. These folk were, he said, eternally talking of revolution, and of wading to power through blood, and taking over the government of the country; but he would sooner believe that the moon would come down to the earth than that they could succeed in such a way. The Extreme Socialists, he said, were constantly talking of the rolling in the dust of heads, especially of that of the Minister of the Interior. "I do not fear for my head," he added, "but I shall not surrender it voluntarily; and I tell these people that every attempt at anarchy and disorder will be dealt with with the utmost severity."

A Short-Lived Soviet.

In the town of Yamboli the Communists, who make up a considerable group, dispose of large funds, which are undoubtedly supplied by Bolshevist agents; and lately they felt that they must do something to justify the payment of these sums. Accordingly, by the distribution of a good deal of money and quantities of alcoholic drink, they succeeded in debauching the soldiers of the local garrison. When the drink had done its work, the latter arrested their Commanding Officer, and in the evening allowed the Communists to take possession of the post and telegraph offices, and some other Government offices, and to turn out the officials. During the night, however, when their drunkenness had passed away, they returned to their barracks, released their officers, and, professing sincere repentance of their disgraceful behaviour, implored forgiveness for what they had done. Immediately afterwards they went to the residences of the evicted State officials, and, conducting them back to their offices, asked them to resume their duties. Meanwhile the Communist rioters had been arrested, for trial by the military tribunals. And thus, after two brief hours of more or less glorious life, the first Soviet Republic in Bulgaria came to an end.

Communist Efforts.

The Extreme Socialists had made preparations for a grand Field Day on July 27, when they had planned to pour out an ocean of electoral eloquence, which was to be accompanied by riotous manifestations throughout the

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city. The disorderly elements of the poorer districts were stirred up, and instigated to make preparations—in the form of sacks for loot, and so forth—in order to be ready at a given signal to pillage the houses of the hated *bourgeoisie*. The police authorities and General Nedelkoff were, however, not to be caught napping. They took precautionary measures, and the General summoned the Extreme Socialists' leaders and told them bluntly that he would not tolerate any disorders of any kind. He also pointed out to them that his troops were so placed as to be ready for all emergencies, and that their club building, by the Lions' Bridge, could in a very few minutes be reduced to ruins. As a result of these measures, the fateful day passed away peacefully.

Last Saturday morning 500 labourers of the Pernik Coalfields, all of them Communists, struck. Being supplied with hand grenades, they seized a railway train and travelled to the railhead at Sofia. The military authorities were forewarned of this act, and early in the morning they despatched to the station a cavalry regiment, which stopped the train, disarmed the rioters, and immediately sent them back to Pernik. They were there arrested, and in due course will be delivered up for court-martial. In the provinces most of the Communists' attempts at rioting have been spontaneously suppressed by the population, and the rioters have been lynched.

The Parliamentary Elections.

Yesterday the Parliamentary elections were held throughout the kingdom of Bulgaria. Thanks to the efficacious measures taken by the civil and military authorities, the day passed, as was anticipated, quietly and without incident. Owing to the harvest time, most of the peasants were engaged on their fields, so that whereas 60 is the usual percentage of this class of voter, only 40 per cent. voted yesterday. The final results are as yet unknown. Here at Sofia the results are as follows:—The National Party, whose leader is M. Theodor Theodroff, 6,370 votes; the Extreme Socialists, 4,380 votes; the Democrats, 3,350 votes; the Moderate Socialists, 3,380 votes; the Stambolovists, M. Dobri Petroff's and Dr. Gateff's group, 900 votes; and the Radicals, 500 votes. Dr. N. Genadieff, M. Radoslavoff, and M. Toncheff's party obtained very few votes. The Agrarians had no candidates here, but in the provinces they have an overwhelming majority. The *bourgeois*, the Narodniaks, and the Democrats will be fairly represented in the Chamber. The future Cabinet will again be a Coalition one, composed of the Left and the *bourgeois* parties.

SNAPSHOTS FROM SYRIA.—II.*

"AN ILL WIND."

By "Cactus."

The visitor to the Jordan Valley, as he emerges from the last steep winding descent from Talaat-ed-Dum, on the Jerusalem-Jericho road, into the valley, cannot fail to be impressed by the panorama which bursts upon him as he turns the last corner from the sun-baked rocky defile that the road has followed for the past ten miles. To his right and below him—for there are still some hundred feet of descent to be made—lies the silver sheet of the Dead Sea, surrounded by black forbidding mountains which open out at its northern end and enclose a natural amphitheatre some fifteen miles across. To the right front the Jordan threads its tortuous way across this amphitheatre to empty itself into the Dead Sea. Its course is traced by the green scrub which borders its banks and those of the wadis which feed it. Beyond are the hills at the summit of which lies Es Salt. In the immediate foreground lies modern Jericho, a veritable oasis surrounded by its gardens and trees, fed by the spring which tradition states King Solomon presented to the Queen of Sheba. At the west of the town lies a mound, the ancient site of the city, and as the gaze travels round it meets the mountain range which forms the western bastion of the amphitheatre.

The highest and most forbidding pinnacle of this range is the "Mount of Temptation," and clinging to its sheer face is a monastery. From this distance it appears to the traveller more like a child's toy castle pasted on to the bluff than a human habitation. If the visitor is in a car, and follows the road into Jericho, out by the western exit past the ancient site, and over the foothills by a newly-made road, he will find himself in a garden belonging to the monks of this monastery, a terraced orange grove situated at the very foot of the mount and irrigated by water brought by a cut from a spring some two miles distant. Leaving with regret the cool shade of the garden and his car, he must now walk up the zigzag track leading to the monastery; and a hot climb it is at any time of the day.

Arrived at last at a level stretch some three parts of the way up, he will find himself at a massive stone gateway, and upon being admitted, will be ushered by a monk up a broad stone stairway on to a terrace open to the sky. On the left is a row of cells built on the very edge of the bluff, with balconies overhanging the ravine below; and it is this row of cells that has given the traveller the idea of a child's castle from the valley below. On the right are the storerooms, the refectory, and last of all, the chapel, all hewn out of the solid rock. Passing out by a gate at the far end of the terrace, the visitor is conducted up a further zigzag path on to the summit, where the monks are building a new chapel. It is part of the penance of these monks that each should carry up one big stone each day, and it must have been a sad blow to them when a misdirected shell from the Turkish "Long Jane," aimed at some encampment in the valley below, played havoc with their growing walls.

If the visitor climbs on to the flat roof of the one completed building he will be rewarded with a view well worth his climb. From an aeroplane only could one get a better panorama of the Jericho Valley and the surrounding country: to the south the Mount of Olives, marked by the German and Russian Hospices; to the east the Es Salt range; to the north the mountains of Samaria; and far to the north-west can be discerned Mount Carmel, ninety miles away. The Jericho Valley during the day lies under a pall of dust and heat haze, but towards evening the observation of the Jordan and the country to the east of it becomes perfect.

During the period of stationary warfare following the capture of Jerusalem and Jericho the British line, with the exception of bridgeheads at Hajla and the Aujah, followed the west bank of the Jordan from the Dead Sea to the Aujah Wadi, thence turned westwards to the sea just north of Jaffa. Naturally, with the possibilities for observation from the Mount of Temptation arose also the possibilities of enemy agents signalling across the valley to the Turks on the opposite hills; and the occupants of the monastery did not escape suspicion. Many were the reports from the front line of signalling at night from the monastery; but surprise raids effected no result. Indeed it was more than likely that the signalling, if any, came from the mountain top, whence escape was easy by way of the many mountain tracks. For the last few months previous to Allenby's attack it was most urgent that no inkling of the movement of our troops should leak through to the enemy. All movements of troops into the valley were carried out by day, those out of the valley by night. Dummy camps and horse lines were erected and everything that was possible was done to persuade the Turk that the attack was coming towards Es Salt; while in reality Allenby at the last moment moved his cavalry across to the coast. The presence of Bedouin encampments (practically in the front line) and the broken nature of the ground increased the danger of spies passing through our lines. This, coupled with persistent reports of signalling, determined the G.O.C. of that sector to apply for permission to evacuate all civilians, including the inhabitants of the monastery, to Jerusalem. Permission having been accorded, plans were made for a sudden raid at 3 a.m. on a fixed date. Wagons were ordered, and all the civilians were to be taken to Jericho, put on lorries, and sent up the hill to a concentration camp at Jerusalem.

The day arrived, and everything worked out "according to plan." The headquarters of a certain division had taken up its abode in the gardens of the monastery, and many of the officers were in the habit of paying visits to the monks, who had always been most hospitable. It was with certain misgivings, therefore, that the A.P.M. climbed up to the monastery that early morning armed with his order of eviction. However, it had to be done, and really in his heart of hearts he was glad to be rid of them, as he was sick to death of weary night journeyings after imaginary signalling parties and the resultant leg-pulls of his mess-mates. That evening in mess a brother officer asked if the Reverend Fathers had expressed any resentment at being evicted. "Resentment!" said he. "Good Lord, no! They were as happy as schoolboys. Why, they'd been sent here as punishment, and some of the old boys hadn't seen Jerusalem for over twenty years!"

* The first of these articles appeared in THE NEAR EAST of September 5 under the title "An Armenian Christmas at Aleppo."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE JEWISH NATIONAL MOVEMENT.†

In this essay we have an attempt by a very competent authority to justify the very peculiar position of Jews in this world as compared with various nationalities. "Jewry is regarded almost universally as a *tertium quid* between nationality and creed—and that particular *tertium quid* is not satisfactorily disposed of by the term race." The author observes that "the external world has never completely subscribed to the view that the Jewish people constitute merely an ecclesiastical denomination"—they are a "potential nationality." Zionism is an attempt to justify the position of "Jewish nationhood." The progressive growth of the Jewish national movement during the nineteenth century is sketched out, and Palestine is referred to as "a land of comfort for the storm-tossed of Jewry." The case is ably and persuasively put, but the difficulties of realising the ideal of a "Jewish state" are very great, especially in view of Mr. Balfour's reservation that "His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of the existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine." It is extremely difficult to see how these ideas of a Jewish state can be consistent with this notable exception, "nothing which may prejudice the *civil* rights of non-Jews." The appendices are of considerable interest. One deals with the Jewish Commission which, under the able leadership of Professor Weizmann, visited the Holy Land in 1918; others with the Jewish University and kindred subjects. The whole pamphlet is well worth careful study.

THE FIGHTING FEMINIST.*

Early in 1917, when the misguided Russian soldier began to prefer fraternising to fighting, the world was startled to hear that a Woman's Battalion of Death had stepped into the breach in the attempt to shame the men. The gallant effort failed in the end, and many of the women volunteers narrowly escaped death from their own side; but few details of the formation of this legion have hitherto been made public. That is briefly the theme of this book. Yashka was a peasant woman, whose life both as daughter and wife was sufficiently miserable; in reading this autobiography the chief character seems to have stepped straight out of the pages of Dostoieffsky. The war, however, liberated her fiery patriotism; she enlisted as a man, by special permission of the Tsar, and later formed her own corps of women. From that time Yashka met almost incredible adventures, but the most interesting pages are those in which she recounts her persecution by the Bolsheviks, her hairbreadth escapes from the very jaws of death, even when condemned and carried out to execution in a field where were already hundreds of rotting corpses, some with their eyes torn out while still alive, mute witnesses of the barbarism which the defenders of Soviet rule attempt to palliate. This will be an uncomfortable book for the admirers of the Bolsheviks in this country to read; they can hardly impugn its witness. Nor will it do anything to raise Kerensky, that futile *poseur* who failed to follow Garibaldi, in public esteem. Kerensky could speak magnificently, but he never was able to act; Lenin, whatever else may be said about him, was no orator, but his actions left no room for doubt. Madame Yashka has produced one of the most remarkable autobiographies of modern times, instinct with life and action. It deserves, and will assuredly obtain, a wide measure of attention.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Our Social Inheritance," by Victor Branford and Patrick Geddes. (London: Williams and Norgate. 6s. net.)

"Provinces of England," by C. B. Fawcett. (London: Williams and Norgate. 6s. 6d. net.)

"Boche and Bolshevik," by Hereward T. Price. (London: John Murray. Price 6s. net.)

"Salonika: Collections and Recollections of the 107th Field Coy., R.E." (Darlington: Wm. Dresser and Sons.)

"The Fight for Freedom of the Jugoslavs." Edited by G. L. Scansie. (Auckland, N.Z.: Excel Printing Co.)

"L'Unité de la Politique Bulgare, 1870-1919." By Jacques Ancel. Une Carte hors Texte. 2 fr. 40; "Les Etapes de la Crise Grecque, 1915-1918." By Charles Frégier. 3 fr. 50; "L'Affaire Grecque." By Auguste Gauvain. 3 fr.; "Le Rapport Secret sur le Congrès de Berlin Addressé à la S. Porte par Carathéodory Pacha." By Bertrand Bareilles. 3 fr 90; "L'Unité de la Politique Italienne." Une Carte en Couleur hors Texte. By Jules Chopin. 2 fr. 70 (Paris: Editions Bossard).

† "Zionism: The Jewish National Movement." An Essay reprinted from vol. lxv. of the Proceedings of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool, 1919, with appendices. By Bertram B. Benas, B.A., LL.B.

* "Yashka: My Life as Peasant and Soldier." (Constable and Co., Ltd.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

EX-KING CONSTANTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your impartiality, so well known to me as one of the oldest friends and readers of THE NEAR EAST, and the fact that a "non-Greek"—I mean the author of the article "Ex-King Constantine" in the issue of August 8—is desirous of solving "a so Greek a question" as the "return of the ex-King Constantine to Greece" encourages me to write a few words on the subject.

The question under discussion is a most interesting one, and I dare say many would like to get to the root of the matter. But don't you think that in order to do so more light should be thrown by the writer of the article on the question as to the true reason of the King's removal and what were the circumstances?—I am, etc.,

E. E.

August 30.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—There has been lengthy discussion on this subject, and it seems doubtful whether any new argument can be advanced by either side. But the Prime Minister, speaking in the House of Commons in July last on the Irish question, certainly hit the nail on the head. If in his speech, Cyprus be substituted for Ireland, it at once becomes apparent where the stumbling-block lies. The Prime Minister said, "The mere fact that it is one island is no proof that it is one nation." That is the reason why the Irish Convention failed. That is the reason why President Wilson's principles cannot be applied to Cyprus. The Greek Cypriotes desire self-determination for themselves, but have no scruples as regards depriving the Moslems of their say in the matter. —I am, etc.,

G. L. H.

Cyprus, September 5, 1919.

According to a Swedish report the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm is to be dissolved. If the report is correct Turkey is to be represented in future in Sweden by a Consul-General.

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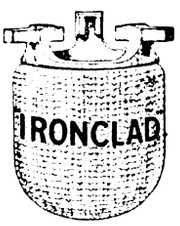

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. September	1919. September		1338. Moharram.	5680. Tishri
26	13	Friday	1	2
27	14	Saturday.....	2	3
28	15	Sunday	3	4
29	16	Monday	4	5
30	17	Tuesday	5	6
October 1	18	Wednesday	6	7
2	19	Thursday	7	8

After visiting Paris and London, the Shah of Persia will proceed to Brussels.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, has left London for Brighton.

M. Beza, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London on September 23 for Bucharest.

The Gaekwar and Maharani of Baroda left Bombay on September 20 on a visit to this country.

General Storrs, Military Governor of Jerusalem, was received in audience by the Pope on September 21.

M. Alexander Cretziano, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, arrived in London on September 22 from Paris.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudyard Kipling are the guests of Mrs. Low at Dalclathick Lodge, in the Royal Forest of Glenartney.

M. Pashitch, the President of the Yugoslav Delegation, and M. Trumbitch, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, have left Paris for Belgrade.

The Persian Minister gave a luncheon party at the Legation on September 19 in honour of the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs. Earl Curzon of Kedleston was present.

M. Eruslus Pilz, the newly-appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Polish Republic, was received in audience by the Prince Regent at Belgrade on September 14.

The King received Field-Marshal Sir Edmund Allenby in audience on September 24, and handed to him a Field-Marshal's baton and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Military Division.

The engagement is announced between Captain P. S. Clarke, M.C., second son of Mr. E. H. S. Clarke, C.S.I., C.I.E., and Mrs. Clarke, Kabul House, Bexhill-on-Sea, and Violet, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gresham Nicholson, The Links House, Bexhill-on-Sea.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Ian St. Clare Stuart, only son of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Stuart, of Egmore, Madras, and Nora, daughter of the late Colonel G. D. and Mrs. Stawell, of Hill End Grove, Henbury, Gloucestershire.

An engagement is announced between Captain H. T. W. Bousfield, only son of the late Rev. Stephen Bousfield, of Shelton Rectory, Nottinghamshire, and Mrs. Bousfield, and Veronica, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. P. E. Pugh, of Calcutta, and Morgenau, Rhos Hill, Pembrokeshire.

The marriage was celebrated on September 9, at Bahraich, Oudh, India, between William Bensley Cotton, I.C.S., eldest son of the late Major J. W. M. Cotton, J.P., of 2, Chester Terrace, Regent's Park, and Elizabeth Marchant, widow of Major Godfrey Marchant, Indian Army.

The marriage was celebrated on September 17, 1919, at St. Anne's Catholic Church, Vauxhall, by the Very Rev. Canon W. F. Brown, V.G., between Captain John Leslie Despard Howitt, the Essex Regiment, of Clifton (Bristol), and Eunice Edith Lucy O'Reilly, of Tulse Hill, London, and of Cairo, Egypt.

The engagement is announced between F. L. Hadden (late Captain Royal Berkshire Regiment), only son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hadden, of Kotiyagalla, Ceylon, and Stonehouse, Brimpton, Berks, and Helen Lucy Wood, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wood, The Beeches, Astley Bridge, Bolton, Lancashire

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant Douglas M. Horsford, Grenadier Guards, S.R., only surviving son of the late Colonel and Mrs. Horsford, Bosvathick, Penryn, Cornwall, and Cora G. G. Cavendish, widow of Captain Godfrey Cavendish, 97th Infantry, I.A., took place at the Brompton Oratory, S.W., on September 24.

The marriage was celebrated on September 9, at St. Stephen's Church, Bournemouth, by the Rev. G. P. Trevelyan, between Captain G. P. Devenish, G.S. Intelligence, G.H.Q., E.E.F., Cairo, only son of the late W. P. Devenish, of Rushill, Co. Roscommon, Ireland, and Phyllis, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Pavey, of Bournemouth.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (September 11) :—
Sir George Russell Clerk, the emissary from the Peace Conference, has arrived in Bucharest, and his arrival has caused a considerable stir in political circles. It is hoped that the information which he will impart to the Government will have the effect of straightening out the present situation.

The marriage was celebrated on August 16 at Christ Church, Simla, by the Right Rev. Eyre Chatterton, D.D., Bishop of Nagpur (brother-in-law of the bridegroom), between Captain Arthur Brodie Haig, 24th Punjabis, youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Alexander Haig, of 43, Kensington Park Gardens, W., and Marguerite Theodora, widow of the Rev. R. M. Kirwan, Chaplain.

The Sultan of Egypt's yacht "Mahroussa" is now being overhauled, refitted and decorated at Portsmouth, under the supervision of Mr. Robert Harley, the engineer, who has been connected with the yacht for several years. It was originally intended that the repairs should be done at Malta, but it was found that they could not be carried out there; and consequently the boat was brought to England. It will take several months to complete the work.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Lieut.-Colonel George Hudson-Kinahan, Durham Light Infantry, attached to the Egyptian Army, third surviving son of the late Sir Edward Hudson-Kinahan, Bart., and Lady Hudson-Kinahan, of The Manor, Glenville, Co. Cork, and Alexandra (Alec) Hodgson, widow of Captain C. A. R. Hodgson, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, and younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wisdom Hely, of Oakland, Rathgar, County Dublin.

Among wills recently proved is that of Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., LL.D., of Park Mansions, London, W., who died aged seventy-seven, on January 10 last. He was for many years Director of the Foreign Department of *The Times*, and formerly private secretary to Lord Dufferin and Lord Lansdowne when Viceroys of India, private secretary to the King when Prince of Wales during his Colonial tour, and author of standard works on Russia and Egypt. He left personal estate in the United Kingdom valued at £76,445.

Among the diplomatic appointments recently made are :—Sir Milne Cheetham, Counsellor at Cairo, to be Minister to Peru and Ecuador.

The Hon. Ernest S. Scott, Counsellor at the Teheran Legation, to be Minister to the Empress of Ethiopia.

Sir Charles N. E. Eliot, K.C.M.G., High Commissioner and Consul-General in Siberia, whose earlier posts included Tangier, Constantinople, Sofia, and Belgrade, to be Ambassador to the Emperor of Japan.

Mr. D. E. M. Crackenthorpe, C.M.G., Counsellor at Madrid, whose diplomatic appointments included Bucharest and Belgrade, to be Minister to the Republics of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Salvador.

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The Countess of Meath, who died last November, left estate of the value of £88,632. Among other things, she left £500 shares in the Dublin Artisans' Company to the Hospital for Jews at Jerusalem, and £2,000 shares to the executors for North African missions for the general purpose of the Hospital for Women at Tangier.

It is announced that the decoration of the Order of Michael the Brave, 1st Class, has been conferred by the King of Roumania on Field-Marshal Earl Haig, and the Order of the White Eagle, 1st Class, on Lieutenant-General Sir Henry de Beauvoir De Lisle, Lieutenant-General Sir George M. Harper, and Temporary Major-General Sir R. Hamilton Russell.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes :—
Dr. A. L. Murison, District Medical Officer, who has returned from leave, is appointed for the present at Famagusta. Mr. Thompson is stationed at Nicosia.
Mr. Fenn, Acting Chief Secretary, leaves at the end of October for East Africa.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain Ernest Wyndham Burdett, M.C., 48th Pioneers, I.A., youngest son of the late Rev. William Jerome Burdett, and of Mrs. Burdett, of Lancehurst, Bovey Tracey, Devon, and Hebe Etheldreda Ellen Curwen, only daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Gilbert Collis, of 7, Montpelier Square, Knightsbridge, S.W.

Field-Marshal Sir Edmund Allenby, just before leaving Egypt, sent the Salvation Army a message expressing his gratitude for the "great and good work which it has done for the Army under my command." He says :—"The zeal and energy of your workers have overcome all difficulties, and their courage has made light of every danger. Their services have been of incalculable benefit to my troops, and their influence has proved of the highest value."

A Correspondent in Switzerland writes :—
A Committee has been formed in Constantinople under the presidency of the Sultan and the vice-presidency of Tewfik Pasha, ex-Ambassador in London, and ex-Grand Vizier, for the relief of those who have suffered during recent years from the fires.
Turkhan Pasha, President of the Provisional Government of Albania, and Madame Turkhan Pasha, are staying at Vichy.
Ismail Jenani Bey, Grand Master of Ceremonies, has been appointed Turkish Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
Osman Nizami Pasha, ex-Turkish High Commissioner in Bucharest, has arrived at Rome. He will shortly join Madame Osman Nizami Pasha in Egypt.
The death of Aly Fouad Bey, director of the *Kara Geuz*, the Turkish *Punch*, took place in Constantinople at the end of August. He was, at the time of his death, the oldest Turkish journalist living.
The death is announced in Naples of Moustapha Jelal-ed-Din Bey, Counsellor of the Turkish Legation at Sofia.
The marriage took place recently in Constantinople of Prince Abdurrahim of Turkey (son of the late Sultan Abdul Hamid) with Princess Eminé Halim of Egypt (daughter of Prince Abbas Halim of Egypt and Princess Abbas Halim of Egypt, *née* Princess Hadijé Tewfik of Egypt). Princess Abdurrahim of Turkey is a grand-daughter of the late Khedive Tewfik of Egypt.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on September 11, at Murree, India, of Lieut.-Colonel Francis William Burbury, Rifle Brigade, late Royal West Kent Regiment, second son of the late S. Hawksley Burbury, M.A., F.R.S., 15, Melbury Road, Kensington.

Lieut.-Colonel Linley Blathwayt, late Bengal Staff Corps, died on September 10, at Bath, at the age of eighty. He served throughout the Indian Mutiny, taking part in the siege and capture of Lucknow, and many other actions, and afterwards fought in the China War and served with the Bhootan Expedition.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* writes (September 21) :—Lieutenant-Colonel Bertram Keeling, who was last May appointed Director-General of the Survey of Egypt and President of the Cotton Research Board, died suddenly yesterday. Great regret is felt everywhere. Much was expected of him in his new posts, and his death is a great loss to the country.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Marshal von Mackensen and his staff have arrived at Salonika under Allied escort.
The Serbo-Croat-Slovene delegates to the Peace Conference arrived at Belgrade on September 19 from Paris.
An important gift of animals from India is on its way to the Zoological Gardens, and has already reached Aden in a ship of the British India Company.
According to a telegram from Athens the trial of M. Skouloudis has been postponed until January 28. M. Gounaris will be proceeded against *in contumaciam*.

The Indian Legislative Council has appointed a mixed committee to consider the question of the high prices of articles of daily consumption, and to suggest remedies.
In the Indian Legislative Council M. Chanda's resolution that Simla should cease to be the summer home of the Punjab Government was rejected after two hours' discussion.
Rainfall has been normal in Berar, the Central Provinces East, and Hyderabad South, and excessive in Mysore, Madras South, East, and the Madras Deccan. The monsoon is likely to be weak. Agricultural prospects are satisfactory.
Eighty Indian officers and 2,045 other ranks have made the pilgrimage to Mecca this year. They were entertained for four weeks by the King of the Hejaz, and were given a free passage both ways by the British Government.
The P. and O. Company announce facilities for saloon passengers to Malta and Constantinople by the ambulance transport Glengorm Castle, 7,000 tons, which is expected to leave Marseilles on or about October 10. Fares are quoted for berths in cabins or for "cot accommodation," the latter at the lower rate.
Regulations have been published in India for the selection there of natives of India and Burma for appointment to the Indian Civil Service otherwise than by means of the open competitive examination. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary, Judicial and Public Department, India Office, London, S.W. 1.
A message has been sent by the Parliament of the Armenian Republic to the Parliaments of Great Britain, France, America, and nearly all the Powers represented at the Peace Conference, declaring that Armenia is to-day once more left to face her persecutors with an utterly inadequate supply of arms and ammunition.
The fourth report of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene asks for a sum of £1,500 over and above ordinary annual contributions for the purpose of a campaign in England against "tolerated vice," particularly as regards Indian Cantonments. It is stated that the representative of the association in India, Mrs. Dixon, obtained from the Commander-in-Chief in India last year an order abolishing the system for the duration of the war, but further efforts are necessary to get this order confirmed and included in the Cantonment Code.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1919.

THE BULGARIAN TREATY.

The terms of peace imposed upon Bulgaria can be regarded from three different points of view—from the Bulgarian, from that of the advocate of the policy of *Væ Victis*, and from the standpoint of those who look beyond the crimes and follies of the past and the bitterness of the moment to a Balkan Peninsula at peace with itself and treading in friendly co-operation a path of steady material and social progress. To the Bulgarians the Treaty will be a tragic disillusionment. Fighting has been too long the business of the Balkan peoples to allow any of them to regard war *per se* otherwise than as the natural method of settling differences of opinion or a clash of aims between neighbouring States. They belong, in other words to the Old Testament dispensation, and a moral aversion from an appeal to arms is as foreign to their nature as it was to the Israelites in their early days in Palestine. A war, therefore, is only to be condemned when the object which a belligerent has in view carries no justification with it. In the present instance, according to the Bulgarian case, Bulgaria entered the war with the wholly justifiable object of liberating her kinsfolk from alien jurisdiction. All other considerations—the manner of their entry into the struggle or their methods of warfare—are devoid of any weight in the eyes of the Bulgarians. They were beaten; but the Allies, before they had gained their victory, announced as one of the foremost of their war aims, the liberation of peoples under alien jurisdiction. The Bulgarians seized upon this declaration, and until they were confronted with the Allies' terms of peace, were not to be persuaded that they would not, after all, secure the objects for which they went to war. Questions of punishment for defeat failed to exercise their minds; humiliation, indemnities, nothing mattered so long as the kinsfolk domiciled in adjacent territories were finally to be united with the mother country. The terms of peace have not only failed to allot them the coveted Macedonia, but have also cut off from their existing territory a substantial portion hitherto recognised as theirs by right of nationality, and the part that gives them access to the Mediterranean. There can be no doubt, therefore, as to the feelings which the Treaty will evoke in Bulgaria. The penalty that the country is called upon to pay is, from its own point of view, a severe one.

The Serbian and Greek points of view have already found expression among the delegates of the two States in Paris. "My country cannot be at all satisfied," M. Vesnitch is reported to have said; and he added: "Except for a few slight rectifications of the frontiers, the necessity of which was obvious, our interests and rights have been obviously sacrificed." Greece had counted upon receiving Thrace at once, whereas by the terms of the Treaty the Principal Allied and Associated Powers assume all rights and titles over the region alienated from Bulgaria, and the latter undertakes to accept whatever settlement may be made by them in regard to these territories. It is evident, therefore, that the Paris Conference has been at pains to effect a compromise between two extreme points of view. When no deep-seated principles are at stake, that is often a safe course to adopt. The war, however, has shown that the principle of nationality is a dangerous thing to run counter to, and the Allied Powers can have no wish to create an Alsace-Lorraine in the Balkans. A literal interpretation of their pledges might have compelled them to give to a beaten Bulgaria precisely what she would have claimed, if she had fought on the side of the Allies and helped them to victory. In what General Smuts has termed "a seething cauldron of human passion and greed," it was not to be expected that anyone could rise to that height of quixotism. The Powers refused to reward Bulgaria for her crime; they have introduced modifications of her western frontier, in deference to Serbian demands, possibly on the principle that these modifications were slight enough almost not to matter; they have fixed reparation at two-and-a-quarter milliards of francs, but allow the Inter-Allied and Reparation Commissions discretion in the matter of reducing the total capital sum to be paid by Bulgaria; and finally they meet the Greek claims to Thrace by taking over the territory themselves with a view to settling its fate subsequently. If they are in no hurry to escape from their responsibility in this matter there are obvious advantages in the expedient adopted. In the first place Great Britain, France, and the United States must retain a military force on the spot, and it can be located in Thrace without wounding any susceptibilities. Such a force will be very necessary until passions kindled by this and previous wars or feuds, as far back as the Serbian "stab in the back" of 1885, have had time to cool and the risk of frontier incidents has diminished. The period of military occupation will afford an opportunity of gauging without bias the wishes of the inhabitants in regard to their own future, and will give time for migration between the various districts with a view to establishing homogeneous communities on their own national soil.

In all the circumstances, therefore, while, with a first-hand knowledge of the Balkans, we cannot believe that the Paris Conference has chosen the shortest path to the settlement of the Near Eastern question, we feel that the ill done is not too great to prevent good from coming ultimately out of it. The Bulgarians will do well to make a virtue of necessity, and, leaving their case as it has already been worded by M. Theodoroff, to sign the Treaty without further pother. They have already decided where the responsibility for their wrongdoing and subsequent misfortunes rests; there is no need to seek fresh scapegoats or to pretend that those who have been to Paris to receive the Treaty are in any way responsible for the conditions imposed. If they find the terms harsh, let them bear in mind that the harshness has been inspired no less by their methods of waging war than by the original act of entering the struggle on the side of the Central Powers. There may be precedent in Balkan history for every outrage committed, but these practices are to be tolerated no more. Bulgaria, with confidence in herself, can yet rise superior to her present troubles—not with misplaced trust in intrigue and violence, but on the strength of the sterling achievements of her people in the arts of peace. For generations she has seen her kinsfolk outside her territories, and has tried by three appeals to war to extend her frontiers so as to incorporate them in herself. She has failed, and failing has caused her neighbours to become aggrandised at her expense. The regions that these kinsfolk inhabit have been largely desolated in the attempts. Let her now change her tactics, and encourage these same people to make their homes within the territory that is hers beyond dispute. A heavy burden has been laid upon her by her own acts—the indemnity is but little more than half the total of the debt that she contracted during the war, and half of it in turn represents the amount, now cancelled by the Allies, of Germany's claim against her—and she can only win her way again by hard work over a long period of peace. If she feels that any cause that she has at heart is just, she is assured of a hearing by the League of Nations. Her sincerity will be gauged largely by the care with which she tries to avoid friction with her neighbours.

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THE UNREST IN EGYPT.

By ESTELLE BLYTH.

It is no matter for surprise that a section of the Egyptians should have taken the opportunity of general unrest prevailing everywhere in the world in order to start an agitation of their own. The wonder is, rather, that they did not agitate earlier, for the Egyptian is par excellence an agitator; his mind is always in a state of ferment over something or other, and when his natural slothfulness of body can be overcome this mental excitement will carry him some distance along the way of agitation and excesses. The fact that the disturbances spread as far as they did, and also lasted so long, together with the very practical attempts upon ways and communications, suggest a controlling agency possessing more foresight and grasp of detail than the average Egyptian is gifted with.

We leave it to wiser heads than ours to weigh the actual importance of an outburst which it would be easy to overrate. We will content ourselves with pointing out certain features which, in looking back, strike us as being hopeful. The agitators were almost entirely confined to the student and the labouring classes. The Egyptian students, considered *en masse*, have an unfortunate reputation for headiness and volubility; this is well known throughout Egypt and the Near East. Hence it is not surprising to find their "cause" supported by the ignorant classes, on whom volubility is never without effect. The sober-minded and reflective amongst the Egyptians appear to have kept out of the way, and when persuaded or compelled to parade, they usually did so with a quietness and decency that were positively dull. The soldiers and the police, and those who understand responsibility as well as represent authority, were almost untouched. The appearance of the Bedouin upon the scene was due to the simple fact that the Bedawi cannot keep out of a scrap; little predatory excursions into other people's territory, with the prospect of looting other people's possessions, are the salt of life to him. If the British Government chose to hand over the offending villages to him for punishment, he would rise to the occasion with equal zest. But he is not going to play the Egyptian agitator's game any longer than it suits him personally to do so. Thus the Bedouin factor in the case becomes one of local anxiety rather than of political importance.

Unfortunately, agitators and looters can do a great deal of harm, and are bound to achieve a primary success, which, however temporary in character, is most encouraging to themselves, and exceedingly unpleasant to authority. In this case a good deal of damage has been done to property, both Government and private, and lives have been lost, including lives of British soldiers, officers, and men, for which we hope the Government will exact a most severe penalty. Railway lines and telegraph wires can be compensated for in money, but the Egyptian agitator needs to be taught in the plainest and sternest manner possible that the life of an English soldier is not held lightly by the English peoples. Moreover, as if this were not enough, Egyptians have actually accused British privates of committing atrocities and excesses in Egypt under cover of restoring and maintaining order. No one who knows the English soldier, and his character and bearing towards women, will credit these charges; no Army in the world, and no individual soldiers, bear such a high name as they. Egyptian agitators and propagandists have been extremely ill-advised to utter these slanders. English people the world over will be slow to forget that their soldiers, who have protected Egypt from experiencing the penalties of war, who voluntarily gave up their leave and postponed the date of their demobilisation in order to save Egypt in a sharp crisis, should have had such abominable lies uttered against them. Entirely baseless as the slander is, it sheds a most unpleasant light on the methods and the mentality of the Egyptian agitator.

It is greatly to be regretted that some at home, in their attempt to trace the agitation to its roots, have shown a tendency to blame the official attitude in Egypt for a supposed severity and lack of sympathy which have caused an exasperated people to rise in protest. It is not the way of the British official anywhere to be hard or unsympathetic with Easterns—we cite India, the Sudan, and Palestine as witnesses—and the English officials in Egypt merit the gratitude and admiration of both Egyptians and English. The Egyptian student, however, will welcome the excuse to shift the blame on to British shoulders.

The seriousness of the disturbance appears to lie in the misunderstanding out of which it arose, a misunderstanding which we do not think is yet dissipated. The story is familiar to all who follow the course of Near Eastern affairs. The four deported Ministers were probably far happier in the safe seclusion of Malta than they can be as puppets in the hands of agitators at home, exploited by them for selfish ends. The flame kindled by the deportation, however, was fanned by the refusal of the British Government to allow the Nationalist delegates to proceed to England at a time when the vast issues of the world peace were coming under discussion. Rushdi Pasha and Adli Pasha, with whom the delegates proposed to travel, were requested to delay their visit as the date suggested by them coincided with the opening of the Peace Conference. To delay a journey does not imply its abandonment, but the Egyptian hotheads apparently only wanted a pretext to start their agitation, and this was made to serve their purpose. The agitation ran the usual course of rioting, demonstrations, processions, and speech-making, accompanied by a good deal of material damage and, unfortunately, loss of life. On March 16 General Watson, who was commanding in Egypt until General Allenby's arrival, summoned the Egyptian Independence Committee and told them very plainly that as they were responsible for starting the trouble he expected them to stop it. The Committee naively confessed their own alarm at the present dimensions of the trouble, which they described as being now entirely beyond their control; they promised to do what they could to stop it, but hastened to add, with the frankness of fear, that if they tried to make the wicked cease from troubling the wicked would probably turn on them. In conclusion "they asked, for their own protection, that they might be ordered to return to their villages." (*The Times*, March 25.) The ass having shed the lion's skin in this sorry fashion, we can only hope that it was allowed to return to its stable; for we think that truth-telling should always be rewarded.

There is no doubt that General Allenby has dealt with the difficulty tactfully as well as firmly, and though further sporadic outbursts are neither impossible nor unlikely, the agitators will have learnt a lesson. It is clear, however, that a country of Egypt's size, prominence, and capacity requires more individual attention than it can receive from the already overburdened Foreign Office. An Egypt Office is necessary, which shall give its whole attention to the affairs of Egypt, the Sudan, and Cyprus, and, as we hope and believe, of Palestine also, when that distressful country is definitely placed in the guardianship of England. Our responsibilities in the Near East have immensely increased during the war, and we must have the machinery necessary to deal with them. Possibly some such arrangement as this will come out of Lord Milner's approaching visit to Egypt; it is bound to come sooner or later.

The agitation, in its rise and in its conduct, will most certainly have taught the outside world to estimate at its right value the average Egyptian's capacity for self-government. For he is, in fact, the least capable of any Eastern in this way, largely as he talks about it, and sweetly as the luscious phrases roll off his tongue. The initiators of the trouble confess their powerlessness to control, let alone direct or stop, an agitation which they start, and appeal for protection to the very authority they set about so gaily to overthrow. It need surprise no one if such outbursts occur at intervals in Egypt, at least until the world's unrest is somewhat stilled. The Egyptian agitator shares with the Sinn Feiner a bland propensity to "look before and after, and pine for what is not," which adds immensely to their interest and variety in both cases, but hardly to their value as serious factors in society or politics.

We do not make the mistake of confounding all Egyptians with the frothy agitators who have brought discredit on the Egyptian name. It is the scum that rises to the surface, and it must always be skimmed. But Egyptians generally need to remember how Great Britain has befriended and protected them; that their country is what Britain has made it; that it is British credit behind them that stabilises their trade and commerce; and that Britain is both their guarantee and safeguard. The folly and criminal selfishness of a section of Egyptians have brought a momentary discredit on their country; it rests with those who value her good name and theirs to clear her of the stain. It is right and natural that the Egyptians should desire an increasing share in the government and administration of their country; that is also the British ideal for them. But such ebullitions of temper, vanity, and mischief as we have witnessed can only result in delaying indefinitely the realisation of a mutual ideal.

Reuter's Malta correspondent writes (September 20):—The Essex Regiment, which is now on its way to Malta, and the Worcestershires and the Gordon Highlanders, which had been detailed for duty at Malta, are now not coming here. It is stated that their services are required in Egypt. Instead of the latter two regiments, two battalions of the Malta Militia, which were about to be demobilised, are now to remain on garrison duty.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Persia.

The Times of September 20, in commenting on Lord Curzon's speech at the dinner recently given by the Government to His Highness Prince Firuz Mirza, says:—

The continent of Asia is in ferment, and there are indications that it may contain perils even greater than those through which the West has recently passed. The peace of the world requires that somewhere in the Middle East there should be established a region of tranquillity and strength, and nowhere are there greater prospects of success than in Persia. Another important factor in the situation is the imperative necessity of allaying the unrest prevalent throughout Islam. The war has inevitably curtailed the power and influence of Turkey. We cannot allow yet another great Mohammedan State, guiltless of offence, simultaneously to fall to pieces for need of a helping hand. By restoring stability to Persia we shall show the Musulman peoples that our motives are disinterested, and that their own fears are without foundation.

It proceeds to insist that Persia had a free hand in the negotiations.

It cannot be too widely emphasised that, as Lord Curzon pointed out, Persia has been a free agent throughout the negotiations which led to the Agreement. The Nusrat-u-Daula bore similar testimony, in the most categorical manner. The suggestion, slightly spiced with malice, that in concluding the Agreement Great Britain and Persia have gone behind the Covenant of the League of Nations, is without foundation. Both Governments are at one on this point, and the text of the Agreement speaks for itself. When the Council of the League of Nations comes into effective existence, the document will at once be communicated to it, with, said Lord Curzon, "a full explanation." Meanwhile, the Agreement should be regarded as a potent instrument for the strengthening of peace. The allegation that Great Britain has established a veiled protectorate over Persia is a grotesque perversion of our own intentions and an insult to the patriotism and intelligence of Persian statesmen, who have always been jealous guardians of the integrity of the Shah's dominions. No one who knows them, or who is aware of their persistent resentment of former Russian aggression in Northern Persia, could suppose that they would consent to the creation of any sort of protectorate, however shadowy. That they should turn for help and guidance to their most powerful neighbour is natural enough, and the aid they seek will be freely given. Such help is both the beginning and the end of the Persian Agreement. This country has far too many preoccupations to permit any further extension of costly responsibilities in foreign lands. The salvation of Persia rests in the hands of Persians themselves.

Roumania and Serbia.

In the *Sunday Times* of September 14 Mr. Crawfurd Price examines the question of minorities in the Balkans, and suggests that the whole matter lies in the objection to outside interference, similar to that which England and France would prefer were the League of Nations to interfere with the questions of Ireland and of Alsace. He says:—

The boundaries of the new and aggrandised States of South-Eastern Europe will necessarily include alien minorities—this cannot be avoided—and it is held that the welfare of such minorities must be the concern of the League. The wisdom of this thought may be admitted, though it may be submitted that, if the League is to possess any vitality or authority whatsoever, it should be in a position to step in and remedy abuse apart from any convention which may presently be signed in Paris, and which will admittedly act as a direct incentive to disgruntled minorities—who, like the rest of us, will probably find themselves worse off in the future than they have been in the past—to agitate against their rulers.

Take the case of Roumania. In order to unite the Roumanes within her realm she must annex some compact masses of aliens which, in some cases, have been deliberately planted within her ethnological frontiers for a specific purpose. Bunches of Magyars in Transylvania who have hitherto been permitted to exploit their Roumane neighbours without let or hindrance will not readily reconcile themselves even to a régime of strict justice and equality. They will not willingly sacrifice their privileged position. Again, the Roumanians cannot regard with equanimity any system which will conserve a foyer of intrigue within their portals. These thoughts, and the objection to tutelage, are, I take it, at the bottom of the Roumanian Government's disinclination to accept the famous Clause 9 of the St. Germain Treaty.

The Serbian Delegation, on the other hand, must be congratulated on having taken a stand much less determined than that of Roumania. They have signified their willingness to sign the Treaty with slight reservations, the reasonableness of which becomes apparent when one examines the situation and finds that the particular clause to which exception is taken is the result rather of outside political interests than any real concern for the inhabitants. Afflicted with the universal indisposition to sign a blank cheque, the Serbs want to know what their responsibilities will be, and they not unnaturally take exception to the Treaty when it seeks to apply the minority clauses to all territory which lay outside the realms of Serbia on January 1, 1913.

Bulgaria.

In a leading article upon "Bulgaria's Fate," the *Daily News* recently said that the Supreme Council have disregarded ethnical lines, and that the prospect of permanency in the recent peace terms is remote.

Not only are the Macedonians left to Greek and Serbian rule, the Dobrudja to Roumania, and Adrianople to whatever nation succeeds to the rights of the Turks in Europe, but Western Thrace is to be detached from Bulgaria, which is thereby deprived of all direct access to the Ægean. That, it will no doubt be said, matters little, seeing that an economic outlet to the Ægean is guaranteed, while the freedom of the Straits will facilitate communication by way of Varna or Burgas and the Black Sea. These no doubt are mitigations, but economic facilities in a foreign port are not the same thing as possession of a port with full power to adapt and develop it. In any case, moreover, Bulgaria's real grievance will not be economic, but ethnical. Large populations belonging properly to Bulgaria are to remain detached, or to be for the first time detached, from Bulgaria, some of them falling under the rule of the new Jugo-Slav State, some awaiting an unknown destiny at the hands of the major Allies, in whose hands the disposition of Western Thrace still rests. That, it must be repeated, is a settlement that inspires very grave misgivings, not primarily on account of the loss to Bulgaria—Bulgaria has shown us since 1914 singularly little reason for regarding her with tenderness—but because its disregard of all the principles of self-determination constitutes a perpetual menace of further war in the Balkans. And remembering where the European War had its origin, we can only contemplate the prospect of further Balkan unrest with alarm.

Articles to Note

"War in the Land of the Arabian Nights," by Lowell Thomas; and "Industrial Turkey," by William H. Hall, in *Asia*. (September.)

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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With reference to previous remarks in this column upon rupee exchange, a further advance towards freer dealing was established last week by the announcement that sales of Council Bills would be thrown open. It is well known that for some considerable time sales of Council Bills have been confined to the leading Exchange banks and a few others interested in the control of exchange. The bestowal of this privilege was no doubt an indication of the confidence which the India Office had in the banks concerned, but it also carried responsibilities which, it may be safely assumed, have not been borne lightly. For example, the favoured few who participated in the weekly allotment were obliged to do exchange business in India at rates practically dictated by the Indian Government. They were further put to the necessity of devoting the full amount of the rupee transfers allotted to the purchase of trade bills drawn against exports of national importance, and we understand that the Government rigorously enforced this condition. All this is as it should be, of course, in times of stress, but as we are within sight of the anniversary of the date of the Armistice, the removal of these barriers to trade cannot be said to be premature. Last week we alluded to the uncertainty with which the exchange problem was surrounded, and the open competition for Council Bills which was invited this week only added another element of anxiety.

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Ample evidence of this is indicated by the result of the tenders. One bid for a small amount of bills was made at 2s. 2d.; needless to say, this was accepted in full. Other tenders ranged from 2s. 1d. down to 2s. 9-16d. The minimum rate which Government fixed was 2s. Pending the result of the allotment, it was almost impossible to obtain a quotation from any bank for business with India, and even now, when a proper working basis has materialised, the future course of exchange is very obscure. It is important to note that for the maximum of 100 lakhs offered the total amount of tenders only came to 112½ lakhs, and as we learn on reliable authority that the accumulation of mercantile bills awaiting negotiation in India has been considerably reduced, it is clear that the pressure has been relieved through other channels. The only other measures available at the moment have been found in shipments of gold, which has recently been flowing freely to India from America and this country. These shipments are taken over by the Government at a fixed price, which gives them a handsome profit, and in these days of tall talk about economy and legislation to curb the profiteer it may well be asked why Government does not begin at home and stop their own profiteering in gold, for which the Indian community have been starved since the outbreak of war.

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I am still receiving complaints with regard to postal communications between this country and the Near East. The latest is from a correspondent in Greece, who gives an illuminating instance of the irregularity of the mail service. Letters were posted to him by a London firm on July 31 and August 11, and he received the first letter two weeks after the second! As I have pointed out previously, a mail service so unsatisfactory as this evidently is cannot fail to have a most detrimental effect on the development of trade between the United Kingdom and the Near East. The remedy lies with the authorities here, who must be fully aware of the reasons for the irregularities of the service, and ought without delay to make urgent representations in the proper quarter abroad.

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The report of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway, which has just been issued, is a document of exceptional interest. The company's staff took over the working of the line in April, and it is stated that the whole district was then quiet, and that the traffic receipts were very good, as there were considerable stocks of exportable goods in the interior. The disturbances which followed the occupation by the Greeks in May of Smyrna and the surrounding country led, however, to a serious decrease in traffic. A British mission has arrived at Smyrna, and it is hoped that its work will lead to a restoration of order in the neighbourhood. Given settled conditions, traffic ought to increase rapidly, as it is reported that stocks of produce for which a ready market exists are large, while this season's crops, though very adversely affected by the prevailing conditions, may yet be considerable.

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Owing to the disorganisation, the accounts for the past half-year could not be completed and they will be included with the accounts for the current period. As regards the company's claim for war damages, it is not anticipated that claims in regard to Turkey will be settled in the near future, and with a view to facilitating a settlement proposals have been drawn up which would enable the company's claims to be satisfied—as to some part, at any rate—in kind. It need scarcely be said that the arrears of maintenance of the line are heavy, and at the present time only one-third of the locomotives are fit for service. The outlook for the railway is in general very favourable, but this factor makes it certain that an appreciable period must elapse before the company again enjoys its former prosperity.

A general meeting of the Constantinople Telephone Company is to be held at Constantinople on November 4. This undertaking, formed in 1911, has hitherto been singularly unfortunate, for its operations have been hindered first by the Italian and Balkan wars, and afterwards by the late war. It is proposed that the receipts and expenditure during the working of the system by the Turkish Government from March, 1915, to April, 1919, should be for the account of that Government, with the obligation on its part to pay to the company an indemnity which will put it in a position to pay interest to the bondholders and shareholders in respect of that period. The funds available in London have been utilised for the supply of materials for the upkeep of the system. The assets at present in London, consisting of cash and investments, amount to £34,200, and against this are liabilities estimated to exceed £60,000, and there is, in addition, the accrued interest, amounting to £60,000, but this sum forms part of the company's claim against the Turkish Government.

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The grave financial position of Turkey is explained in a statement just issued by the Turkish Minister of Finance, Tewfik Bey. The general annual expenditure of Turkey, he points out, is approximately £T72,000,000, £T45,000,000 of which is required for the payment of salaries and war pensions, etc.; but against this the receipts do not exceed £T42,000,000, so that on these figures there is a deficit of £T30,000,000. I have said "on these figures," for Tewfik Bey goes on to explain that the £T42,000,000 is the sum which he estimates for receipts, and that it "can only be attained if new sources of revenue are created." So that actually the position is much worse than would appear from these figures.

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The measures which Tewfik Bey advocates are an increase in the Customs duties, the real estate tax, the licence tax, and by the creation of a tax on war profits, certain of which will require the consent of the Entente Powers. But, according to Tewfik Bey's estimate, the result of the increases will merely be to raise the revenue to £T42,000,000, so that there will still remain the deficit of £T30,000,000. Whether or no the proposed taxes give the yield expected must depend entirely upon the state of the country, and assuming that they will, the real problem—how to meet the deficit—will still have to be solved.

COMMENTATOR.

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN BULGARIA.

The Financial Position.—I.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

When the Balkan Wars commenced the consolidated and floating debt of Bulgaria amounted to about 650,000,000 levas, and during those wars this was doubled. The effect of the European war has been to raise the debt of Bulgaria to insupportable dimensions. By the end of 1916 the total indebtedness was more than three milliards of levas, of which over half was floating debt, which arose from the expenditure for military purposes. Part of this expenditure was in accordance with the engagements entered into with Germany by a special treaty made at the commencement of the war against Serbia. According to this treaty Germany agreed to advance 50,000,000 marks monthly to Bulgaria for war expenses. Up to the conclusion of the Armistice in September, 1918, Bulgaria received from her former Allies, Germany and Austria-Hungary, 1,350,000,000 levas in the form of credits at the branches of the National Bank of Bulgaria in Berlin and Vienna.

From the following particulars it will be seen that the State debts at December 1, 1918, amounted to 5,264,116,585 levas:—

(1) Consolidated debt:—
(1) Loans 1892—1909, 551,094,760 levas.
(2) Eastern Roumelian Occupation debt, 19,894,276 levas.
(3) 6 per cent. Loan 1914, 75,119,400 levas —total 646,108,436 levas.

(2) Floating debt:—
(1) Deficit on Budgets 1914—16, 80,000,000 levas.
(2) Extraordinary credit for military purposes 1912-13, 349,270,519 levas.
(3) Extraordinary credits for military purposes 1915-18, 3,540,634,873 levas.
(4) Extraordinary credit for extraordinary Budgets, 348,102,757 levas.
(5) Loss on sale of requisitioned foodstuffs, 300,000,000 levas—total 4,618,008,149 levas.

(3) Obligations to Germany and Austria-Hungary, 2,000,000,000 levas.

In addition to these debts, which will doubtless be greatly increased during the current year, there is a liability of 150,000,000 levas annually for war pensions, which amount represents the interest on three milliards of levas, so that the total debt of Bulgaria at the end of 1918 amounted to over ten milliards of levas.

The floating debt includes: 1. an advance of 75,000,000 francs from the Banque de Paris et de Pays Bas at Paris; 2. 27,724,675 francs obtained from the Russo-Asiatic and other banks at Petrograd on current account against the deposit of treasury bonds; 3. Loans of 270,000,000 levas from the Disconto-Gesellschaft and the monthly war advances from Germany and Austria-Hungary amounting to 1,350,000,000 levas; and 4. from the Bulgarian State banks and from various State funds, 1,650,000,000 levas. The remainder of the floating debt consists of obligations to home creditors for requisitions of food products, for various supplies, and for compensation for damage and losses during the war.

A year before the Balkan wars the Budget amounted to about 170,000,000 levas. Since then, as will be seen from the following table, as a result of the wars of 1912-13 and 1915-18 there has been an immense increase, especially in the last two years. It should be noted that contributory factors to the increase have been the expenditure in regard to the districts of Gumuldjina, Struma, and Adrianople, which in 1911 were not included within the boundaries of Bulgaria, and also provision for the maintenance of the occupied territory during the last war, namely the districts of Morava and Drama, Macedonia, and the Dobruja.

During the last eight years the annual revenue and expenditure has been as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess or Deficit.
1911	198,795,814	180,124,949	+ 18,670,865
1912	170,038,591	165,160,897	+ 4,877,694
1913	168,724,840	146,188,871	+ 22,535,969
1914	224,251,265	233,231,471	− 8,983,206
1915	194,547,398	228,338,154	− 33,790,756
1916	193,015,364	203,440,877†	− 10,425,513
1917	337,846,968	227,999,103	+ 109,847,865
1918	418,518,175	310,913,237*	+ 107,604,938*

† This sum does not include the expenditure for the whole period.
* Excluding revenue and expenditure during the current year for last year's account.

The last normal Budget was that for 1912; but owing to the war which was begun against Turkey neither the revenue nor the expenditure was in accordance with the estimates. The revenue decreased, and a certain part of the estimated expenditure was not incurred, because the war expenditure was covered by extraordinary credits. For 1913 and 1914 the budgets were on the base of that for 1912; but with certain additions, which were required by the new needs of the State. For 1915 a regular Budget was voted, but this Budget had the same fate as that for 1912. The participation of Bulgaria in the European war causing a new disorganisation of the State revenues and expenditure, owing to the abnormal conditions, the National assembly did not vote a regular Budget for the following year, and the needs of the State were met as in 1913 and 1914. For 1917 and 1918 regular budgets were voted, but supplementary credits were required owing to the disorganisation of the economic life of the country in consequence of the prolonged war.

ROUMANIAN EXCHANGE PROBLEM.

Need for Development of Exports.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 11.

As a result of numerous influences, including, no doubt, the unsettled political situation, the value of the Roumanian leu has been rapidly decreasing, and now stands at an alarmingly low figure in the world's money market. In spite of the activities of a State Department set up for the purpose of controlling the exchange, and the restrictions against the export of Roumanian money, the fact remains that Roumanian currency is constantly depreciating in value. A loan from the larger Allies might have a steadying effect upon the exchange, and an amelioration of the present relations between Roumania and the Entente would probably also tend to that end. The only real solution of the difficulty lies, however, in the export of Roumanian commodities. The question of export at the present moment presents many difficulties, and various bureaux have been instituted to act as channels for the export of Roumania's chief commodities, such as oil, timber and grain. Although perhaps at the present moment this method of conducting business is necessary, it has a hampering effect upon the export trade. Furthermore, a rather curious Government regulation insists upon payment for Roumanian exports in foreign currency, no doubt with a view to benefiting the exchange of Roumanian money. It is probable, however, that this regulation is having an opposite effect from that originally intended, and certain Roumanian economic authorities are of opinion that payment in foreign currency of not more than a quarter of the value of the exports should be insisted upon, as is the case in Bulgaria. In any case, all such restrictions and regulations have no more than an artificial value, and the real remedy for the exchange question lies in the constant and unhampered export of commodities.

Frontier Questions and Currency

For the purposes of Customs formalities, the Roumanian frontiers remain practically the same as before the war, and a council recently held at Sibiu discussed the question of whether or not the customs should be removed to the new frontiers of "Great Roumania" and a free course allowed for the transport of goods between Roumania and Transylvania. It was decided that the time has not yet arrived for the abolition of the old boundaries, in view of the fact that the Transylvanian currency (crowns) has depreciated to a greater extent than that of Old Roumania, and that the free exchange of commodities would have the immediate effect of increasing in Transylvania the prices of certain articles which are now being kept in that country. Until, therefore, an arrangement can be made for the unification of the currency in some form or another, it is not considered advisable to remove the existing boundaries.

LOCOMOTIVE ORDERS FOR INDIA.

"Recent locomotive orders placed on behalf of the Indian State railways," says "Modern Transport," "include contracts for eighty-two 0-6-0 type locomotives awarded to the Vulcan Foundry, Ltd., of Newton-le-Willows, Lancs; for seventy 2-8-0 type locomotives to be built by Kitson and Co., Ltd., of the Airedale Foundry, Leeds; and twenty-six 4-6-0 type engines to be delivered by the Hunslet Engine Company, of Leeds. The North British Locomotive Company, of Glasgow, has the order for thirty broad-gauge and five metre-gauge locomotives, all for the Bengal Nagpur Railway. Sir W. G. Armstrong-Whitworth and Co. is to deliver twenty-five 2-8-0 type broad-gauge locomotives for the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway, and seventeen 2-8-0 type broad-gauge locomotives for the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway. Nasmyth, Wilson and Co., Ltd., of Patricroft, Manchester, has orders for the delivery of seventeen locomotives for the Burma railways, twelve locomotives for the Assam-Bengal Railway, ten locomotives for the Eastern Bengal State Railway, ten locomotives for the South Indian Railway and nine locomotives for the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway. All of these locomotives are to be fitted with the Robinson type super-heater. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company has quite recently placed contracts with the North British Locomotive Company, of Glasgow, for 100 locomotives for their broad-gauge (5 ft. 6 in.) lines, comprising 30 2-10-0 type engines, 60 2-8-0 type goods engines and ten 0-8-4 "Chat" tank locomotives, while an order has been placed with the Vulcan Foundry for four standard passenger engines of the 4-6-0 wheel arrangement."

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Engineering Notes.

Hydraulic Mining Cartridge.

Owing to the persistent adherence to the old methods in the use of explosives in mining and quarry work in the East, a comparatively large number of fatal accidents occur annually in mines and quarries. The disadvantage and danger of employing explosives to excavate rocks and other material from confined places have long been recognised. The effect of blasting cannot always be confined to the area desired to be dislodged, and the use of explosives must involve either the risk of accident through insufficient charge, or the production of misapplied energy. Many mechanical substitutes for blasting have been devised to avoid these drawbacks, but almost all have proved impracticable, and except in the case of the simple wedges are now practically out of use.

The hydraulic mining cartridge is not worked on the principle of a wedge. It consists of a steel cylinder containing a number of telescopic pistons operating at right angles, which are expanded upon the application of water from a hand hydraulic pump attached to the cylinder by a steel pipe. The cylinder is placed in a suitably drilled hole, and the rock removed gently. As the operation proceeds, the rock can be seen slowly fracturing, and at the conclusion of the operation the debris is left in good round condition suitable for speedy removal. Explosives cannot be made to take advantage of the natural bedding and cleavage of rocks, their violence being expended on "hacking through" to the nearest unsupported edge. With the hydraulic cartridge it is possible to excavate greater areas at one operation, the weight of the detaching strata itself being used to increase the scope of the operation. The hydraulic cartridge is used to a large extent in mines and quarries for commercial reasons, and for safety. It has been found equally applicable to work either in open trenches, or under water, and concrete foundations are particularly well suited to the application of this machine, horizontal and vertical shots being arranged at intervals all round the bed and pumped off in turn. About 3½ tons of material can be excavated per thrust.

Handicapping British Engineering Trade.

The vigorous commercial energy which has recently been displayed in the Near East by the manufacturers of almost every industrial country provides clear proof of the value and importance of the markets in that region. Foremost have been the Americans, who, with remarkable activity during the war, endeavoured to capture not only the German trade in those markets, but also any other trade which for the time being might have been neglected by others engaged in the war. And when hostilities ceased and British, Continental, and other competitors reappeared in the field, and competition became keener, a novel economic policy was added to the American direct canvassing for trade in the form of large loans offered by the United States Treasury to the States or State in which commercial propaganda was in progress on condition that the borrowing State should draw the loan *in kind*, in the shape of American merchandise, the value of which the buyers would deposit with a certain bank to the credit of the borrowing State. A very clever combination, which reminds one of an Eastern proverbial expression—"With one shot bringing down two birds." But in this case there are three birds; the third being the gratuitous services of the borrowing State, which will anxiously be pushing the sale of the American goods in order to realise their value, which is *the loan!*

In view of the fact that all the countries in the Near East are purely agricultural, and, therefore, their wealth comes out of the ground, which, of course, must be cultivated for it, and that for cultivation very large quantities of machinery, implements, and tools of all kinds are annually required, the effect of such a financial combination is obvious. A glance at pre-war trade returns of any country in the Near East will show that with the exception of machinery, and that in a comparatively small compass, trade in other American goods was so limited as not to deserve special mention in the statistical résumé of the returns. Thus it will be the borrowing State's interest to support the sale of the American machinery and implements to farmers and others through the bank for the sake of the loan. Such an apparent preference will be a serious handicap to British engineer-manufacturers in their efforts to establish business, unless they take adequate measures to compete with it. There are at present several banks in every country in the Near East, the majority of them being agricultural rather than commercial banks. They serve and support landowners, smallholders, farmers, etc. Most of them have branches in the rural districts, and thus are in a position to be thoroughly acquainted with the financial position of the individual farmers. The employment of any of these banks will be found a great help and security in all transactions and delivery of goods. They often lent farmers all or part of the money needed for the purchase of machinery, and are always willing to act for or co-operate with British manufacturers. In the absence of any other similar establishment of British origin, an understanding between British manufacturers and these local banks will afford great advantages to the former in their efforts to compete against the novel and well-planned American commercial campaign in the Near East.

Safeguarding Motor-Cars.

Motor-car stealing, which seems to be in vogue at present in this country, is an old Continental complaint which has recently been spreading not only this way, but also in the East, whence a correspondent writes to ask if there is any device to protect a motor car from the modern thief. Why "modern" is not explained. Edison a few years ago told one of his visitors that he was then engaged in the completion of an electric device by which anyone who would push the button of the visitors' electric bell at his (Edison's) studio street door would receive a shock sufficient to enable him to turn a complete somersault, and then fall gently down on his back until the ambulance would arrive. This, probably, with some modification, would prove very suitable for the "modern" motor thieves, but evidently Edison kept it a secret. For the benefit, however, of anxious motor-car owners in the East we may mention that there is a really clever device, of British construction, for defeating the car thief. It is in the guise of an aluminium collecting tube, through which each of the ignition wires is led to its corresponding sparking plug. An insulator surrounds each ignition wire, pointed screws being inserted through the insulator and piercing the cable armouring. When the driver arrives at the spot where he wishes to leave his car he has merely to open the bonnet and give the sleeve of the apparatus a quarter turn, whereupon all the wires become earthed and interconnected in such a way that it is impossible to re-start the engine until the apparatus is unlocked by the owner's key.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 11.

Petroleum Commission.

A mixed Inter-Allied commission has been formed for the purpose of advising the Ministry of Industry and Commerce on questions relating to the damage suffered by the petroleum industry through the destruction of properties during the evacuation in November, 1916. The Roumanian Government is represented on the commission by Professor L. Mrazec, director of the Geological Institute, assisted by M. I. Tamasescu. The British Mission is represented by Colonel A. C. Hearn, assisted by Major Fry and Captain Eager. Lieut. L. Wenger has been nominated to the commission as French delegate. The representatives of the respective Governments have elected technical experts to assist in the work of ascertaining and verifying the extent of the damage suffered by the various oil properties, the experts appointed by the British delegates being the following:—Messrs. W. L. Mackenzie, R. van Sickle, A. Campbell, H. M. McCann and L. Johnston, and Captain J. E. Treacy. All petroleum undertakings are being invited to furnish the commission with full particulars of the damage suffered by them as a result of the destruction.

Aerial Post.

Eastern as well as Western Europe has now its aerial postal service, and a bi-weekly postal service between Bucharest and Constantinople was inaugurated on September 7. Official and private correspondence is received for transmission by aeroplane every Thursday and Sunday, the extra postage on letters (which must not exceed 50 grammes in weight) being 1 franc per letter, in the form of a French postage stamp.

The Director of Agriculture in Madras reports that there has been a small but general decrease in the area reported to have been sown with sugar-cane.

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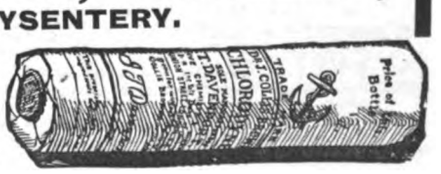

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Near East Markets.

London Produce Report.

Currants.

The situation remains much as before. A shipment arrived at Liverpool recently, but it would take a number of consignments to satisfy requirements, and the present shipment will scarcely ease the market. So far samples of the new consignment have been scarce, for the process of discharging has been going on very slowly, but it appears that the currants are of a poor quality. But when the market is practically bare such considerations have little effect on prices. Imports of currants during August amounted to 6,489 tons, against clearances of 9,684 tons, and the stocks in hand amounted to 9,750 tons as against 650 tons for the corresponding period of 1918. For the first eight months of the present year imports amounted to 75,492 tons as against 5,167 tons for 1918, and clearances to 67,115½ tons, as against 4,616¾ tons.

Sultanas.

There seems little prospect of any improvement in the position. A few lots of the new crop of Smyrna sultanas have been on offer, but at prices which, in view of the maximum retail values, cannot interest the grocery trade. It is, in short, quite evident that if this country is to attract sufficient quantities of the fruit prices will have to be raised, since at present the higher level of values obtainable in other markets naturally gives them the preference.

Coffee.

There was a somewhat slow demand at auction this week when 4,911 bags were offered and prices ruled easier. Costa Rica good bold brought 158s. for export, and medium 149s. to 149s. 6d. Stocks amount to 878,000 cwt., as against 484,000 cwt. in September, 1914. Imports in August were 60,000 cwt., while clearances were 161,000 cwt. For the eight months ended August imports amounted to 882,000 cwt., as against 721,000 cwt. in 1914.

Sugar.

The demand for export purposes has decreased somewhat, and the market has inclined to dullness. Cane supplies appear to be ample to meet future requirements, despite the extent to which the Continent is now dependent on imported sugar. Stocks in hand amount to 7,732,000 cwt. The imports from January 1 to August 31 were 22,463,000 cwt., and the consumption was 20,078,000 cwt.

Seeds.

The market has been inactive. There have been large arrivals of linseed from India and the Argentine, while 38,000 quarters of rapeseed have arrived from India. Other consignments include 12,000 tons of Soya beans and 11,000 tons of arachis. Linseed with more sellers than buyers is weak, and cotton-seed is inactive. Rapeseed has been done at from 30s. to 44s. according to quality.

Oil Cakes, etc.

Linseed cake has been done at 500s. per ton. Other quotations include Egyptian cottonseed 400s., rapeseed 360s., and fine American linseed 520s. Supplies of olive oil are better, but the price remains high. There has been a fair demand for linseed oil at £95, while Soya bean oil has brought £80, and coconut oil £100.

Sudan Produce.

Gum.

The C.E.B. report for July states that the exports of gum via Port Sudan were 1,394,603 kilos of Hashab, of the value of £E48,654; 86,007 kilos of bleached, of the value of £E3,522; and 147,959 kilos of Talh, of the value of £E3,419; and via Halfa, 61,585 kilos of Hashab, of the value of £E1,765; and 59,650 kilos of Talh, of the value of £E1,434.

Kordofan Province.—3,622 kantars were sold in the El Obeid market during July, as against 15,536 during the same month of 1918. The average price was £1.505 m/ms. per kantar of 100 rottles. 984 kantars arrived from Mahud, compared with 1,724 kantars during July, 1918. In Rahad 6 kantars were sold at an average price of 1.300 m/ms. per kantar; in July, 1918, 16 kantars were sold. In Um Ruaba 180 kantars were sold at an average price of £1.300 m/ms. per kantar, as against 249 kantars last year.

Sennar Province.—The gum trade has finished for the season, The average market price at Karkoj per 100 rottles of Hashab gum was £E1.500, of Talh gum, 700-750 m/ms. No gum was brought to the muradas for sale. 682 kantars of Hashab, and 290 kantars of Talh were exported from stored gum.

Cotton.

Red Sea Province, Tokar.—A small flood watered portions of the Delta on July 18, and continued on the 19th. Later reports show that the flood was flowing more or less regularly during the last few days of the month. The bank built by the cultivators is still standing. Whether due or not to the efficiency of the bank, it appears that the western area of the Delta has been well flooded and also considerable portions of the Central Hods. The land irrigated is estimated at over 40,000 feddans, but it is too early to give any definite pronouncement on this point.

Berber Province.—Cotton planting went on all the month at Timerab; some 250 feddans had been planted at the end of the month. Native cotton at Zeidab is much better than last year, when the introduction of the sharing system discouraged cultivators. This year they have accepted it more readily in view of the adoption of the sharing system on all Resources Board Stations, and have planted a larger area and taken more trouble than last year. The area is not yet known, but is believed to be about 700 feddans. Kitiab cotton is most promising and the plants are full of bolls, but the maize there is poor owing to the stem borer. Cotton planting at Gandetto was going on all through the month, and some 500 feddans have been planted. The difficulty there was to prevent too big a proportion of a man's holding being put under cotton. Planting of maize and ground nuts began at the end of the month. The rains about July 20 caused grass to spring up very freely, and cultivators had some difficulty in dealing with the weeds in the cotton. It is probable that June 1 is better than July 1 as the date for pumping to start at Gandetto, in which case pumping could stop at the end of February. This would give an adequate dry period, and the cotton would be well up before there are likely to be rains, and new grass for animals would be available a month earlier in the dry season.

Cyprus Cereal Shortage.

(From a Correspondent.)

The effects of the shortage in the cereal harvest are already being felt. Villages in the long neck of land which runs out to the north-east already feel the pinch, and difficulties are foreseen in various other parts. The Government has notified a rise in price of its tithe grain which is issued to bakers, the prices being now 81 piastres (9s.) the bushel for wheat, and 3s. 6d. for barley. Bakers by way of compensation are now allowed to sell bread (3 parts wheat to 1 of barley) at 3½ piastres the oke, of 2 4-5 lb.

The Carob Crop.

The gathering of the carob harvest is drawing to a close. Thousands of labourers have flocked from Papho and other districts to Limassol, the principal carob-growing area. The town of Limassol was crowded as if on the occasion of one of the great fairs. The beans are stacked in great heaps on threshing floors and other convenient places near the roads, awaiting transport to the town stores, and other places of shipment. The crop is gathered a week later in the hills than in the lower zones.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Passages to India—Facilities for Business Men.

The Secretary of State for India announces that he has arranged with the Shipping Controller that two special ships shall be placed at the disposal of the India Office to relieve the present congestion of passengers wishing to travel to India. It is hoped that these ships will sail before the end of October and that with their accommodation and that available in other steamers a total of approximately 1,000 berths will be available during the month of October. Of these berths, one half will be made over to the Trade Commissioner of the Government of India (60, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2.) for allocation to members of business firms having branches in India.

As the position of the India Office in the matter of allotting passages appears to be misunderstood, it may be explained that passenger accommodation in steamers proceeding to India is allocated by the Shipping Controller after providing for military needs, which are at present paramount, and after leaving a certain proportion of berths at the free disposal of the shipping companies. The India Office does not therefore control the whole or even the greater part of the accommodation in such vessels, but only that portion which is allotted to it by the Ministry of Shipping. The allotment at present is very small.

The R.I.M.S. *Dufferin* was to have left Southampton at the beginning of this month, but will not now be able to sail until about the end of it. The accommodation in this ship was allotted early in August, before the present congestion arose. The women to whom passages have been allotted are accompanying or rejoining their husbands, or are proceeding on duty themselves. To deprive them of passages which were allotted to them some time ago, before the present congestion arose or could be foreseen, and after they had made all arrangements for leaving this country, would have been productive of great hardship. The allotments have therefore been allowed to stand. But the present situation being what it is, it has been decided to allot no passages to India during October to the families of officers of the Indian Services, except in a few cases in which passages have already been definitely promised, or in which some very strong reason makes the provision of a passage imperative. Such cases are examined and decided by a special committee of the Council of India at the India Office.

New B. I. Boat.

There was launched on September 11 from the Weir shipyard of Messrs. Wm. Gray and Co. (1918), Ltd., the ss. *Garada* on account of the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. The vessel's gross tonnage is, approximately, 5,300, and her dimensions are: Length, 400 ft.; breadth, 52 feet.; depth, moulded, 31 ft. Her engines, which are by the Central Marine Engine Works, West Hartlepool, are triple-expansion; cylinders, 27 in., 44 in., 73 in. This vessel is of the Standard B type, but has been modified by the owners to suit their particular trade.

The Orient line of steamers to Australia announce a series of fortnightly departures from London, commencing on September 27. These steamers proceed via the Mediterranean, Egypt, and Colombo, calling at Toulon and Naples to embark overland passengers.

The inauguration is announced of two important fast lines of steamers from Trieste to Brindisi, Greece, Constantinople, and Black Sea ports, and from Trieste to Bombay. The Lloyd Trestino—the Italian company which took over the Austrian Lloyd vessels on the capture of Trieste—are the owners responsible for these enterprises.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

This week we have experienced a more active market. Inquiry has been on a larger scale, and an increased business has been done. Owing to the advance in American cotton prices quotations for yarn and cloth have advanced and remain very stiff. The Egyptian crop continues backward, but, on the whole, favourable weather conditions are reported. It is expected that the yield per feddan will be rather better than last season. Many ups and downs have occurred in Egyptian cotton futures in Liverpool, the tone of the market being uncertain. Very high prices have still to be paid for the superior qualities. In Egyptian yarns there has been a slightly improved demand, but big transactions have been isolated. Most of the buying has run on fine combed descriptions. Spinners in this section are in a very strong position, and independent when fresh business is offering. An increased business has been done in piece goods for numerous outlets of the Near East. Encouraging operations have been in evidence for Egypt and the Levant. A considerable business has been done for Constantinople and Greece. India seems to want goods, but is scarcely prepared to pay the prices ruling and give the delivery required by manufacturers, and trading has been restricted. China has given moderate support, and further buying has been mentioned for Java and Singapore. The better demand for Central and South America has been maintained. Producers of printing cloths have added to their engagements. Home trade buyers have been rather slow in coming up in price. American yarns have moved off more freely, and prices, especially in twists, are distinctly dearer on the week. Coarse yarns continue in request for the Levant and fair lines have been booked for India in dyed qualities.

Cotton Cloths in China.

The mail from China received this week gives particulars of the stocks of cotton piece goods in Shanghai on June 30 last, and the figures show that on that date supplies amounted to only 1,232,000 pieces, as compared with 3,583,000 pieces at the same time in 1918. The stocks at the moment consist of British goods, 652,177 pieces; Japanese goods, 539,503 pieces; and American goods, 31,240 pieces. English and American grey shirtings twelve months ago amounted to 400,000 pieces, whereas now there are only about 100,000 pieces. Stocks of Japanese grey shirtings are now 113,000 pieces, against 55,000 pieces last year. Stocks of English and American white shirtings have been reduced during the twelve months from 877,000 pieces to 70,000 pieces. Supplies of Japanese white shirtings show very little change, the stock being 47,000 pieces. English sheetings are now 8,000 pieces, against 14,000 pieces, and American sheetings 12,000, as compared with 67,000 pieces. Printed cottons have fallen from 140,000 pieces to 30,000 pieces. The figures published indicate that Lancashire goods will be wanted in China on a free scale during the next few months. It is of interest to point out that the average offtake in the second half of the last four years in China of English grey sheetings was 985,000 pieces, and of white shirtings 1,058,000 pieces, so that shipments will have to be considerably increased if the turnover in the Far East is to be maintained.

Proposed Cotton Mill Sale.

The buying of Lancashire cotton mills by financial syndicates has not yet come to an end. The directors of the Dawn Spinning Company at Oldham have this week received a tempting offer from one of the financial groups which have recently been very active in Lancashire. The shares are of the nominal value of £5, with £3 paid up. It should be pointed out that £1 10s. of this amount has been added to capital by the payment of bonuses out of profits. The bid made for the mill works out at £20 10s. per share. The concern runs over 90,000 mule spindles and nearly 8,000 ring spindles.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated September 17:—

Rain nearly general, but monsoon currents very weak at present. Thunderstorms in several places. More rain required parts of Bengal.

Bombay cotton market steady. Fully good broach April-May quoted 471 Rs. Piece goods steady with poor demand. Calcutta jute market dull. Hessians quiet. Sackings firm with poor demand.

The Airco express aeroplanes between London and Paris began on September 23 their fifth week of daily flying.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended September 6 were £6,432.

The returns of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended September 11 were:—Cattle markets, £188; general markets, £274; total for week, £462; total for year, £39,686. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918, ended September 12, were:—Cattle markets, £545; general markets £493; total for week, £1,038; total for year, £36,318.

SWEDISH ORIENT LINE.

Direct regular steamship service with about weekly sailings outwards and homewards between

GOTHENBURG and ALGIERS, PIRÆUS, SMYRNA and SALONICA.
„ „ ALEXANDRIA, JAFFA and BEYROUTH.
„ „ CONSTANTINOPLE, ODESSA and other Black Sea Ports.

Also calling at other ports in Scandinavia, Levant and Black Sea (as inducement offers).

For further information apply to the following agents of the Line:

At LONDON: J. E. Hyde & Co., 1, Lime Street Square.
„ SMYRNA: „ PIRÆUS: „ ALEXANDRIA: W. F. van der Zee.
„ SALONICA: Cauchi Brothers.
„ CONSTANTINOPLE: Theo. Reppen.

Or to the Head Office:

SWEDISH ORIENT LINE, GOTHENBURG.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: LEVANT.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are from a recent report received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

STAMBOUL, August 30.

The demand for manufactures has been more lively this week. Practically the whole of the arrivals have been sold in transit for the Black Sea ports (Russia, Roumania). The prices are firmer, with a tendency to rise as much in the market as in the centres of production. There are signs of the gradual exhaustion of stocks in England and in Italy. Traders are expecting a more marked demand as soon as the blockade is lifted from certain ports in Southern Russia, and Odessa is relieved from Bolshevist occupation.

The sales of opium of the past week have been: 40 cases of druggist at Ps.770-780 the oke. 30 cases of fine Hadji Keui, Yozgat, at Ps.950-1050 the oke. The prices are showing a declining tendency on account of the low arrivals at Smyrna.

Mohairs.—Arrivals: 868 bales. The sales have been insignificant, 26 bales extra at Ps.92 the oke. Prices are weaker: Ps.85-90 the oke, according to quality.

Silks.—The market has been quiet and inactive, with a falling tendency. Nominal price £T12.25 the kilo, Brussa, £T10.50 the kilo, Syrian.

Cereals.—Corn: arrivals from Anatolia, 105 waggon loads for the week. Sales at prices varying from Ps.13 to Ps.15 the oke.

The reports for the new crop taken from traders near the different centres of Anatolia are very satisfactory. It is true the sowings have only been about a fifth of a normal year, but their yield is finer and has exceeded all expectations.

DISTRESS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agriculture Department, dated September 19:—My telegram dated September 12. Condition of crops generally satisfactory except where damaged by excessive rain, United Provinces, Central India, and Rajputana; by insufficient moisture in Bombay, Madras and Hyderabad. Relief operations ceased in Ahmedabad. Numbers relieved:—Bengal: works, 11,355; gratuitous, 13,870. Bihar and Orissa: works, 6,069; gratuitous, 53,286. Feudatory States: works, 6,826; gratuitous, 33,323. United Provinces: works, 31; gratuitous, 3,420. Ajmer Merwara not reported. Central India: works, 5,600; gratuitous, 6,200. Central Provinces: works, 19,585; gratuitous, 27,709. Bombay: works, 8,530; gratuitous, 36,712. Hyderabad: works, 35,000; gratuitous, 35,000. Madras: works, 55,036; gratuitous (incomplete) 94,519.

The total subscriptions for the new Indian Loan up to August 23 were Rs.15,87,59,100, inclusive of Rs.1,06,85,375 in War Bonds.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

TRADE IN GREECE.—A Greek gentleman, speaking English perfectly, good social position, landed proprietor in Athens, would be glad to hear of one or two good firms, preferably for agricultural machinery, windmills for water, etc., etc., whom he could represent in Greece.—Reply Box 143, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

PARTNERSHIP.—CIVIL ENGINEER, A.M.I.C.E., Public School, English, desires Junior Partnership in well-established business in which previous training would be an asset, with a view to trading in Asia Minor and Near East. Capital £2,000. At present abroad. Shortly returning home.—Box 140, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

FOR GENUINE
TURKISH & EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES
TRY
THE SMYRNA CIGARETTE CO.,
ASK FOR PRICE LIST.
JOSEPH G. CORBETTI & BOURDELAKIA BROS.,
22, Great Chapel St., Oxford St., London, W.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

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EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
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CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Mineh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.
(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

The report of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the half-year ended June 30 states that the council have elected the Right Hon. Viscount St. Davids to fill the vacant seat and to act as president of the council. The council have to report that the working of the railway has been carried on by the company's staff under the control of the Inter-Allied Military Commission since April last. The whole district was then quiet, and the receipts from traffic were very good, as there were considerable stocks of exportable goods remaining in the interior. Unfortunately, following upon the landing of the Greek Army in May and their occupation of Smyrna and the country as far as Aidin, disturbances arose and it was not possible for transport to be continued in any volume. A British mission has just arrived at Smyrna and there is every hope that order will now be restored so far as its influence extends. The stocks of produce in the country are still stated to be large and a ready market is available as soon as they can be moved. The coming crops are also reported to be good. Owing to the disorganisation arising out of the disturbances it has not been possible to complete the accounts for the past half-year: it is therefore proposed to include them with those of the current six months. The company's claim for war damages has been revised and brought up to date and will be formally submitted to the Reparation Commission when constituted. It is not anticipated that claims arising in the Ottoman Empire will be heard for some time to come and no payment on account is expected in the near future. In order to facilitate a settlement of the company's claim proposals have been formulated which, if accepted, will enable it to be satisfied, as to some part at any rate, in kind. No decision as to these proposals has yet been taken by the Governments concerned. A considerable amount of useful work, however, has been done towards preparing the ground for future negotiations. The estimated weekly traffic receipts since March last are stated in sterling at an average exchange of 400 piastres to the £ sterling. The rate before the war was about 110 piastres per £, and the tariffs have been increased to make up for the depreciation and to compensate for the heavier expenses.

An extract from the report of the general manager states that he took over the railway on behalf of the company on April 7, from which date the administration has been carried on by the company's staff under the control of the Inter-Allied Military Commission. He spent some time in the inspection of the line and of the districts beyond it and found the country rapidly settling down to a state of tranquillity and work. The town of Smyrna was occupied by Greek forces on May 15, and they now hold the country adjacent to the railway as far as Aidin. Fighting between these troops and Turkish irregulars has led to much loss of life, to some damage to the company's property, to the destruction of about three-quarters of the town of Aidin, and to a great diminution of the company's revenue. The line beyond Aidin is now being worked, as best they may, by the Turks. The permanent way is in fair running order as is also a considerable portion of the rolling stock, but arrears of maintenance are heavy. At present only one-third of the locomotives are in a fit state for service. The company's claim against the Turkish Government for losses and damages sustained during the war has been put forward, but it has not been possible also to complete the accounts for the half-year. All tariffs have been raised to meet the depreciation in the value of money, and only tranquillity is needed to ensure a return of the company's former prosperity. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., September 30, noon.

The Bank of Bengal.

The report of the Bank of Bengal for the half-year ended June 30 shows a profit of Rs.22,90,989; Rs.5,60,167 was brought forward, making Rs.28,51,065. A dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum and a bonus at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum have been paid, the same as for each of the four preceding half-years, and Rs.5,00,000 transferred to reserve and Rs.1,00,000 to gratuity and pension fund, leaving a surplus of Rs.5,51,065. Balance-sheet at June 30, 1919:—Liabilities—Capital paid up, Rs.2,00,00,000; reserve fund, Rs.1,69,00,000; reserve for depreciation of investments, Rs.25,00,000; deposits, Rs.31,47,71,779; bank post bills, etc., Rs.16,72,633; sundries Rs.39,31,898—total, Rs.35,97,76,310. Assets—Government securities, Rs.5,88,76,137; other investments, Rs.1,38,60,944; bills discounted, loans, etc., Rs.13,82,46,254; balances with other banks Rs.37,52,742; sundry assets, Rs.40,96,181; cash and currency notes, Rs.14,09,44,052—total, Rs.35,97,76,310.

Constantinople Telephone.

A circular just issued to shareholders in the Constantinople Telephone Company states that a meeting of the company will be held in Constantinople on November 4, for the purpose of receiving a report on the condition and prospects of the company. The last report submitted presented the accounts up to December 31, 1913, and no accounts have been published since, owing to the officials of the company being compelled to leave Turkey early in 1915, before the accounts for 1914 could be completed. Shareholders will be asked to appoint two directors in place of the late Sir George Franklin and the late Mr. David Smith. They will also be asked to ratify the acts of the directors since the last annual meeting. The system was taken over by the Turkish Government in 1915, but after the Armistice the general manager and expert staff of the company regained possession on December 2, 1918. The company proposes that the receipts and expenditure during the working of the system by the Turkish Government from March 15, 1915, to April 1, 1919, should be for the account of that Government, with the obligation on its part to pay to the company an indemnity which will put it in a position to pay interest to the bondholders and shareholders in respect of the said period. The necessary claims in this respect have been laid before the competent authorities, and it is hoped that they will receive an equitable settlement. The funds available in London since the period of the last report and accounts have been utilised for the supply of materials for repairs, renewals and additions to the system and other urgent expenditure necessary to conserve the interests of the company. The assets in London at the present time consist of:—Cash at bank and on deposit, £6,421; investments in War Loans, at cost, £27,795; against which there are outstanding liabilities in respect of services rendered or materials supplied and work done by contractors prior to the war, the exact amount of which it has been impossible to ascertain at the date of this report, but which, so far as can be estimated, exceeds £60,000. In addition to these liabilities, the accrued interest on the 6 per cent. Obligations to July 1, 1919, amounts to £60,000, a sum which, as mentioned above, forms part of the claims formulated by the company against the Ottoman Government. The general manager is of opinion that the revenue now being received in Constantinople will be more than sufficient to meet the local expenditure.

Maiseis Petroleum Trust.

The company's manager in Roumania has reported that the title deeds of the company's properties are being held in safe custody in a Government office pending his entering into possession of the properties, which, together with those of the companies of other Allied countries were during the German occupation of Roumania taken over by a German trust. Since the German evacuation these properties have been administered by trustees appointed by the Roumanian Government, from whom the company can without difficulty take them over. The manager has located many of the company's books and documents and has already taken over all those which were in the possession of the German administration. On the company's concessions at Bordeni he states that all the wells have been plugged, with the exception of one, but that sufficient material remains on the property to re-equip two or three wells. He recommends the immediate reconstruction of five of the old wells, viz., Nos. 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8, as these wells should strike a source which was reached by a neighbouring well belonging to the Anglo-Romana Company at a depth of 427 metres in 1916.

NEW COMPANIES.

Foreign Trade Corporation, Ltd.

A private company with the above title was registered on September 13, with a capital of £150,000, in £1 shares. Objects:—To carry on the business of importers and exporters of and dealers in all kinds of goods, wares, commodities, vegetable and animal produce, minerals, chemicals, metals, merchandise and natural and manufactured products of all kinds, merchants, agents, shipping agents, shippers, forwarding agents, warehousemen and shipowners; financiers, stock and share dealers and issuers, bankers, trustees, capitalists, concessionnaires and contractors in Great Britain and Ireland, India, the British Colonies and Dependencies and foreign countries, etc. The subscribers (each with one ordinary share) are: H. T. Holmes, 49, Westbury Road, Wembley, Middlesex, accountant; Florence M. Sydee, 31, Distin Street, Kennington, S.E.1, clerk. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Qualification, £500. Secretary: H. T. Holmes. Registered office: 9, Clifford Street, New Bond Street, W.1.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Coupon No. 44, falling due October 1, on the 5 per cent. Debentures should now be lodged at the Bank of England, London, E. C., for payment.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

The weaker tendency reported last week has continued this week for Egyptian Government stocks and bank shares, the cause again being Continental selling.

Egyptian Unifieds are again 1¼ down at 78¾, and the 3½ per cent. loan has dropped 1½ points to 67½.

In Bank shares, on some small selling in an unwilling market, Nationals have sharply receded ⅝ to 20, at which price there has been some good support. Agricultural Banks have declined ¼ to 5½ and the preference shares are ⅛ lower at 7¼. Anglo-Egyptians have remained firm, as also Land Banks.

In Railways, Delta Lights are ⅛ easier at 6⅜.

Amongst Land descriptions Aboukirs are fractionally easier at 27s. 6d., and Allotments have dropped ¼ to 4. Behéras have shed a like fraction at 13¾, and the Preferred are nominally ⅛ down at 4½. In Egyptian Consolidated Lands there has been some business passing, but the market remains rather a nominal one. Delta Lands are fractionally lower at 13s. 9d. On the other hand, New Egyptians have improved 3d. to 23s. Sudan Plantations are ⅛ lower at 8, but Union Foncières have recovered a like fraction to 3½.

In Miscellaneous shares the only change to report is a further decline of ⅛ in Khedivial Mails to 5½.

Amongst the Oils, Anglo-Egyptians, after being a strong market and rising to 5¼, finish unchanged. Roumanians, after being up to 23s., finish 3d. firmer at 22s. 6d., but Tráians have been a weak spot, and have dropped a shilling to 10s.

In Greek securities Monopolies have improved a point to 55½, and Rentes are also 1 point up at 53. The 1914 Loan has been offered from the Continent, and has relapsed a point to 76.

Sir Clement B. Simpson, of the firm of Binny and Co., London and Madras, has joined the board of Mather and Platt, engineers, Manchester and Westminster.

It is announced that the Union and Rhodesian Trust has secured large oil interests in the East, and that before the end of the year a flotation will take place. One half of the working capital for the new company has been underwritten in India.

The Tata Hydro-Electric Company, Bombay, has obtained a concession from the Government of Madras for the construction of the Kurndahs electrical scheme on the Nilgiri Hills for the lighting of Ootacamund, Wellington, Coonoor and Kotagiri.

Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons announce the numbers of 260 bonds, amounting to £78,000, of the Ottoman 4 per cent. loan of 1891, secured by the Egyptian Tribute, which have been drawn for redemption on October 10.

It is announced that Messrs. Gunnar Kassman and Company, Bankiraktiebolag, Stockholm, are taking a financial interest in the formation of the Anglo-Baltic and Mediterranean Bank, Limited.

A Reuter message states that the final forecast of the Indian jute acreage is as follows: Bengal, including Cooch Behar, 2,498,145, an increase of 249,119 acres. Bihar and Orissa.—203,430, an increase of 54,174 acres. Assam.—120,000, an increase of 17,900 acres. It is estimated that the total increase in bales will be 1,467,146.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Sep.18	Price Sep.25
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	49¾	49¾
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	80	80
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	80	78¾
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	69	67½
Greek 5%, 1881	70	70
Do. 5%, 1884	70	70
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	54½	55½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	52	53
Do. 5% 1890	70	70
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	65	65
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	66	66
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	62	62
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	77	76
Do. 5% Currant	92	92
Montenegro 5% Loan	—	70½
Persia 5% 1911	83	83
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	67½	67½
Do. 4% Unified	66	66
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅜	5⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	7¼
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	18⅜	18⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	30/-	30/-
Bank of Athens	65/-	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¼
British Trade Corporation	10⅛	10⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	10⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	10⅞	11⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	6½
London County and Westminster	16⅞	16¾
National Bank of Egypt	20⅜	20
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅜	6⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	—	13
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	—	65½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	26	26
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	68½	68½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	56	56
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	27/9	27/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4¼	4
Béhéra Co.	14	13¾
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4½
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	2/9	2/9
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	14/-	13/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	13/6	13/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅝	2⅝
New Egyptian Co.	22/9	23/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅜	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	8⅛	8
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	67/6	70/-
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	11⅜	11⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	1⅛
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	2⅛	2⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅜	5⅛
Do. Do. Prefs.	4⅛	4⅛
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	99½	98
Chinese 4½% 1898	78¼	78
Do. 5% 1896	92	90
Argentine 5% 1890	—	83
Do. 5% 1907	87½	87
OIL.		
Anglo-Egyptian B	5⅛	5⅛
Anglo-Persian	25/11	25/11
Anglo-Roumanian	10/6	10/1½
Roumanian	22/3	22/6
Traian (Roumanian)	11/-	10/-

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Sept.18	Sept. 25
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	62⅜	61⅞
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	66⅞	67½
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		80	80
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		72	71½
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		—	75
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		80xd	80xd
Eastern		9⅛	9⅛
Mercantile of India A		—	37½
National of India		55¾	55
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		5/6	5/-
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		9/6	8/6
Burma Corp.		9⅛	9⅜
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		14/1½	14/1½
Champion Reef Gold		4/4½	4/-
Mysore Gold Mining		35/7½	1⅛
Nundydroog		13/3	14/6
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		14/-	15/-
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		—	1⅛
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		—	¾
OIL.			
Assam Oil		2⅜	2⅜
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		—	1⅝
Brit. Burmah		51/7½	2⅛
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		14½	14½
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		—	1⅝
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		—	10½

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES

Continued—

RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	—	54
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	134	135½
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	59⅜	60
Bengal-Nagpur	116	116
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	105	105
Burma Railways	111½	111
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	—	13x
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	12⅞	13
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	13⅛	13
Madras and S. Mahratta	103	102½
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	129	129
Nizam's Guaranteed State	75	76
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	9⅛	11⅜
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	9⅛	9½
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	—	93
Do. Deferred	611½	615
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	68	68½
Bengal United Tea Ord.	17	16½x
British Indian Tea Ord.	9	9
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17	17
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	11/-	11/-
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	6⅜	6⅜
Consolidated Estates	6⅜	6⅜
Darjeeling Co.	19/6	19/6
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	2⅛	2⅛
Dooars Tea Ord.	3⅛	3⅛
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	19/6	20/-
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	57/6	57/6
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	30/6	30/-
Hewagam Rubber Co.	—	1
Jhanzie Tea Association	10	10
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	21⅜	22
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	19/3	19/3
Lanka Plantations Ord.	18/6	18/6
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	54/6	54/6
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	45/7½	44/4½
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14	14
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	32/6	30/-

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Aug. 15 Rs.	August 22. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	68	68
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	302	292xd
Bank of Bengal	1920	1955
Bank of Bombay	2180	2280
Bank of Madras	1360	1500
Bank of India	170	175
Tata Industrial Bank	94	90
COAL.		
Baraboni	20	20
Bengal	930	935
Burrakur	51	50½
East Indian	39¾	39½
Equitable	50¾	51
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	73	73
Standard	73	73
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	280	280
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	1980	1880
Bowreah	430	430
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	662½	662½
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	615	560
Central India	2750 / 1375	2740 / 1370
Elgin	125	125
Gold Mohur	1300	1500
Khatau Makanji	4200	4200
Muir	120	120
New Ring	180	180
Phœnix	685	672½
Svadeshi	2550	2630
JUTE.		
Alliance	773	715
Barnagore	190	186
Budge Budge	709	685
Clive	335	310
Dalhousie	596	560
Delta	650	628
Fort Gloster	965	950
Gourepore	1150	1140
Howrah	50⅜	46½
Kamarhatty	1000	863xd
Kanknarrah	850	740xd
Khardah	550	525
Kinnison	1030	970
National	463	420
Standard	670	635
Union	930	890
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	105⅜	102
Bengal Timber Trading	433	433
Burn and Co.	340	340
Carew and Co.	99	98
Cawnpore Sugar	225	225
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	220	221
Howrah Oil Mills	48¾	47¾
India General St'm	—	179
Indian Iron and Steel	110n / 116½	110 / 112½
Marshall Sons and Co.	18	17
Titaghur Paper	400	405

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 439.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Last Saturday the railwaymen went out on strike in obedience to their leaders' orders. Any discussion of the reasons that brought about their action would be outside the legitimate field of THE NEAR EAST, and we refer to the subject only in order to ask the indulgence of our readers abroad for any shortcomings they may find in our pages during the continuance of the strike. To our readers at home we believe it to be quite unnecessary to address any such appeal: the difficulties of the situation must be well known to all of them; and judging by the spirit thus far displayed by the public everybody is ready to help everybody else, except the comparatively few men who have brought about the trouble.

The news that President Wilson is suffering from a nervous breakdown, which is sufficiently serious to necessitate his taking a real rest, has been received with regret in this country, while in other quarters to the regret is added something like consternation. For, rightly or wrongly, it is argued that the President's breakdown is likely to react unfavourably upon the chance of America becoming willing to accept a mandate for Armenia; and if that view should prove correct, it would be highly unlikely that America would accept any mandate at all in the Near East. As far as it is possible to judge by the American reports, President Wilson's tour, while it might not have had any direct effect in the way of making the Senate more favourable to the idea of accepting such mandates, was certainly winning support for his views wherever he spoke. From the point of view of the Near East it is, therefore, highly unfortunate that it has been cut short.

In this connection it is of interest to note that a deputation of Armenian-born American citizens has appeared before a sub-committee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in order to urge the dispatch of American troops to Armenia. Whether their appeal may have any weight at all in helping the Senate to come to a decision on the question of a mandate for Armenia it is impossible to say, but the Armenians in America and their friends would be most unwise if they omitted to take full advantage of every opportunity offered them to make their views and aspirations known. They have been told by prominent Americans that if America can be made to see the opportunity for unselfish service to humanity that is offered her, she will be sure to take up the burden. Let them, therefore, persevere in pressing their point.

The Ministerial crisis in Roumania has pursued a somewhat leisurely course, in sympathy, probably, with the country's indeterminate state of mind. M. Bratianu's firm attitude on the subject of the Austrian Treaty has been supported by a large number of people, including many of his political opponents, and the clever move by which he made his resignation hinge on this question has added to the complexities of the situation. One attempt to form a "neutral" Cabinet has, according to the latest report failed, partly, no doubt, because there is a tendency for these neutral Governments to be Bratianist in all but name. The people who are opposed to M. Bratianu would withhold their support on principle; his adherents would prefer to see him vested with responsibility as well as with power. But, unfortunately, M. Bratianu has failed to carry the Transylvanians with him, and their abstention would seem to constitute a fatal weakness in any Ministry of his at this time. His return to power without their support would almost inevitably suggest that the bitterness against the Entente Powers over the Austrian Treaty was being crystallised into a permanent policy associated with the name of M. Bratianu. This, we are confident, is neither M. Bratianu's innermost wish nor the considered judgment of the nation as a whole.

We have not disguised our view of the methods of the Paris Conference, which have resulted in the temporary alienation of Roumanian goodwill towards the Allies; but it is difficult to believe that the slight to Roumanian susceptibilities or any concrete wrong done her can in the long run be as injurious to the country's *amour propre* and well-being as the political estrangement of the Transylvanians. On their behalf it has been stated that they can make no common cause with the kingdom until it has purged its politics and political methods. The Opposition suggest the same point of view when they threaten to abstain from the elections unless the state of siege is raised and the censorship abolished. They hold that anything approaching an anti-Entente policy would be suicidal for Roumania, and they are resolved to prevent, if possible, the

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country from riding off on this issue at the next elections. An appeal to the electorate under the disabilities of martial law would not, they believe, allow the true feeling of the country to be reflected. On this point the Transylvanians are presumably with them; they want to see a Constituent Assembly elected without fear or favour, and in this body they hope to command sufficient strength to lead the new Roumania into a new, clean, and enlightened system of politics.

The state of affairs at Fiume continues to cause much very natural anger in Yugoslavia, much genuine embarrassment to the Italian Government and the more level-headed Italians, and considerable astonishment not unmingled with amusement in most other countries. The amusement, we hasten to add, is for the very serious way in which Signor d'Annunzio continues to take himself and his admittedly remarkable performance. It is almost impossible for others to take quite seriously one who is so obviously impressed with his own heroism and indulges so freely in heroics, and who at the same time refers to the Prime Minister of his own country as "His Indecency of Adipose Degeneracy." But the situation itself is far too serious for Europe to jest over. It has led already to an incident at Trau (Trogir), where what might have developed into a serious conflict between Yugoslavs and Italians was only nipped in the bud by the intervention of an American warship and the landing of American marines and machine-guns. If this incident should induce President Wilson to hasten in making known his views on the proposed solution of the Fiume problem it will have served a good purpose. If that decision is not made known soon we may confidently predict other incidents of a similar character, but possibly not with a similar peaceful ending. Already the fire-eating poet is reported to have declared that he considers himself in a state of war with Yugoslavia.

In a speech made last Saturday Signor Tittoni made it quite clear that the settlement of the Fiume difficulty is for all practical purposes entirely in President Wilson's hands. France and Great Britain, he said, agreed to Italy affirming her sovereignty over Fiume, but Mr. Wilson persisted in formulating objections. France and Great Britain were also willing that Italy should have control of Albania, "which with the neutrality of the Corfu Canal would ensure for her the absolute mastery of the Otranto Canal and consequently of the Adriatic"; while Yugoslavia should receive Dalmatia with the exception of Zara. Unfortunately the report of Signor Tittoni's speech does not make it clear whether this is also the American view. Two points, however, become clearer every time the question is discussed or mentioned: first, that any solution of it that may be suggested is assured of vehement opposition from one side or the other; and second, that in these circumstances a bad solution put forward promptly and firmly imposed would be preferable to the present state of suspense, which is as dangerous as it is aggravating to all parties.

Reports from India shed a little fresh light on those events in the Yemen, to which we referred last week—the fighting at Hodeida and the capture of a British mission at Bajil. From these reports it would seem that the force of Arabs which attacked Hodeida was a considerable one, and that it was able not only to rush the hospital, killing the guards and police, but also to penetrate into the town and gain possession of the greater part of it. There is perhaps little surprising about this, even though Hodeida was garrisoned at the time by Indian troops; for the town would be easy to surprise, and as we have previously pointed out, the coastal Arabs of this region have always been lawless and inclined to act independently. Nor can there be any doubt that steps will already have been taken to restore British prestige. But the incident is disconcerting, inasmuch as it tends to increase the doubts so strongly felt, even by their best friends, whether the Arabs will be able to work together long enough to make possible the reconstruction of a strong Arab nation.

Some progress has been made in regard to passages to India, and widespread satisfaction was caused last week by the announcement that two additional ships are expected to sail this month, and that one-half of the berths on them will be allotted to industrial and commercial needs. The development of this question resembles in essentials the history of the provision of homeward passages last spring. Then as now there was a marked shortage of accommodation; then as now the India Office was abused; then as now a strong expression of public opinion was followed by the provision of extra ships. Eventually the homeward demand was satisfied; and it seems possible that the outward passengers will also in the end be transported, provided that they keep their case prominently before the public. The Shipping Controller is apparently hard to move, but the thing can be done if sufficient pressure be exerted.

Unfortunately, passengers to India, in common with passengers to other countries, are likely to find their difficulties considerably increased by the railway strike, especially if—as seemed likely at one time—it be complicated by "sympathetic" strikes of other trade unions. Though less numerous, would-be passengers to Egypt are no less unfortunate than those who wish to get to India: indeed, since nothing at all appears to have been done for them, they are even more entitled to sympathy. There are many officials and business men now in this country who are most anxious to return to Egypt, and whose presence there is urgently called for, who yet see no chance whatever of returning. There is, of course, no separate Egyptian Office—such as the one suggested by a writer in THE NEAR EAST last week—to which they can appeal for assistance, but if they will take the necessary steps to set the machine in motion they may surely expect the Foreign Office to intervene on their behalf.

Spain has at last made a move against Raisuli, after a long and inexplicable delay. On September 27 a combined movement was begun by Spanish and native troops, and resulted in all the objectives being gained without severe fighting. Unfortunately, however, the day's success was badly marred by treachery on the part of Moorish irregulars, who mutinied, surprised the three Spanish officers and the few Spanish soldiers who were with them, and murdered them all. The village (Beni Salem) at which the incident occurred was promptly bombarded; but it is to be feared that the Spaniards, who have not grasped their nettle firmly, must expect more troubles of the same kind so long as Raisuli is able to keep the field against them.

According to reports which reach us from Palestine, the Christian and Moslem inhabitants of that country are not free from anxiety regarding their future, if, as seems to be taken for granted, the land is placed under Jewish administration. How far such uneasiness may be traced to secular rivalry and racial animosities it would be hard to say, although it is tolerably certain that these causes contribute largely to the feeling. But it is to be feared that the zeal of some of the Zionists and a certain tendency on their part to force the pace have given rise to some of the fears expressed. Thus, it is reported that they have lately issued large cards, intended to be placed in all Jewish shops and stores, with an inscription exhorting all Jews to speak their own language. Their neighbours argue that if they refuse to talk any language but their own it must inevitably render intercourse needlessly difficult; and though the proposal may be perfectly harmless, even admirable, in itself, it must be admitted that to put it forward at the present stage of things is premature, and rather injudicious. The Moslems and Christians, our correspondents inform us, feel that their rights and interests are likely to be overlooked because they have not the influence or the financial resources of the "Zionists"; and many of them fear that the only course left open to them will be to emigrate. Such fears are, we believe, utterly groundless. The rights and interests of all sects and races will surely be safeguarded under British protection—which is almost assured to Palestine.

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BELGRADE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, Sept. 20.

The Political Outlook.

The delegates from Paris, M. Pashitch, Dr. Ante Trumbitch, and Dr. Smodlaka, arrived yesterday evening and stopped at the Moskva, that hideous building in the worst Germano-Russian style that is an unfortunate landmark in Belgrade, though it may be very comfortable inside now that it is reopened. Everybody who is not a slave to party passion earnestly hopes that the delegates have brought wiser counsel with them, and that a solution will be rapidly found for the *impasse* which is paralysing life at home and damaging Serbia abroad. With his long experience of domestic politics, widened by the recent five years in the bigger field of the world-war and six months in Paris, Mr. Pashitch should be able to find a solution, though his many bitter enemies will not be able to resist the temptation of throwing obstacles in the way. Serbs, and Englishmen too, may well re-echo the Russian saying that the good work done by the soldier is spoilt by the bungling of the politician.

The question of the obnoxious clause in the Austrian Treaty is the burning one at the moment. Serbia finds herself in an almost identical position with her rival Roumania. If Bucharest could agree with Belgrade on the partition of the Banat, and cease to claim it all, even to Panchevo, where the Serbs outnumber all other nationalities combined, Roumania and the S.H.S. would be partners. Neither could tolerate the interference of foreign States within their sovereign frontiers. By doing so, they would be placing themselves on a level with pre-war Turkey, virtually admitting capitulations and extra-territorial rights. In Serbia, no race distinctions are recognised: all are Serbian citizens, whether Black, Gypsy or Jew, with equal rights and equal duties. So long as a man does his duty as a citizen he is free to live and worship as he likes, and to talk any language he likes. Political exigencies at times may have caused, and would certainly justify, strong action on the Albanian frontier, where turbulent tribes still maintain the mediæval Balkan tradition of "bands" and rapine. All Serbian citizens alike were bound to contribute their share to the defence of the country, and the pay of soldiers is a quite modern innovation. Now that the new frontiers are bound to include a proportion of aliens, Germans, Magyars, and Roumanians, these may object to serving in the Serbian Army. If they do, the Government must have power to deal with them for the sake of its own safety, with no interference from outside Powers, whether League of Nations or not, in which Italy, now an open enemy, will have a voice.

Besides, the minority clause will actually encourage anti-national propaganda, even anti-national schools, which in the Balkans of all places is a fatal obstacle to permanent peace. But the overwhelming objection is the absence of reciprocity. As I have said in my former letter, Italy, as a "Great Power," will have a voice in the "protection" of minorities in Serbia, yet the S.H.S., now a powerful military State more populous than the whole of Scandinavia, will have no voice in the protection of their half-million co-nationals, who now become Italian subjects with no suggestion of self-determination. These long-suffering Slovenes have but exchanged the bureaucratic tyranny of the Hapsburgs for the hysterical Chauvinism of the followers of Gabriele d'Annunzio.

When Count Aehrenthal annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina, there was an exodus of so-called Turks, that is, Moslem Serbs, into Turkey. To-day 150,000 of these exiles are returning to their motherland. Mohammedans though they are, these do not appear to want any "protection" from the League of Nations.

M. Miyatovitch on Gt. Britain.

The *Tigorvinski Glasnik* is now publishing a London Letter, the author of which is well-known in our country, M. Chedomil Miyatovitch, the historian, formerly Serbian Minister at St. James, and our very good friend. M. Miyatovitch refers to Mr. Lloyd George's trumpet-call, but considers the picture painted too black. He cannot see, he writes, this great country dashing down the road to bankruptcy, serious as the economic and political position may be.

Concerning Montenegro.

The *Politika*, a new but very readable Belgrade newspaper, prints a long article on Montenegro, giving the official version of the state of the country, in the form of an interview with M. Pavitchevitch, the Governor. After referring to the poverty-stricken state of the country, and general distress, he discusses the brigandage which is rife among the crags, which afford a refuge to the *Zelenashi* to-day as they did to all Montenegrins during the centuries of the Turkish wars. He states categorically that certain places, the province of Antivari in particular, which has never been Austrian territory, are occupied by Italian troops, who, of course, have no shadow of right to be there, and are an obstacle to the peaceful settlement of the country. They interfere with official telegraphic and other communications, and closed the Virpazar-Antivari railway, the only one in the country. On July 20, the authorities arrested at Dobrota, near Cattaro, a band of armed men near the quarters of the Italian General. They were handed over to the Serbian police authorities by the officer then commanding the Allied troops at Cattaro, General "Taon." Similarly on July 22 and 23 a considerable band of armed men passed through the Italian lines near Antivari, and penetrated into the interior; some have been arrested, and have admitted that they were armed and despatched by the Italians; these parties are organised, equipped and paid in Italy, clothed in Italian uniforms, sent across in Italian vessels, and disembarked at Antivari, and under cover of Italian troops, sent into the interior. They stated that the Italians told them that Montenegro was ready for a general rising, which their presence would provoke. M. Pavitchevitch categorically states that in Montenegro there are to-day exactly twenty Serbian civilian functionaries, and that all other officials are Montenegrins; he denies that the few Serbian troops are in any way in collision with the natives; there are three battalions of regular Montenegrin troops. Now, is Italy at war with Serbia or not? Is her action in Montenegro encouraging self-determination? Let the people decide. Withdraw Serbian influence during a plebiscite by all means, but withdraw Italian interference too. Allow the Montenegrin free choice, but let it be really free, and there is little doubt which way the vote will go.

"English as She is Wrote."

The English language is now a compulsory subject in all middle schools, and the Minister of Education proposes to invite teachers from England.

Serbs, not unnaturally, have some difficulty in mastering our English orthography, which they find the more difficult as they are accustomed to their own logical system, which is purely phonetic. Even making allowance for this, it is a little puzzling to read in the Serbian papers in a telegram from London a reference to "Zi Bund Tobl." Who would recognise in this strange guise, even allowing for misprints, what must be "The Round Table"?

There is room for confusion in their own names, even if they are spelt phonetically, and we must remember that in Serb the letter R is a vowel. But Englishmen, speaking of "Serbia," mean the former kingdom, though often enough the name is used to comprise the new united kingdom of the Serbs, Hrvts, and Slovenes, usually abbreviated as S.H.S. If they wish to discriminate they may speak of Old Serbia, but this is quite incorrect, for "Stara Srbija," or Old Serbia, was not included within the kingdom till after

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the Turkish war of 1912; for it is the old province of Rascia and the country round Prizren, the cradle of the old Nemanitch dynasty and of Serbian nationality, though during the long centuries of Turkish dominion the settlement of Albanians was so much encouraged by the Porte that in many districts there the Serbs are in actual minority.

The name Serbs, properly speaking, should be confined to those Southern Slavs who are of the Orthodox faith and celebrate the peculiar family festival of the *Slava*, about which so much has been written. By this definition we include the Serbs of the Voivodina across the Danube and the Save, and the Orthodox Serbs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and, be it well noted, the Montenegrins, but exclude the Mohammedan Serbs, who are in most cases as good patriots as any, though many were forced by Austria into the Turkish Army, and in the war fought against us in Mesopotamia and Palestine. The Serbs of the old kingdom of Serbia may be discriminated under the name *Serbiantsi*, but this term is generally used only when it is intended to specify those who were subjects of King Peter.

BELGRADE, Sept. 24.

A Council of State was held on Saturday, at which the delegates from Paris attended, as well as Dr. Davidovitch and the Speaker, Dr. Pavlovitch. The matter under discussion was the treaty with Austria and the obnoxious clause 51 in particular. The meeting was adjourned, and is still sitting (Wednesday, 24th). The Fiume problem is being considered. There is a feeling of relief that Greece also objects to the minority clause, which the wiseacres in Paris are endeavouring to thrust down the throats of all their Balkan Allies. M. Venizelos enjoys such prestige in Paris that it is hoped that his protestations will lead to a reconsideration of the whole problem, and it is felt in Serbia that precipitate action would be ill-judged. Meanwhile the country is losing patience with the eternal squabbles of the politicians, and eyes are turned towards the Speaker, Dr. Dragi Pavlovitch, as a respected and independent man, in the hope that he will save the situation.

A CORRECTION.

Owing to a misprint, the date of the Belgrade Letter published in THE NEAR EAST of September 26 was wrongly given as September 1. It should have been September 15.

LETTER FROM BULGARIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, Sept. 12.

The Parliamentary Elections.

Owing to the state of excitement resulting from the war, it was difficult for the national will to find expression with normal calmness and that cool reasoning which restrains from going to extremes. The principal aim of the Government in carrying out the elections was to secure that they should be conducted with perfect preservation of public order, and should secure freedom in voting to the electors; and this was satisfactorily attained. The result of the election I have already telegraphed to you,* so you will know that the real opposition to the governing parties is represented by the extreme Socialists or Communists, who have secured 47 seats out of the total of 236. From these figures it is clear that they will not be able to exercise an influence detrimental to the present Cabinet, either in the country or outside it.

The orderly way in which the elections passed off must surely have discredited the tales of Bolshevism being rampant in Bulgaria, as it has given the lie to the prophecies of revolution, and so forth, in which the Press of neighbouring countries has been freely indulging.

The Cabinet decided at a sitting held on the 10th inst. that the new Chamber shall be summoned on the 27th inst., when, it is thought, the majority of the Bulgarian Peace delegates will return. M. Michael Saravoff and Professor Venelin Ganeff will probably remain in Paris to keep open communications. Among other questions the new Chamber will have to consider very early are those of Housing and Victualling, and the voting of the Budgetary expenses from October 1 to April 1, 1920.

* See THE NEAR EAST of September 12.—ED.

The Macedonian Congress.

Last Sunday the delegates of the Macedonian Brotherhood held a meeting, at which a resolution was adopted that the extraordinary congress of the Macedonian Emigration should be held on the 28th inst. A vote was also passed unanimously protesting most energetically against Greek and Serbian attempts to divert attention from the Macedonian Question, to represent it as non-existent when it is more than ever alive, and declaring that without its just settlement the Balkan problem will never be solved. By another unanimously-supported resolution the Congress decided to express warmest thanks to all those large-minded foreigners who untiringly and disinterestedly interceded for Macedonian liberty, and to assure them that to-day, in the hour of indescribable suffering, the Macedonian Bulgarians welcome with deepest gratitude the sympathy accorded to them and their cause.

False Reports Contradicted.

On August 22 one of the leading London newspapers published a telegram from its Belgrade correspondent stating that the railway bridge near Vranya, on the Nish-Uskub line, had been blown up by Bulgarian *komitajis*, in consequence of which the Nish-Uskub-Salonika communications were interrupted. The Bulgarian Press Bureau, on the authority of evidence collected from passengers on this train, officially denies the story thus put forward. Many passengers, including the Roumanian citizen, Jean Averescu, saw that the "outrage" was an accident, the dry wood employed in building the bridge having been set on fire by sparks from the engine, and there was no bomb attempt of any kind.

Another official denial which has been rendered necessary by the false reports so assiduously spread abroad by Bulgaria's enemies refers to the discovery, or reported discovery, in the Ægean Sea, of floating mines which were manufactured at the Sofia military arsenal! The Bulgarian Ministry for War declares that there are in the arsenal no machines either for the manufacture of such mines or for laying them at sea. The Ministry has also requested the military missions of the Entente to conduct an inquiry into the facts of the case in order to establish the truth.

Peace Treaty Expectations.

The report that the handing over of the Peace terms to the Bulgarian delegation is imminent, and that the settlement of the Macedonian and Thracian questions is probably excluded from them, has provided the ringleaders of the Germanophil Party and its Press with an opportunity not to be missed. They are accordingly vigorously sounding a note of alarm for the future of Bulgaria. The remaining, anti-German, journals await the verdict of the Great Powers of the Entente with confidence that a just settlement will be provided, which will ensure lasting peace; and that with the passing of time the sentiments of the Balkan States will so develop that the vexed question of nationalities will be impartially and justly settled.

Death of a Socialist Leader.

Last week there died at the hospital of the Red Cross one of the leaders of the "Narrow" Socialists, M. George Kirkoff. He was a distinguished citizen and exemplary public man, and though only forty-five years old, had worked untiringly for a quarter of a century for the Socialist cause in Bulgaria. In Parliament and at public meetings, M. Kirkoff was always heard with pleasure by friend and foe alike; his satire chastised all faults, without malice, and his speech was always marked by sincerity and love of his fellow men. Of Bolshevism, advocated by some of his followers, he said: "Bulgaria is the last country in the world to offer Bolshevism any chance of success."

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BRITISH WORK IN PALESTINE.

(From a Correspondent.)

The visitor who succeeds in reaching Palestine to-day will find that British officers of O.E.T.A. (South) are carrying out the strenuous work of reform with an energy characteristic of their race. Wherever it has fallen to our lot to occupy Ottoman territory it has been pretty much the same story. So it was in Cyprus, and so in Egypt. A very good idea of the change that is being effected may be gained from a perusal of the *Official Gazette*, which is published by authority at Jerusalem fortnightly, and is printed at the office of the Franciscan Monastery. A glance at the proclamations and orders of the Chief Administrator, and the circulars of the heads of departments show the comprehensive nature of the measures that are being promptly taken to meet all the needs of this period of transition.

To begin with difficulties touching the necessaries of life. In order to check the undue raising of prices, the Chief Administrator may fix maximum rates for the whole country; and municipalities may publish tariffs for various foods, etc. The schedule of articles includes all cereals, rice, flour, bread, butter, meat, olives, oil, coffee, sugar, milk, eggs, alcohol, charcoal, firewood, petroleum, and benzine. To prevent the undue withholding of necessaries, every Military Governor may require any person in his district to make declaration as to the quantity and place of his stocks, may issue orders for inspection, and call upon the owner to sell such stocks as may be prescribed. Offences are punishable by fine not exceeding £100, or imprisonment, or both penalties.

Needless to say, rents were being at once extortionately raised. An ordinance now provides that no higher rents shall be charged for any house, shop, or business premises than those paid at the date of the order, without the consent in writing of the Military Governor. But for these rules, profiteering in all spheres would be as flagrant as elsewhere. Agreements for the transfer of land are prohibited pending the re-establishment of Registries; and any promissory notes, or instruments in connection with any such invalid transactions are consequently null and void.

Agricultural interests are being cared for. No olive, carob, or oak tree may be cut down for any purpose except with the consent of the Military Governor or his deputy. Any offence is punishable with a fine not exceeding £100, or imprisonment up to six months, or both. The export of olive oil is forbidden owing to a threatened failure of this year's crop. Stringent measures are being taken to eradicate cattle plague. The slaughter of bovines, and ewes, and female lambs is regulated, while no restrictions are placed on that of goats, those foes of agriculture. Further north, in the Lebanon, Rustem Pasha used to declare that the chief enemies to progress were the goats and the priests. He could not cope with either as he would have desired.

A warning is given regarding hashish. It is an offence to cultivate the dangerous hemp (*Cannabis Indica*), the preparations from which yield such tempting profits and cause such havoc among its devotees, including especially Egyptian towns. No one may cultivate, buy, sell, export, or be in possession of hashish under a penalty of £5 for every kilogram or part thereof; and for a second offence £20, or six months' imprisonment, or both; besides, of course, confiscation of the hashish and everything connected with its preparation.

The protection of game has not been overlooked, a close season being provided. Between February 1 and July 15 no one may shoot or trap partridges, or be in possession of their eggs. Sportsmen must take out a licence to kill game, as well as the general licence to carry firearms. No gazelle may be shot or trapped until further orders.

Cruelty to animals is very properly dealt with. Fines up to £5, or for a second offence £20, or imprisonment may be imposed for overworking animals or working those that are unfit. The difficulty in the East is to obtain evidence, and but few Europeans can report cases.

As regards education, elementary schools managed by the Administration re-open for the season of 1919-20 on September 29, "except where local harvest, olive, grape, etc., make it desirable to postpone the date."

The Public Health Department has decreed that all persons arriving in O.E.T.A. (South) by sea are submitted to five days' medical surveillance, either at home or at the public health office, or, if necessary, at an observation camp.

With reference to the Customs, amongst the articles exempted from import dues are personal effects in baggage, books, and photographs, and, lastly, "coffins containing corpses."

Happily, an Order or Proclamation suffices at this stage. People are accustomed to the *Emir Námch*, or government regulation, which admits of no dispute, and must be obeyed.

This brief summary of some recent regulations may give an idea of the useful work which is being carried out by the small band of officers who are devoting long and weary hours, under constant difficulties, to the work of regeneration, and bearing the burden heat of these pioneer days in the evolution of British order out of Turkish chaos.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"EX-KING CONSTANTINE."

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—May I trespass upon your space to recommend any who are interested in this matter to obtain a copy of "The Vindication of Greek National Policy, 1912-1917," published by George Allen and Unwin, which contains a report of speeches delivered in the Greek Chamber of Commerce by M. Venizelos and others, and also a very excellent introduction by my friend M. Gennadius, the honorary Greek Minister to the Court of St. James. No one interested in Greece should fail to read this most important and interesting document, after reading which there will be no doubt left in the mind of any intelligent man as to the actual situation.

—I am, etc.,

Alex. Devine.

Northwood Park, Winchester, September 27, 1919.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

To the Editor of "The Near East."

Sir,—Your correspondent, "G. L. H.," from Cyprus, quotes what Mr. Lloyd George said of Ireland, viz., "The mere fact that it is one island is not proof that it is one nation," in order to maintain that Wilson's principles cannot be applied in Cyprus. We have never on any occasion suggested that we are a nation. Such a suggestion, apart from being historically and ethnologically incorrect, would be senseless. We are simply part of a nation of ten millions; and Cyprus is not "a single island"; it is one of the long chain of Greek islands. As to the Moslems, we do not by any means wish to "deprive them of their say in the matter." We are simply asking for self-determination for the people of Cyprus.

I really agree with your correspondent that no further argument can be advanced by either side, and I honestly think that the only real argument to be found on the other side is this: "We must prove to the Cypriots and to the whole world that might is right." Our opponents should, after all, be sincere. This, moreover, we cannot possibly refute. But we are sure that it will not commend itself to those in whose hands the future of Cyprus lies, or that they will sacrifice the claims of justice to the vested interests of some Englishmen in Cyprus.—I am, etc.,

London, September 30, 1919. "A Cypriot."

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

In commenting upon the recent tempestuous discussion which took place in the French Press upon the question of Syria, some of our English journalists appeared to be surprised to learn that the French song "*Partant pour la Syrie*" is still popular among the peasants. None of them, moreover, seemed to know when or by whom this song was written. Now the connection between France and Syria is, as is well known, very old, but this particular song is comparatively new, being written by Hortense, the mother of Napoleon III. Its correct title is "*Le Beau Dunois,*" the more usual title being taken from the commencement of the first verse. It was once, of course, the French national hymn, and it is not likely, in these days of rather overweening Republicanism, to lose its popularity.

***

While on the subject of songs pertaining to the Near East, I am reminded of the tune which is probably the most popular of all in that region—I mean the song "Marlborough" (which we now sing to "He's a jolly good fellow"), or "*Chanson de Malbrouk,*" as the French call it. A tradition did exist that this melody came from the East, and that the Crusaders brought it to France. But it is commonly accepted now that the Arabs adopted it from the French. It is a very popular tune in several Eastern countries, having been heard in Constantinople, and in many towns of Greece. And in Egypt, too, one can (or could before the war) hear this tune, though its origin there was ascribed to Greek merchants. I myself incline to the view that it originated in the East, because whenever there is a musical composition common to both Asiatic and European peoples, it is a fact that it has been adopted by the West. However, perhaps some of my learned readers will enlighten me.

***

A short time ago a friend with whom I was in London expressed the view that the tree which Londoners love, the plane, could with great benefit be supplanted by another more beautiful tree—for instance, the walnut. Now I have found that the plane is the only tree which will grow in London streets, and that even this is not, so to speak, a pure-bred plane, but the result of an accidental crossing some time ago at Kew between the Occidental and the Oriental plane. Of this Oriental plane I have learned from Gilpin's "Forest Scenery" that it was one of the most celebrated trees, and that it grew in Phrygia. When Xerxes, a great admirer of trees, set out on his Grecian expedition, he, after finding the plane, ordered all the groves to be saved. So much in love did he fall with the tree, in fact, that he stopped his whole campaign for three days to indulge himself in the joy of its luxurious shade. Meanwhile the Greeks were taking measures to defend Thermopylæ. Gilpin concludes his account naively:—"The story may not speak much in favour of the Prince, but it is my business only to say honour to the tree." In revering the plane, therefore, the Londoner is but following a very illustrious example.

***

The Belgrade correspondent of THE NEAR EAST seems to have—if I may say so—patriarchal ideas. That paragraph headed "Prolific Serbia," which appeared in his letter last week, is my warrant for the remark. I gather from it that he regards the truly wonderful woman who presented her husband at one fell swoop with three boys and one girl as the sort of mother to be encouraged. Personally, I reserve my opinion on that head, but I should like to know how the average British Paterfamilias would take the Nurse's announcement: "Three boys and a girl, sir—and all doing well." It is in such sad and soulful moments that the outraged male recalls the Music Hall song which went—

Woman has the best of it, all along the line.
When the baby comes? Well, rather!
In the newspapers you read:
"Mother and child both doing well."
But not a single word of poor old Father!

—or something like that. But perhaps the Serb views these things in a different light from the Briton.

CORSAIR.

"A HUNDRED YEARS AGO."

Our Belgrade Correspondent sends us the following extracts from *The Serbian News* of September 18, 1819:—"The new Gospodar of Moldavia, Prince Michael Souzo, was appointed in Divan on 8/29 August, and received in audience by the Sultan. The next morning he received the customary horse-tails with the usual formalities. He will depart for Jassy at an early date.

"The Turkish Government is still arresting ringleaders of the recent mutiny of the Janissaries; many have hidden themselves in Stamboul, but many have succeeded in escaping from the city."

PALESTINE AND SYRIA.

Under the London County Council scheme of classes for teachers, a course of ten lectures on Palestine and Syria will be given by Mr. Alexander Séfi at the London School of Oriental Studies, Finsbury Circus, E.C.2, on Friday afternoons. The first lecture will be given on October 3, and the others on succeeding Fridays excepting October 24, when there will be no lecture.

We understand that on account of the present discussion regarding the future of these lands the first lecture will deal with their future and government, although Mr. Séfi in preparing the syllabus of the lectures had intended to treat of the subject in the last lecture.

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

The Secretary of State for India has received intimation that Regulations have been published in India for the selection there of natives of India and Burma for appointment to the Indian Civil Service otherwise than by means of the Open Competitive Examination. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary, Judicial and Public Department, India Office, London, S.W. 1. The Government of India have fixed October 31 as the latest date on which applications must be received by the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Province in India to which the candidate belongs.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Roumania and the Jews.

The problem of the Jews in Roumania is stated by a writer in the *New Statesman* of September 20 in a light very unfavourable to Roumania. He says:—

One of the serious factors that have brought about the present state of tension between the Peace Conference and Roumania is the refusal of the latter to sign a Treaty, containing clauses for safeguarding the rights of national minorities. The people who are most seriously affected by these clauses are the Jews, of whom there are 250,000 in Roumania; and should Bessarabia and Transylvania be ultimately assigned to that country, another 550,000 Jews would likewise be affected. The Roumanian standpoint is that the signing of such a Treaty would signify the abridgment of the sovereign rights of an independent State, and that what may be right in the case of resurrected or newly created States, like Poland or Czecho-Slovakia, is an insult to an old-established kingdom like Roumania. The second plea is that the objectionable clauses are unnecessary, as there is no Jewish question in Roumania. The Jews, it is alleged, have always enjoyed religious freedom in Roumania, and the country's claim to be considered just and liberal is based upon the contention that it has been free from pogroms. These arguments have been repeatedly advanced by M. Bratiano, but they have failed to move the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference. The reason is that they are utterly fallacious.

He then indulges in a retrospect, and asserts that the Roumanian Government has always treated Jews as foreigners:—

As for the native Jews of Roumania in general, they are simply treated as outlaws. Not only have they been denied their civil rights, but during the last fifty years some 220 special laws have been enacted for the purpose of restricting and cramping their movements in every sphere of human activity. They are not allowed to own land or even to till it as hired labourers. They have been expelled from the rural districts and driven into the towns, where most of the avenues to an honest living are closed to them. They are barred from the Civil Service and from the medical, legal, and teaching professions. They are excluded from the secondary schools and Universities; and Jewish students of medicine who obtain their doctorate diplomas at foreign Universities are not allowed to practise in their native country, which is notoriously short of qualified doctors. Jewish employees may not form more than a fourth of the workmen or staff in any factory applying for the Government benefits, without which industry in Roumania cannot flourish; and Jewish merchants who have to visit a rural district on business are placed under police supervision. But, though denied all rights of citizenship, the Jews must, nevertheless, discharge its duties. They must pay taxes—foreigners as they are declared to be—they must serve in the army, in which they cannot rise above the rank of a corporal.

After a recital of Jewish grievances, he states positively that the Bratiano Decree of December, 1918, has not emancipated the Jews, and that the restrictions on their liberty are still intolerable. In quoting this writer's concluding paragraph it is scarcely necessary to remark that we in no wise associate ourselves with his words.

It is because the Peace Conference is keenly alive to the mockery of this Bratiano Decree, and fully acquainted with the long melancholy history of Jewish persecution in Roumania, that it has resolved that this country must at length be made not only to emancipate its Jewish subjects *en masse*, but also to undertake to respect their rights as a national minority. For though the Jews were even legally enfranchised, they might still be discriminated against in actual practice, and the Constitutional change would remain a dead letter. Such a fear is well founded; it is based upon the whole record of Roumania's treatment of the Jews during the last fifty years, and it has been strikingly reinforced by the recent conduct of the Roumanian authorities towards the Jews in Hungary. That is why clearly specified and absolutely binding safeguards are required. M. Bratiano's proposal that the whole question should be transferred to the League of Nations for settlement is too obvious a manœuvre to have escaped the intelligence of the Peace Conference; for, once this body agrees to such a proposal, not only will Roumania again wriggle out of her moral duty, but the Powers would lose the necessary union and authority to impose their will. If ever there were a just cause which the Paris Conference should uphold and fight for to the end, it is the cause of the 800,000 Jews in the enlarged Roumania. Are these, after the great war of liberation, to remain the last serfs in Europe, or are they to enjoy the full rights of modern citizenship?

Arabia.

In the *Pall Mall Gazette* of September 23 there is an article from H.R.H. the Emir Faisal making a strong plea for a united Arabia and for independence. He exposes the hostility between Arab and Turk, and then says:—

There are certain questions associated with our affairs which have a direct European importance, while there are others which can only be answered by the people of the Mahommedan faith. The question of the Caliphate, for example, must be decided by the Moslems themselves.

A very serious point, which, unlike the choice of the Caliph, is of European concern, has to do with establishing unity among the Arabs. They must not be divided by different influences. I feel confident that my Allies will not revert to a policy of colonisation, but, on the contrary, will maintain a strict regard for the principles for which they fought—namely, the principles of justice and right.

My chief aspiration is to bring about the political unity of the Arab-speaking provinces and to remove all European designs which may be directed at colonisation. It may be pointed out that the Arabs raised the question of their independence some time before the war. The Arab Congress which met in Paris in 1912-13 put forward the proposal of complete autonomy, and Turkey was compelled to promise the Arabian countries this concession. But the Ottoman Government failed to keep faith with the Arabs, who, however, did not allow themselves to be cast down, although exiled and bitterly persecuted. Those whose sentiments were merely suspect suffered the same fate as those who avowed themselves the champions of freedom. The ideal of liberty and independence was firmly implanted in their hearts. On the first occasion which presented itself the Arabs threw themselves upon their oppressors, and, owing to the advance of my troops, the standard of revolt was raised everywhere.

Persia.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* of September 24 contained an article from H.H. Prince Firooz Mirza on "Persia's Future." He says:—

The Government of the Shah aspires to unify the interests of the Persian people. Some promise of solidarity is already visible on the political horizon. No one ignores the importance of Persia or the glorious rôle the country has played in the past. Those who are familiar with the East recognise that the Persians are an intelligent race and that during all time Persia has produced distinguished savants and thinkers. Persia's contribution to literature, art, science, and civilisation, in truth, ranks high among the nations of the world. The system of finance, in a national sense, requires careful revision; the Army is in need of reorganisation, and railway construction is imperative. The repercussions of the war afflicted Persia, in spite of her neutrality. International rivalries brought cruel consequences to our towns and villages. Devastation, famine, and epidemics visited our beloved country.

He concludes by saying that Great Britain and Persia are in perfect accord:—

We are in Persia very anxious concerning the possible spread of Bolshevism, whose dangers are manifest. Nations with large agricultural populations are particularly subject, it seems, to the ravages of this scourge. At one point the small Republic of Azebaijan has sprung up as a buffer between our present territory and Russia (Georgia). A more powerful Persia, the promised fruit of the Agreement with England, would undoubtedly help to balance the situation in the Middle East, thus restraining the too ambitious inclinations of other States. Russia was always in the past eager to control the economic development of Persia and to place her hand upon all our resources. It was the St. Petersburg Government which opposed the building of railways in Persia. This opposition was all the more effective because Persia obviously could not herself undertake an enterprise necessitating co-operation with foreigners in the direction of capital, material, and technical knowledge. Now that Great Britain and Persia are in perfect accord, through the successful work of the two Governments, a new era will inevitably open in the Middle East—an era which will bring benefit to all those nations which are actuated by worthy motives and a love of justice.

Articles to Note

"The Scramble for the Balkans," by James D. Bourchier; and "The Future of Arabia," by Paymaster Lieut.-Commander Cyril Cox, R.N.R., in the *Nineteenth Century* (October).

"The New Middle East in the Making," by Robert Machray; and "Field-Marshal Allenby's Campaign," by Major Lindsay Bashford, O.B.E., in the *Fortnightly Review* (October).

"The Syrian Problem," by "Anglo-Indian," in the *Contemporary Review* (October).

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

HISTORIC MONUMENTS OF CYPRUS.*

Although much light has been thrown on the archæology of the Eastern Mediterranean in recent years, its early history is still confused and largely conjectural. In this volume the author, Mr. G. Jeffery, F.S.A., who has been for many years Curator of Ancient Monuments in Cyprus, gives us the results of diligent studies in the archæology and architecture of the island. Taking Lord Kitchener's excellent map as a basis, he describes such relics as have escaped destruction. His wide knowledge of architecture in many lands makes him an interesting as well as trustworthy guide. A useful chronological section enables the reader to follow the narrative from prehistoric times to the present day.

Mr. Jeffery has himself done some valuable work in Cyprus. The Hall of the Cyprus Museum at Nicosia (1907), not yet completed, is a memorial to Queen Victoria. Its marble portico is an adaptation of the Ionic façade of the temple of Niké Apteros at Athens. He arranged a small museum for the preservation of mediæval fragments at Famagusta; has built and improved English chapels; and helped to save various ruins from further destruction or decay. A curator should have been appointed much earlier; but for many years economy, pushed to its extreme limit, vetoed expenditure in that direction, however modest. Under an "Antiquities Law" of 1915 some 38 "ancient" monuments were at last declared to be protected, 16 being in the district of Famagusta.

The primitive Aryan inhabitants of Cyprus left no traces of even rudimentary architecture. The earliest race-type art is classified as belonging to the "Bronze Age," as Mr. Jeffery regards the oldest specimens, chiefly pottery, as "identical in many particulars with that of the Swiss lake dwellers." The early Cypriot or Phœnician temple was a *temenos*, or enclosure, mostly of mud brick, containing many ex-votos, often grotesque. A conical stone represented Aphrodite (Astarté), whose cult spread westward to Cythera. Of ancient towns there are only here and there the barely distinguishable traces of walls and buildings. But while everything above ground has disappeared, abundant remains of sculpture and art have been found, chiefly in tombs. The most early sculpture suggests the art of Assyria and Egypt, often a blend of the two; Greek influence being a later inspiration. Numerous statues of all sizes, from colossal figures to minute statuettes, are found, as well as objects in terra cotta, glass, and metal. Cyprus offers larger collections of such objects than all the other Phœnician colonies in Europe and Africa combined.

The earliest built structures were tombs of carefully squared masonry, of which many good specimens remain in different sites. The necropoleis of Græco-Roman and Byzantine periods have yielded a rich harvest of "antiques," including such gold and other ornaments as escaped early tomb-riflers. The nineteenth century robbed Cyprus of the finest work to enrich the museums of Europe and New York. It is regrettable that much of the excavation was not reserved for later and more scientific investigation. The ruined temples belonging to Ptolemaic and Roman periods have gone. The bull-head capital in the British Museum belongs to the latter period, the classic Roman work being contemporary with that of the great temples of Baalbek and Syria.

The mediæval was the "glorious period," with its feudal aristocracy and pomp. The conquest of Cyprus by Richard I., in the third Crusade, introduced the Lusignan dynasty, and brought to Cyprus the arts and influence of the West. The Kingdom of Cyprus virtually dates from A.D. 1300, when the fortress of Famagusta was founded. In 1291 Acre was taken by the Moslems: the Christians who escaped found a refuge in the island, and the Kingdom of Jerusalem became a meaningless name. The beautiful abbey of Bellapaise (Kyrenia district) is regarded by Mr. Jeffery as the finest monument, worthy of its royal foundation and patronage, and unique in the Levant. The work of M. C. Enlart ("L'Art Gothique en Chypre," 1899) leaves little to be said regarding the superb monuments of French architecture, as Mr. Jeffery acknowledges, but much space is, of course, devoted to the beautiful cathedrals of Nicosia and Famagusta, and the once noble fortresses of Hilarion and Kantara. The period ended with the rivalry between the Republics of Genoa and Venice, Cyprus being occupied by the latter in 1489.

Interesting accounts are given of the transformation of the fortresses of Kyrenia, Nicosia, and Famagusta, which had become obsolete in the new period of artillery, and which almost obliterated their mediæval aspect. These again became out of date in fifty years, and were in turn condemned by the Venetians just before the Turkish invasion in 1570. Under Ottoman rule the cathedrals and some fine churches were converted into mosques, in the floors of which fourteenth century tombstones, whole or in fragments, remain. The modern Greek buildings call for the scantiest notice, being mostly devoid of taste; the village churches being "barn-like" structures, which stand in melancholy contrast with the masterpieces of the past.

Mr. Jeffery's book is no dry treatise. A day's ride in Cyprus may take you through the ruins and battlefields of many ages; and the author conducts you, village by village, to heights in which may be found various survivals in customs and even in dress. He refers to mediæval legends, "miracles," superstitions, and folk-lore, and gives appropriate extracts from many chroniclers. In the jumble of ruins it is well to have a safe guide who can explain the patchwork and the intermixture of architectural styles. The tourist, who must supply the lack of a map from a guide-book, should not fail to include this volume in his equipment.

* "The Historic Monuments of Cyprus." By George Jeffery. (James Archer, Government Printer, Nicosia. 7s. 6d.)

TOWNSHEND—AND AFTER.*

This is, we believe, the first full-length account of the events leading up to the surrender of Kut and the subsequent fortunes, or rather misfortunes, of the unhappy prisoners of war. It is preceded by a very careful military consideration of the factors for and against success in the early part of the Mesopotamia campaign, when it first developed from the relatively small defensive expedition to guard the oil-pipe at the Persian Gulf into a great offensive campaign against Bagdad. On this matter Major Sandes naturally cannot deliver final judgment, nor indeed does he attempt to do so; but what he says does nothing to mitigate the general conclusion which the world has already come to, that the enlargement of the objective was undertaken without due forethought, and that political considerations were allowed to override military ability—a novel interpretation of the superiority of the civil to the military power which will always remain as a warning.

The author, however, throws much new light on the last two months in Kut, and on the very difficult and delicate situation with which General Townshend found himself confronted. Here, again, a final verdict cannot be given, until the War Office publishes—if ever it does—its complete dossier of this part of the campaign; and that we are not likely to see for many years. But Major Sandes does at least enable us to form an interim judgment. If he does not succeed in convincing us that nobody could have done better in an impossible situation than Townshend, his narrative does not at any rate bear out the more extreme criticisms of that General's methods which some indignant soldiers and many amateur strategists have indulged in since 1916.

The general reader will probably take most interest in the narrative of the long captivity which forms the latter portion of the book. It is a very affecting story of hardship bravely borne. The Turk has a reputation of fighting like a gentleman, but he does not appear to have treated his captives like gentlemen. If there is little of the calculated and fiendish cruelty towards prisoners which was the especial prerogative of the Germans, there were neglect, inefficiency, and callousness; tasks and marches were ordered which could not be performed, and which were obviously unnecessary. Losses in battle and siege are one thing, but England will not readily forget the heavy loss of men who were helpless prisoners in Asia Minor in 1916 and 1917. The record of their sufferings lives in Major Sandes's pages, and this portion at least of his very interesting and well-written book is not likely to be superseded.

* "In Kut and Captivity." By Major E. W. C. Sandes. (John Murray. 21s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

Among Macmillan and Co.'s autumn announcements are "Pan-Islam," by G. Wyman Bury; "Indian Finance and Banking," by G. Findlay Shirras; and "India at the Death of Akbar," by W. H. Moreland, C.S.I., C.I.E., late of the Indian Civil Service. The last book is an economic study of India at the opening of the seventeenth century.

A new tale of Burma, "The Two-stringed Fiddle," by G. E. Mitton, is being published by John Murray.

"Bengal Fairy Tales," by Shelland Bradley, illustrated by Abindranath Tagore, is shortly to appear from John Lane.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Constantinople: Ses Cités Franques et Levantines." By Bertrand Bareilles. (Paris: Editions Bossard. 9 fr.)

"Poems in Captivity." By John Still. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Out of Bondage," by Dr. Shmarya Levin. (London: Hendersons. 2s. 6d. net.)

"Memoirs of Edward, Eighth Earl of Sandwich, 1839-1916." Edited by Mrs. Steuart Erskine. (London: John Murray. 16s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. October	1919. September		1338. Moharram.	5680. Tishri
3	20	Friday	8	9
4	21	Saturday.....	9	10
5	22	Sunday	10	11
6	23	Monday	11	12
7	24	Tuesday	12	13
8	25	Wednesday	13	14
9	26	Thursday	14	15

Count de Salis has arrived in Rome on his return from Montenegro.

The Crown Prince of Roumania arrived in London on September 25 from Paris.

General Karneteki, the Polish representative in Turkey, has arrived at Constantinople.

Dr. Zupanic, a member of the Yugoslav Committee, left London on September 26 for Slovenia.

General Lyautey, the French Resident-General in Morocco, arrived on September 26 in Paris.

Dr. Lozanic, Chief of the Serbian Food Commission, arrived in London on September 26 from Belgrade.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, returned to London on September 25 from Brighton.

M. Gennadius, the honorary Greek Minister, and Mme. Gennadius left London on September 25 for Bournemouth.

The marriage was celebrated on September 25 between Henry Nelson Wright, Indian Civil Service, and Madge, daughter of the late Stephen E. Barnes.

Mr. J. P. Thompson; I.C.S. (Punjab), has been nominated an additional member of the Imperial Legislative Council, in place of Mr. P. J. Fagan, resigned.

Colonel Sir Ronald Ross ceases to be Consultant in Malaria at the War Office on demobilisation, but remains Honorary Consultant in Malaria to the Ministry of Pensions.

Mme. Koyitch, the wife of the Chargé d'Affaires of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, held a reception at the Legation, 195, Queen's Gate, on Wednesday afternoon.

The King of Roumania has appointed Colonel Arion, formerly Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, personal Attaché to Prince Nicolas of Roumania, who has returned to Eton.

The King has granted permission to wear the Cross of the Legion of Honour of the Class Cross of Chevalier to Mr. G. F. Story, Armament Supply Officer, Portsmouth, lately of Malta.

In the Consistory at the end of November or the beginning of December the Pope will create several new Cardinals, including probably Archbishop Camassei, Patriarch of Constantinople.

On the occasion of the elevation of General Allenby to the rank of Field-Marshal, Dr. M. D. Eder, deputy-acting chairman of the Zionist Commission in Palestine, sent him a letter of congratulation.

Mr. Sydney Rose has been appointed Acting Consular Agent at Mansourah during the absence of Mr. Fred T. Murdoch on leave. Mr. Murdoch left Mansourah for England viâ Port Said on September 15.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania, with his sister, Princess Marie, attended by Colonel Arion, arrived at the Ritz Hotel last week from Bucharest. Prince and Princess Axel of Denmark have also arrived at the Ritz.

The marriage arranged between Mr. E. F. Rawlins, Indian Police, and Miss Walsh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. C. Walsh, Indian Civil Service, will take place on Tuesday, October 14, at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge.

The marriage was celebrated on September 20 at St. Mary's Church, Chippenham, by Capt. the Rev. W. E. Toft, C.F., between Gerald Corley Smith, of Simla, India, and Mona Brooks Anderson, of Limes Cottage, Havant, Hants.

Colonel N. Arion, formerly Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, who accompanied Prince Nicolas of Roumania from Bucharest to London, has been appointed by the King of Roumania personal Attaché to Prince Nicolas.

Sir Walter Becker, of Turin, has given a donation of 50,000 lira to the British Mission of Relief to Montenegro, which is at present operating in that country under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Cheke. This is the first British Mission of Relief that has entered the country.

The marriage arranged between Captain C. Kenneth Marsh, Guides Cavalry, I.A., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, The Gables, Melton Mowbray, and Eleanor, third daughter of the Rev. D. and Mrs. Vawdrey, of Areley Rings Rectory, Stourport, will take place in India this autumn.

An engagement has been arranged between Phyllis Margaret, younger daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Bath, of Newfields, Marlow-on-Thames, and Wilfred Neville Brown Constable (Indian Army), younger son of the Rev. A. E. and Mrs. Brown Constable, of Riverswood House, Marlow-on-Thames.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place at Calcutta, between Lieut.-Colonel John Day, D.S.O., Royal Engineers, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Day, of Bromley, Kent, and Kittie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douetil, of Surbiton Hill, Surrey, and niece of Mr. C. N. Douetil, of Calcutta.

Reuter's Belgrade correspondent writes (September 24):—King Peter of Serbia arrived at Belgrade to-day from Arangjelovatz to take up his residence after an absence of five years. His Majesty will reside in a villa on Mount Topchider. At the special desire of his Majesty no public ceremonies were held to celebrate his return.

The engagement is announced between Captain Frederick George Cavendish, M.C., the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment, eldest son of Major Cecil Charles Cavendish, late Highland Light Infantry, and Milla Jean, only daughter of the late William St. Clair Grant, Bhagalpur, India, and Mrs. Grant, 61, Curzon Street, Mayfair.

Sir Charles des Graz left Belgrade on September 29 for England. On Saturday Prince Alexander entertained him at a farewell banquet. Sir Charles has been Minister at the Serbian Court since 1914, and took part in the great retreat through Albania. He is extremely popular in Belgrade, and his departure is sincerely regretted.

The marriage took place on September 24 at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, of Mr. Ellis Chinnery, late Oxfordshire Hussars, of Fringford Manor, Bicester, and Katharine Marjorie, elder daughter of Mr. James Dixon, late Inspector-General, Burma Police, of 7, St. Albans Road, Kensington. Prebendary Boyd officiated, assisted by the Rev. F. A. O'Brien.

The marriage was celebrated on September 23 at St. George's, Hanover Square, by the Rev. A. J. de D. Denne, between Lieut.-Colonel Richard William Arthur Denne, Indian Army (retired), eldest son of the late Rev. R. H. Denne, Rector of Brimpsfield, Gloucestershire, and Anne Mannooch Welch, second daughter of the late Captain Welch, R.N., J.P., of Arle House, Cheltenham.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Arthur Stuart Harington, son of the late Colonel Arthur Montgomery Harington Bey, and grandson of the late Sir Henry Byng Harington, K.C.S.I., and Gertrude, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Marker, of The Gables, Heath Drive, Hampstead, will take place at St. Marylebone Parish Church at 12.30 p.m. on October 14. Friends will be welcome at the church.

The engagement is announced of Mr. G. H. G. Anderson, D.S.O., M.C., 2nd Battalion the Rifle Brigade, third surviving son of J. D. Anderson, Litt.D., I.C.S. (retired), and Mrs. Anderson, Mostyn House, Cambridge, to Pamela, younger daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Morris, R.A.M.C. (retired), Deputy Commissioner Pensions Ministry, Wales, and Mrs. Morris, of Caerleon, Monmouthshire.

The marriage arranged between Major H. V. Venables Kyrke, D.S.O., Royal Welsh Fusiliers, attached Egyptian Army, eldest son of Colonel and Mrs. Venables Kyrke, of Chard, Somerset, and Frances Mary Craven, only daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Craven Hoyle, of Leabank Hall, Cloughfold, near Manchester, will take place at St. Nicholas's Parish Church, Newchurch-in-Rossendale, on October 8, at two o'clock

The following is the programme of the Central Asian Society, 22, Albemarle Street, W., for the session 1919-1920:—Ikbal Ali Shah, on "Afghanistan," on October 22, 1919; Sir M. de Bunsen, P.C., G.C.M.G., etc., on "The New Levant Company," November 12; and M. Funduklian, on "Armenia," on December 10. For 1920 the following lectures have been arranged:—"Cyprus," by Mr. Roland Michell, Ex-Commissioner of Limassol, on January 21; "The Proposed New Department for Dealing with British Interests and Responsibilities in the Near and Middle East," by Capt. the Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., in February; "Mesopotamia," by Colonel R. Pope-Hennessy, D.S.O., on March 10; and "A Mid-Asian Continuity of Influence," by Miss Louise Peralta, in April.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

Mr. W. S. G. Solomon has been appointed principal of the Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay. He is expected to arrive in Bombay from England this month.

Mr. P. Wyndham, C.I.E., C.B.E., Commissioner of Kumaon, and Mr. F. Leete, Chief Conservator of Forests, are appointed members of the United Provinces Legislative Council.

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OBITUARY.

M. Janacopulos, the Greek Consul at Rio de Janeiro, is dead.

Mr. R. C. S. Keith, I.C.S., District Judge, Burma, has died at Aberdeen, aged 43.

Mr. John Paton Davidson, late of the Madras Public Works Department, died on September 21. He was the son of General Wright Westcott Davidson, and joined the Engineering branch of the Service in 1874.

The death is reported of Lieutenant-Colonel J. K. Condon, Political Agent, Zalawar Prant (Kathiawar), at Srinagar. Joining the Service in 1888, the deceased was made Under-Secretary to Government in the General Department in 1898, and was Second-in-Command of the Kolhapur Infantry Corps and ex-officio Assistant Political Agent, Kolhapur, in 1900, a Double Company Officer in the 18th Bengal Infantry in 1902, Acting Assistant Resident of Baroda in 1905, and he afterwards worked in Sawantwadi as Assistant Political Agent, and also in Aden.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Trotter, K.C.M.G., died on September 25, at Lucas Green Manor, Chobham. He had his first commission in the Royal Engineers in 1860. From 1863 to 1875 Sir Henry served on the great Trigonometrical Survey of India, and he accompanied Sir Douglas Forsyth's mission to Yarkand and Kashgar as geographer during 1873-4. His subsequent explorations in Turkestan earned for him the Victoria medal of the Royal Geographical Society. Appointed additional Military Attaché at the Headquarters of the Turkish Army in Asia in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-8, he accompanied the Turkish troops throughout the campaign in Asia, and was present at several battles and at the relief of Kars. For that campaign he was awarded the Turkish war medal. After the war Sir Henry served for four years as Consul for Kurdistan, and during that time he did excellent work in superintending the international relief operations at Scio after the great earthquake of 1881. He was subsequently Military Attaché at Constantinople, Consul-General in Syria, British Delegate on the European Commission for the Navigation of the Danube, and Consul-General for Roumania. While in Roumania he frequently acted as Chargé d'Affaires at Bucharest.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

R. Blagojevitch, a Serbian student, has swum the Menai Straits in 20 minutes.

Statistics show a marked decrease of births during the first half of 1919 at Constantinople.

M. Poulet, a French airman, started on October 1 on an attempt to fly to Australia viâ India.

It is proposed further to suspend the powers of the Mixed Tribunals in Egypt until October 31, 1920.

Successful experiments have been made in Algeria recently in the use of flame-throwers against swarms of locusts.

Naib Hussein Kashi, one of the most notorious highway robbers and rebels in Persia, has been tried and executed at Teheran.

It is announced definitely, according to an Exchange telegram from Paris, that the Yugoslavs will sign the Peace Treaty with Austria.

A Smyrna telegram states that a railway bridge near Angora was blown up a few days ago and a train was wrecked, several of the passengers being killed and injured.

On the way from London to Egypt by way of St. Raphael the British aeroplane S.E.246 was obliged to descend about three miles from Sillans-la-Cascade, near Draguignan.

In commenting on the Bulgarian Treaty, the Athens Press remarks that if Thrace be not annexed to Greece, Bulgaria will have signed the Treaty as victor, not vanquished.

Control of the military passports in Greece, which had been exercised for three years, was abolished from September 30, in so far as voyages to Great Britain and Italy were affected.

The Spanish Minister in Tangier has made a complaint to the representative of the Sultan against the smuggling of arms from the international zone of Tangier to the tribes hostile to Spain.

A mission from General Denikin has arrived at Athens, at the head of which is the Greco-Russian Colonel Pantazides, who is accompanied by Count Sergius Tolstoy and Lieutenant Romanovitch.

A Reuter telegram from Constantinople states that the troops of Mustapha Kemel Pasha, the leader of the so-called Nationalist movement, have occupied Konia and expelled the regular authorities.

A telegram from Fez says that the tribesmen who have been menacing the northern front of Fez have left that region in order to reinforce the Mahalla of Raisuli, which is operating in the Spanish zone.

According to the Rome journal *Epoca*, a British aeroplane *en route* for Rome and Cairo, when near Lake Bracciano, crashed and caught fire, Captain C. H. Dahley being burned to death and Lieutenant Curtis injured.

The Lawrence Memorial School, Lovedale, is to be taken over by the Government of Madras with a view to putting it on a more satisfactory basis. Proposals to this end have gone to the Government of India for their sanction.

A delayed Reuter message from Smyrna states that the Allied Commission of Inquiry returned from Manissa on September 19. Their decisions are being kept secret, and no official statement has been issued to the Press.

A weekly journal, entitled *United India*, is to be started to support the Indian Reform Bill. Among the contributions are articles from Sir Sankaran Nair, Sir Krishna Gupta, Mr. Surendranath Bannerji, and Mrs. Annie Besant.

The Cairo Correspondent of *The Times* states that the Holy Carpet Caravan returned to Cairo on September 25, the Prime Minister presiding at the ceremony. The pilgrimage this year is declared to have been free from epidemics.

The qualifying examinations under the Reconstruction Scheme for the Indian Civil Service, Eastern cadetships, etc., commenced yesterday. Candidates who were prevented by the strike from attending will be given an opportunity of qualifying at a later date.

Bombay Moslems have passed a resolution protesting against the contemplated dismemberment of Turkey, the internationalisation of Constantinople, the cession of Thrace to Greece, and the granting of mandates for the Asiatic provinces to the different European Powers.

The Constantinople correspondent of *The Times* reports a marked increase in crime with violence in the neighbourhood, due, according to some, to the escape of a large number of criminals from prison, but, according to others, inspired and paid for by agitators.

A semi-official statement issued on September 25 said:—The evacuation of the Caucasus (i.e., Transcaucasia) by the British is continuing, but it has been decided that a detachment of British troops should be left temporarily in the Batum province until its future has been arranged.

A Reuter's message from Belgrade, dated October 1, reports:—The Prince Regent, after a conference with the President of the Skupshtina, has entrusted M. Protitch with the task of forming a Cabinet.

According to the latest news, about ten days ago the members of the British Mission under Colonel Jacob who have been captured by Arabs in the Yemen were well, but were still detained. The Imam of the Yemen has sent a letter to the tribes warning them of their responsibility.

In the debate in the Indian Legislative Council on September 24 on the introduction of the Martial Law Indemnity Bill, to protect officials from any possible consequences of their action during the recent troubles in the Punjab, Indian members proposed 36 amendments, which were practically all rejected.

Colonel Haskell, High Commissioner in Armenia, representing the Allied and Associated Powers, has gone to Baku to warn the Government of Azerbaijan that if the violation of the frontiers assigned to Armenia does not cease, and if their military operation are not concluded, grave consequences will ensue.

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THE ARAB REVIVAL.

Many established theories have been shattered by the war, and recent events have shown that we must revise entirely our conception of the Arab world of to-day. It has been the fashion to regard the Arab as so much the counterpart of his own unchanging desert that a reference on his part to the principle of nationality or the right of self-determination seems an anachronism. The war, however, with its wonderful levelling-up of the different stages of constitutional development, has merely intensified a disposition that had long singled out the Arabs as among the most enlightened of subject peoples of the Ottoman Empire. Once away from his desert, the Arab has often shown something of the mettle and pushfulness that helped his forefathers to conquer the world, and which in these latter days have won him position at Constantinople or wealth as a trader in Africa or farther afield. His evolution during the last four or five years, on the other hand, has not been on normal lines. The great upheaval that has brought unsettlement to the individual mind and corporate unrest has left its mark on the Arabs, and in general has considerably narrowed the dividing line between the Western nations and those known to them as peoples less advanced politically. Whatever the explanation of the phenomenon, we are called upon to recognise the fact, and it is their failure to do so that has led the French to a false estimate of the Syrian question. In the negotiations that led up to the 1916 Agreement the French Government was carefully advised of the previous understanding arrived at between Great Britain and the King of the Hejaz; but clearly they ignored its significance and affected to believe that the terms of the Sykes-Picot contract were as valid as though there were no other claimant to the regions concerned. A truer appreciation of the position must have compelled them in their own interests to get into closer touch with the Arabs after the secession of the Hejaz from the Ottoman Empire. They preferred, however, to leave almost exclusively to Great Britain the task of liberating Syria, relying on their ability to hold their own against any Arab *intransigeance* when they finally took over the country from the British. It has been established beyond dispute that the British Government always kept in mind the ultimate withdrawal of its troops from Syria in favour of the French. The same purpose actuated the British Higher Command; but there is no need to suppose that the terms of the Sykes-Picot Agreement were familiar to every officer under General Allenby's command. The fact that the Home Government had realised that some modification of the 1916 compact was inevitable may have caused it to make no special reference to its terms as a guiding principle for the Army of Occupation. One result of such an omission was that subordinate officers, who were brought into closer contact with the Arabs, came to accept the position as they found it, and were liable to presume that the Arab refusal to have anything to do with the French would determine the future status of the country. Only late in the day, when the French had shown that nothing short of *force majeure* would induce them to abandon altogether their claims upon Syria, did the British Government set about adjusting the points at issue between the French and the Arabs.

The outcome is to be regarded as satisfactory, provided that our French Allies have profited by the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into the Arab temperament. They have recognised the special prerogatives of the Arabs in regard to the four cities, Damascus, Hama, Homs, and Aleppo, and undertake not to send French troops to these centres. Their mandate, however, entails a degree of supervision and co-operation which must inevitably prove intolerable, unless it is exercised with consummate tact and forbearance. The experience for the French is likely to prove different from anything else that they have run up against in their colonial history, and in the interests of the Middle East as a whole we hope that they will tread warily from the outset. To urge this does not imply that the Arabs are necessarily justified in all their claims or are able to give effect to all their pretensions. If they were possessed of a frame of mind more receptive of advice, several difficulties in the way of the Syrian question might more easily be removed. The point, however, for both the French and the British to appreciate is that the Arabs now consider themselves to have reached the threshold of political emancipation and are not inclined to look back. This does not mean that they feel able unaided to conduct an administration on Western lines; but it implies that all assistance must take their point of view into consideration. The French, moreover, will have to bear in mind that the Arab will take instruction from a mandatory imposed upon him less readily than from one of his own choice. In the present instance he has made no secret of his dislike for being placed under the French. On the other hand, the East, as a rule, takes the accomplished fact philosophically, and there is no reason why, under statesmanlike direction—France has shown that she can produce ideal colonial governors—the experiment should not prove a success. The Arabs realise that they stand in need of some measure of administrative tutelage, and it will be advisable that Great Britain should use her present influence over them to bring home an appreciation of the extent to which they fall short of practical administrative standards. If they feel that the assistance rendered them is largely altruistic—as it should be if it is to conform with the spirit of the League of Nations—and is conscientiously directed towards their political education, then there should be little trouble hereafter in Syria.

What applies to the French mandate over Syria applies to an almost equal extent to the position of Great Britain in Mesopotamia. To many this is apt to seem a hard saying; but it is now becoming more evident that the British hold on Mesopotamia must always be a light one, if only for the sake of the symmetrical development of the Arab world. This is no reason why the economic development of the country should not be undertaken with all the advantages of war experience and with such of the resources of the British Empire as can be spared. Arab sovereignty, however, will supply the background, and not the least of the British Government's difficulties may be to give practical effect to its well-meaning intentions. For at present Arab sovereignty must remain more theoretical than real. It lacks both a name and a local habitation. The influence of King Hussein of the Hejaz may become widely extended through the medium of his gifted sons, but he is not yet in a position to gather up into his own hands all the reins of the Arab world. Even in Mesopotamia Arab sovereignty will have to be put into commission rather than be associated with any one man's name; for if it were decided that the qualifications of one leader marked him for the headship of the Arab State of Mesopotamia, it is more than probable that he would decline to accept a post that exposed him to the criticisms of his fellows. For all practical purposes a Council in Baghdad may meet the situation, and we must trust to the right man being forthcoming when it becomes necessary to relax the initial hold that Great Britain has been compelled to take. This diffidence in the face of responsibility suggests that the signs of intolerance which the Arabs are inclined to manifest with regard to the French mandate or the Zionist movement can be eliminated by persuasion. With the fullest deference to Arab susceptibilities in the light of the war and its effects on the minds of nations, Great Britain and France should convince the Arabs that the world's peace ranks higher than national prejudices, and that the advantages accruing from the League of Nations must always be shared with its responsibilities or duties.

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THE HINDI FOLK SONGS.

By Ikbal Ali Shah.

The mythology of the Hindoos and their sacred language, Sanskrit, have for long been objects of particular research among Oriental scholars. The labours of learned Europeans have succeeded in a very marked degree in drawing aside the veil which for many succeeding generations shrouded the mystic Vedas. By a thorough understanding of Sanskrit language the elucidation of an impenetrable region was accomplished. But while the sacred language of the Hindoos was at once raised on a high pedestal, where before Latin and Greek were alone in classical honours, no adequate efforts have as yet been made to exploit "Bhasha," a tributary of the majestic Sanskrit. The significance of this channel is realised when it is pointed out that "Bhasha" is the language in which popular poetry is sung in India.

At the outset it is of interest to mention that the beginning of Sanskrit dates no earlier than the invasion of Aryan tribes in India. It was the language of the conquerors, who took great precaution to keep themselves aloof in every respect from the contaminating influence of the aborigines. The Indian etymologists assert that the term "Sanskrit" is divisible into two words: Sans meaning complete or perfect, and Krit meaning foundation, the whole standing for a language with a "perfect foundation." This is in strict contrast to the language spoken by the Dravidians, who inhabited the land before the Aryans. But Bhasha, or Hindi, was what the Indians call a "Parakarut," a dialect which has its birth in Nature, by which people could speak unconventionally, yet which must be fluent, refined, and capable of expressing in easy form the inward feelings and emotions of the human mind. Hence its place in the popular songs of the people; for, while pure Sanskrit was set apart as a sacred and occult language, Basha, or Hindi, was nothing but a simpler and commoner version of mother Sanskrit. And it is from the Hindi of the Hindoos, and the Persian and Arabic of the Mussulmans that we have the modern Urdu—the universal language of the India of to-day. Hindi, then, is not radically different from either Sanskrit or Urdu. One is able to gain an excellent analogy when one thinks of the various dialects existing in this country; for it is correct to say that as the broad Scotch compares to the English language, so Hindi compares to Sanskrit and Urdu; indeed, it is somewhat similar in analogy to broad Scotch, for, in spite of the fact that it is to be regarded as a primitive language, it can justly boast of some admirable poetical gems. In a word, it is the romantic medium of thought for the illiterate masses of the Hindoos. It is the Doric muse of the farmers and villagers, which, with all its rusticity, will not tarnish in the poetical glare of the Arabs, or become subdued before the pastoral reeds of Scotland or Greece.

These songs are so commonly sung that, if one takes sufficient pains to see real India, one would not be long in an out-of-the-way village without hearing some youth singing a love-song as he drove the cattle home in the glow of the setting sun. These poems are generally composed in two forms—"Kubits" (most commonly used) and "Dohras." The latter is usually a quatrain of some eight syllables, in which, like Persian and Urdu poetry, only the second and fourth stanzas rhyme. It is written in one line, with a divisional mark in the middle. But though such laws govern the construction of "Dohras," yet a whole ode is written in the form of so many "Dohras"; for instance, four "Dohras" would make the ode usually sung. When the arrangement is effected, then it is the common custom so to make the composition as if the lover and the loved were conversing in "Dohras": or, in other cases, the same person may be a soliloquy carried on between the tongue and the heart, between the body and the soul, as it were. There is yet another kind of poem composed of "Dohras," in which one "Dohra" is an observation and the other a reply. The most popular composer of "Dohras" is Bheparee Lall, author of "Satso-Aya," "Seven Hundred," and, unfortunately, the enthusiasm of his admirers stops short when they make inquiries regarding the biography of the poet. The following is a "Dohra" of his composition (translated), in which he depicts a forlorn and separated woman singing, when she notices the beauties of Basunt (spring) around her, and a girl offers her a bunch of flowers in token of the "Spring Festival":—

The lively drum is heard around;
The tambourine and cymbals sound;
I in flames of absence burn,
And languish for my love's return.

The women all around me sing,
And own th' inspiring joys of spring,
While I, from darts of ruthless love,
Never-ending torments prove.

The amorous Kokal strains his throat
And pours his plaintive, pleasing note:
My breast responsive heaves with grief,
Hopeless and reckless of relief.

When he again shall glad my hours,
Then, girl, I'll take thy blooming flowers;
But now my love is far away,
Where should I place thy Basunt gay?

Another Dohra of impressive nature, coloured with the religious sentiments of the Hindoos, is worth quoting, and is from the same poet:—

Wife, why thus sadly gaze around,
And why thus heave such sighs profound?
And whence these strange alarms?

Husband, because thy locks are grey,
And all thy youth has passed away
In wicked syren's arms.

The Kubits are short poems complete in themselves, and it is difficult to interpret the term in any English synonym. They may be regarded as long stanzas varying in number, but in accordance with rhythm, the syllables ranging from twenty-three to twenty-four. Then, again, there are others, consisting of twenty-two, thirty-two, and thirty-four, called Dhunduks, Julharrun, and Mannoharrun. In all Kubits the rhyme recurs at every second line, often the same word being used. The name of the poet occurs at the end of the poem, as an integral part of the composition, and it is so well worded that the name appears to be the only suitable word for that special place.

In the description of female charms the Hindi poets have taken their inspiration from the natural aspect of things. Their poems abound in allegories and metaphors, but not to that licentious degree which is at once the glory and the real defect of Persian poetry. The Hindoo nymph is lovely, but her charms are not exaggerated to that unimaginable extent which characterises Persian or Urdu style. With the mythological beauty we are carried by the charm of the poem to repose among the shady bowers of lofty deodars, or wander by the side of cooling streams, to weave jessamine petals in her tresses, or in the lover's absence have our heart lacerated in anguish only to melt away as a liquid ruby.

Apart from a poetical discourse, it may be said that the Hindoos of the thatched roof cottages express themselves most eloquently and metaphorically. The favourite poets whose Kubits are on every rustic's tongue are Tulsee Dass and Soor Dass. One of the often recited poems of Soor Dass describes a scene in which Radha, a sweet maiden, and her sisters, with some male friends, were in the midst of revelry on the bank of a river; Kanua, suitor of Radha, who is believed to have been killed in battle, returns home, and on being informed of his sweetheart's whereabouts visits the jungle, hides himself behind a tree, and sees the company make merry. Being unable to witness the scene, and equally unable to restrain his injured feelings, he comes out from his hiding-place and appears before the astonished company, who are soon put to shame. The scene is well depicted:—

A merry group at evening hour,
Kanua spied in shady bower,
Lovely as pearls on a lady's breast;
And Radha shone above the rest.
Sweetly to their chiming bells,
On the glad ears the chorus swells,
And, as so true they stride the ground,
Each heart grows lighter at the sound.
Th' enraptured youth no form concealed:
At once his radiant form revealed:
And how shall I by words convey
Their consternation and dismay?
Their cheeks, till then unknown to shame,
Were reddened now with mant'ling flame;
And their sweet eyes, of lotus hue,
Bent just like lilies filled with dew.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN

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A LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

By Joseph Offord.

Almost midway between Busreh and Baghdad, at about the centre of the loop enclosed by the Euphrates and Tigris, are situated, near the village of Jokha, some mounds marking the site of an ancient city. From this place the Arabs have, for some ten years, been obtaining thousands of clay tablets bearing cuneiform writing. Some hundreds of these texts have been secured for that admirable institution l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes, of Paris, and a selection of one hundred of these has been published for the school by Dr. G. Contenau under the title "Contribution a l'Histoire Economique d'Umma."

In this work, as an introduction, the author, after showing that Umma was the old city's name at the mound near Jokha, and explaining that the tablets he is editing all concern commercial transactions, supplies a short account of what we know of Umma's history, the evidence for which is almost all provided by historical inscriptions derived from the neighbouring city of Lagash, whereat the French Government carried on excavations for many years.

The town and surrounding country of Lagash, like that of Umma, was ruled by princes, whose title was Patesi. This may have been in some way because they had to admit some degree of suzerainty of some other powerful monarch; but more likely the real reason was that in each case the special god of the town and land was deemed to be the actual king. This view also held good for Umma, and for several other of the primitive cities and their environs in old Mesopotamia.

The States of Lagash and Umma had frequent wars with each other, which does not look as if they owned any strict fealty to a more powerful monarchy. These struggles between neighbours and people of similar race were the more lamentable because the political position clearly required perpetual peace between them because of the constant threat of invasion from the powerful kingdom of Elam not far away to the north-east, and the more dire probability of being subdued by a still fiercer and less civilised foe, known as the Guti, who were then dwelling in the mountainous regions on the way to Armenia, and who ultimately did ravage and overwhelm the two nations of Umma and Lagash. The people, fortunate in their fertile plain of Mesopotamia, which they and their predecessors had made into a most prolific land, should have devoted all their efforts to mutual defence by fortifying their cities and the many entrances to the canals from the two great rivers, when with a steadily increasing population they would have been able to offer a formidable defence.

By means of two long inscriptions, which may be termed historical, though really they are annalistic panegyrics of Lagash princes, we can clearly follow how an attempt was made to remedy the situation. After one of the frequent campaigns, which, as usual, was about a boundary dispute, the combatants seem to have seen the folly of the internecine strife, and it was decided to form a League of Nations. The third "Power" admitted, the prince of which was to hold the position of arbitrator, was the neighbouring kingdom of Kish, whose Patesi's (or prince's) name was Mesilim. The resulting deed, or treaty, setting forth the arbitrator's terms, is at present the earliest international record of the kind known.

Although the actual parties were the three rulers and their political advisers, or statesmen, in each case the real personage alleged to be concerned, and so bound by the decision, is the tutelary deity of the city. The god of Kish presided over the composition of the treaty's terms, while those of Lagash and Umma deliminated the perpetual frontier. By assigning divine sanction to the terms of this "League of Nations" the indissolubility of the agreement was emphasised and the pact given a religious character.

It should be borne in mind that, like Mr. Wilson's proposition, this was a league certified by written record to preserve peace, not like the Mesopotamian alliance of Amraphel (Hammusabi) and his fellow-princes, to invade Palestine; that its object was mutually to strengthen the parties concerned by the resources to be acquired during a prolonged period of peace; and that these peoples in the lowlands of Babylonia were liable to invasion from Elam or Armenia, as Western Europe is now from the Teutons and the Slavs.

The terms accepted by the League were adhered to for many years; but we also know that they were ultimately broken, for a later prince of Lagash, who ruled about 2700 B.C., reports, in his historical inscription, that upon the alleged command of the Umma deity that people invaded the border district of Lagash, about which there was renewed dispute, destroyed the boundary-stone which bore the full text of the terms of Mesilim's arbitration treaty—probably as significant of their intention to no longer abide by it—and occupied the debatable territory.

This was more than the protector-deity of Lagash could stand. He accordingly of his superhuman power assisted the Lagashites in their campaign of retribution. That people, having, their prince's record tells us, marched against the Ummaites, defeated them, and then besieged their capital and dictated terms of peace.

The people who broke the agreement forming the basis of the league do not appear to have given the Lagash ones any opportunity to appeal to the then ruler of Kish to interpret the ruling of the arbitration in respect to the foundations for the new dispute, and the idea of the league seems to have broken down utterly. The result of this, it may be surmised, was tragic, for shortly after this last war the dreaded Guti came down from their comparatively sterile home and conquered the whole country, embraced by the league of Kish, Umma, and Lagash.

CHANGE IN TURKEY.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of September 10 states that:—

The Turkish Ministry of War is taking active measures to deal with Turkish officers who neglected their military duties during the war to enrich themselves by means of commercial and speculative transactions. It is said that about three thousand officers are concerned.

The Turkish Ministry of War has also promulgated an Irade ordering the eighty-one generals and other senior officers who were dismissed from the service by Enver Pasha to be put on the active list again.

The exorbitant tariff of the Constantinople Tramway Company was appreciably reduced by order of the Government last month.

CHESS.

Señor Capablanca gave two simultaneous displays last week in the provinces. The first was at Newcastle, where he met forty players, and won thirty-eight of his games, drawing the remaining two. The second exhibition was given at Glasgow, when he won thirty-five games out of thirty-seven, again having two draws. The further fixtures of his provincial tour include visits to Leeds and Bradford, while he has also arranged to meet forty members of the Surrey County Chess Association at Thornton Heath, and to give one or more simultaneous exhibitions in London. The labour trouble has already caused alterations in his programme, and its completion will probably be dependent to some extent on developments.

The principal London clubs are now making their arrangements for the winter season, and all reports agree that there has never been greater enthusiasm among the players, and a record entry for the usual tournaments is expected. The Hastings Congress has undoubtedly done much to increase the popularity of the game, one result being that the leading clubs are experiencing a great influx of new members.

It is announced that M. Kostitch, the Serbian champion, may give a series of simultaneous exhibitions before returning to America.

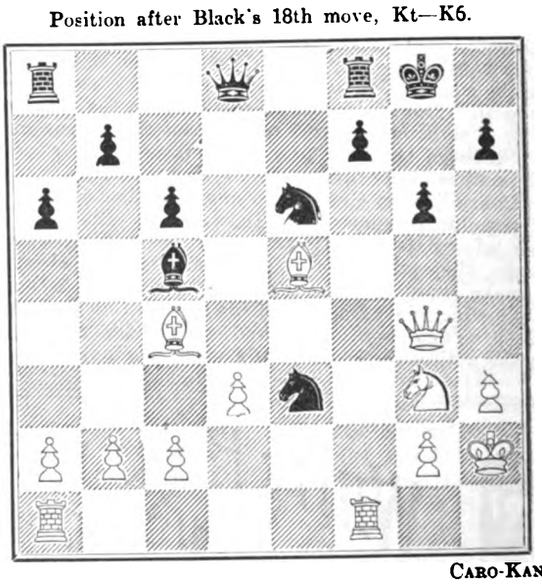
We give below the game between Mr. V. Wahltuch and Mr. W. Winter in the Victory Tournament at Hastings. It affords an excellent example of the forcible and brilliant style of Mr. Wahltuch. Queen's Gambit Declined. White Mr. Wahltuch, Black Mr. Winter:—

1. P—Q4, P—Q4; 2. P—QB4, P—K3; 3. QKt—B3, K Kt—B3; 4. B—Kt5, QKt—Q2; 5. P—K3 B—K2; 6. Kt—B3 0 0; 7. B—Q3, P—QKt3; 8. P x P, P x P; 9. 0 0 B—Kt2; 10. R—B, R—K; 11. B x Kt Kt x B; 12. Kt—K5 P—QR3; 13. P—B4 P—B4; 14. R—B3 Kt—K5; 15. R—R3 P—Kt3; 16. Kt x Kt P x Kt; 17. B—B4 R—KB; 18. Q—Kt3. P—QKt4; 19. B x P (ch) K—Kt2; 20. Q—K6 B—B3; 21 Q—Kt4 resigns.

Charousek's powers of combination are well illustrated in the following games taken from Mr. P. W. Sergeant's "Charousek's Games of Chess," which was recently reviewed in these columns. Alapin's Opening. White Charousek. Black Engländer:—

1. P—K4 P—K4; 2. Kt—K2 Kt—KB3; 3. P—KB4 P—Q3; 4. QKt—B3 B—Kt5; 5. P—KR3 B x Kt; 6. B x B Kt—B3; 7. 0 0 B—K2; 8. B—B4 Kt—Q5; 9. P—Q3 P—B3; 10. B—K3 Kt—K3; 11. Kt—K2 P—QR3; 12. Kt—Kt3 P x P; 13. B x P P—Q4; 14. P x P Kt x P; 15. B—K5 0 0; 16. Q—R5 B—B4 ch; 17. K—R2 P—K Kt3; 18 Q—Kt4 Kt—K6; 19. Q x Kt! Kt x R ch; 20. R x Kt P x Q; 21. B x P ch R—B2; 22. R x R Q—K; 23. R—B6 dis. ch K—Kt2; 24. R—B4 dis. ch K—R3; 25. R—R4 ch K—Kt4; 26. R—Kt4 ch K—R3; 27 Kt—B5 ch P x Kt; 28. B—B4 ch K—R4; 29. R—Kt5 ch K—R3; 30. R—Kt8 dis. ch K—R4; 31. P—Kt4 ch P x P; 32. B x P ch K—R5; 33. B—Kt3 mate.

Position after Black's 18th move, Kt—K6.



CARO-KANN.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

In the Indian newspapers to hand this week some comments appear upon a meeting held in Calcutta by the committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to which the leading merchants and bankers were invited to meet the Finance Member to discuss what remedial measures might be taken to relieve the existing exchange trouble. In the course of the proceedings it was pointed out that the exports from India for the month of July reached a record for any one single month of 28 crores and exceeded the imports by 13 crores. It will thus be seen that surplus exports to this extent had to be financed without cover so that merchants were hard pressed to sell their bills against the shipments. No wonder they paid premiums ranging up to 12 per cent. In order to ease the situation and redress the balance of trade suggestions were made that free imports of gold and silver should be allowed. It was pointed out that the gold paid by America for the recent sales of Council Bills in New York would be shipped to India. With regard to silver, the Finance Member said that the embargo on imports was maintained in order to eliminate competitive purchasers. It would appear from the remarks which were made by the Finance Member that Government have no early intention of revoking the gold ordinance.

***

From other Indian newspapers I note that there is a general feeling of uneasiness in consequence of these repeated rises in rupee exchange, and the *Times of India* reports that the export trade of India is practically at a standstill. It is said that the Calcutta tea sales have been suspended, and the price of cotton in Bombay shows a very heavy fall, and all other markets are adversely affected. I do not think there can be any doubt that the diminution in the supply of mercantile bills has been affected by the handicap placed upon exports by the rise in exchange. Whilst public opinion in India is clamouring for the removal of restrictions on the imports of gold and silver, it need not be assumed that India is asking for more than she is justly entitled to. In some quarters the opinion has been advanced that in previous years India absorbed more than her share of the precious metals, but it may be pointed out that with a population which is equal to about one-fifth of the whole world India is entitled to 20 per cent. of the total amount of gold available instead of the 11 per cent. which she has absorbed in former years.

***

It may be interesting to draw attention to the recent currency figures issued by the Indian Government last week in which the reserves in silver coin show very little fluctuation, being upwards of 50 crores of rupees, while the Note Issue has for the first time for very many months shown a considerable shrinkage. Meanwhile, in addition to the shipments of gold from America, a very large proportion of the gold arrivals from South Africa has been booked for India. It is too early yet to assume that they will have an appreciable effect upon the Indian market, but it may be safely anticipated that they will help to alleviate the pressure which exporters have had to contend with, and the premium on gold already shows signs of falling. Silver has this week established a new record at 64 pence per ounce, owing chiefly to large purchases on account of China, and telegraphic advices to hand from America indicate that heavy shipments of the metal are going forward to the Far East.

***

The indemnity which Bulgaria is to pay by way of reparation has been fixed at two-and-a-half milliards of francs. It is of interest to compare this sum with what is known of Bulgaria's national wealth. In 1911 this was fixed by the Director of Statistics at a little over ten milliards. Since then the public debt has risen as a result of the war to seven milliards, apart from the amounts required for military pensions and certain other expenditure, which, according to one estimate, may bring the total to twelve milliards. On paper, therefore, the war leaves Bulgaria in a far from enviable position. Her future depends on the credit that she can command, and that in turn hinges on the population, the degree of confidence felt abroad in its industry and honesty, and, above all, in its determination to have done with military adventures.

***

The profits of the Assam Railways and Trading Company during the year ended March 31 were slightly below those of the previous year. The profit on the railways, taking the rupee at 1s. 4d., was £32,000, as against £33,700; and on general trading £65,600, as against £69,700. To these totals have to be added the company's dividends on its interests in the River Steam Navigation Company, the Assam Oil Company, and the Makum Tea Company, of £8,900, as against £5,540, making the balance £106,700, as against £109,000. Adding the balance brought forward of £4,100, the available total is £110,800, as against £111,400 for the previous year. Provision for debenture interest and preference dividend leaves £17,500, and out of this it is proposed to make the distribution on the "B" stock 5 per cent. and to carry forward £2,500.

***

India is apparently to be the scene of the latest banking fusion, for negotiations have been on foot for some time past for the amalgamation of the three great Presidency banks—the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Bombay, and the Bank of Madras. A scheme has been submitted to the Government of India, and it was announced recently in the Imperial Legislative Council that it had been forwarded to the Secretary of State for approval. The object in view is to give India increased banking facilities, of which there is no question that there is a great need, and it is felt that the best means of giving effect to this will be by giving India a banking institution on the lines of the Bank of England. If the scheme goes through—and I do not suppose there is much doubt on the matter—the united banks will be known as the Imperial Bank of India, and it is understood that they are prepared to make arrangements for opening 100 new branches in the course of the next five years.

***

The future of Tangier is bound to come up for settlement in the near future, and I fear that it is likely to form a somewhat thorny problem. There is no doubt that France expects to include Tangier in French Morocco, and, judging by a letter in *The Times* recently, our ally is already preparing the way to an extension of her territory in that direction. The writer says that it is well known to every resident in Tangier "that the French are doing their utmost by every means in their power to create an 'atmosphere' which they hope will eventually result in the zone being controlled by them," and that "their efforts are being ably seconded by their sympathisers by propaganda of all kinds." Now most people would be of the opinion that in French Morocco France has all the scope she requires in the near future without adding to her responsibilities; but that argument is one that is not likely to carry weight with her, nor is it the all-important consideration, which is that British interests are very considerably concerned in the fate of Tangier, and that it is quite essential that our voice should be heard when the time comes to settle the fate of the zone.

***

The importance of Tangier to this country from the commercial point of view is well brought out by the writer in question. "Tangier," he says, "is the only base which the English have in Morocco. At present it is possible from Tangier to direct our commercial efforts and support our trade in Morocco, which, owing to the strong forward policy recently initiated by the merchants and manufacturers in London, Birmingham, Manchester, and Glasgow, is bound to increase in the future at an enormous pace."

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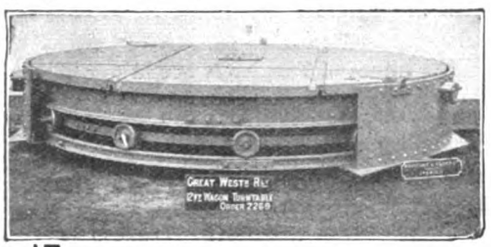

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN BULGARIA.

The Financial Position.—II.

The regular revenues of the State are (1) direct taxes, (2) indirect taxes, (3) State monopolies, (4) taxes and duties, (5) receipts from railways, ports, posts, telegraphs, and telephones, (6) revenues from State properties and estates, (7) local and district taxation for educational purposes, (8) fines, etc. As will be seen from the table given below the largest sources of revenue are indirect taxes and State monopolies. These constitute the basis of the State's Budget at the present time. Next in importance come the receipts from the railways, ports, posts, telegraphs, and telephones, which constitute nearly one-fifth of the revenues of the State. Direct taxes up to the Balkan wars amounted to about one-sixth of the total receipts. For the years 1911-18 the revenues were as follows (in levas) :—

Year.	Direct taxes.	Indirect taxes and monopolies.	Railways, Ports, Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones.	Various.	Total.
1911	34,123,728	85,345,735	34,819,651	44,506,696	198,795,814
1912	17,641 346	82,126,183	32.171,396	38.099,662	170,038,591
1913	13,518,477	83,398,568	26,541,454	45,235,337	168,724,840
1914	29,247,924	90.838,333	43,390,818	60,774,185	224,251,264
1915	25,905,950	74,657,701	40,203,506	53,780,236	194,547,397
1916.....	32,622,802	64,495,804	32,227,191	63,669,564	193,015,363
1917.....	38,938,609	111,778,704	65,610,395	121,519,256	337,846,968
1918.....	43,722,746	171,591,580	85,768,675	117,435,170	418,518,175

At the commencement of her free political life Bulgaria was compelled to undertake a series of legislative measures for the improvement of the system of taxation inherited from Turkish days. The country at that time was not allowed to exercise independence in regard to indirect taxes—customs duties, etc.—so as to readjust the bad system of direct taxes due to the Turks, and thus to bring about a more equitable distribution of taxation which would enable the population to secure a livelihood from agriculture, industry, and commerce The system for the taxation of imports was that which existed in Turkey, arising from the commercial treaties made by that country with European States—treaties which were made binding for Bulgaria in conformity with Article 8 of the Treaty of Berlin. The Ministry of Finance had to find means to supply the needs of reconstruction by an equitable distribution of taxation, to conclude new commercial treaties with foreign States to permit the economic development of the country, to consolidate the State finances, and to introduce order in regard to, and to create public control over, revenue and expenditure, and finally to raise the credit of the State, because by so doing Bulgaria would be able to preserve her political and economic independence.

The direct taxes are as follows :—(1) Land tax, (2) tax on buildings, (3) tax on professions, (4) tax on she goats and sheep, (5) road tax, (6) military tax, (7) education tax, (8) tobacco duty, (9) alcoholic liquors duty. The Turkish tax of 10 per cent. in kind of the grain crops was replaced by a money duty called the land tax. This is the most important of the direct taxes, and in normal times yields a yearly revenue of 20,000,000 levas. On the basis of the law for "emliak" of 1885 all holdings, whether subject to other taxes or not, are liable to a tax upon their cost price. Up to 1895, when the present holdings tax was introduced, the revenue from this tax amounted to 2,500,000 levas. The tax on professions comes from Turkey. Both before and after the liberation up to 1885 it was known as "temetuat," but by a law of that year it was renamed "patent." The law made the tax applicable not only to Bulgarians but also to foreign subjects, and at the commencement opposition was encountered from the Powers which benefited by the right of capitulations, and so the tax remained uncollected as far as foreign subjects were concerned. From 1895, however, the tax began to be imposed on foreign subjects. The revenue from this tax in 1911 amounted to roughly 10,100,000 levas.

The "Beglig" tax of 40 centimes on sheep and 60 centimes on she-goats dates from Turkish times. This tax brought in 5,000,000 levas in 1911. The roads tax has existed since 1880. This is a personal tax of 6 levas and 40 per cent. of the amount paid in direct taxes, with the exception of the land tax and the "Beglig" tax, and every male Bulgarian or foreign subject is liable to it between the ages of 21 and 55. Women, too, are liable to it between the same ages provided they are on State, district, or communal service. The revenue from this tax was estimated at 5,264,370 levas in the Budget of 1914, but the actual yield was 4,909,378 levas. The military tax dates from 1891. The normal revenue from this tax is about 3,500,000 levas. With the object of maintaining the schools and establishing new ones a special tax is imposed called the "school duty," which is at the rate of 10 per cent. on the amount of the direct taxes. The revenue from this tax is between four and five million levas.

Among the indirect taxes the most important in normal times are the customs duties on imports. In 1912 the law of the customs duties was modified, and the tariff system was adopted. In 1911 the revenue from the customs was 49,084,374 levas, of which the import duties were responsible for 28,501,282 levas.

The directors of the Ooregum Gold Mining Company of India have declared the following dividends on account of the year 1919, payable on October 28 to holders registered on September 30, namely :—Preference dividend of 1s. per share and an interim dividend of 9d. per share on both the preference and ordinary shares. Dividends will be paid, less income-tax, at the rate of 6s. in the £.

EXTENSION OF TRADING OPPORTUNITIES IN TRIPOLI

The Acting British Consul-General at Tripoli states that since the beginning of May the country for about fifteen miles south of the Tripoli oasis has been opened for commerce—a railway having been constructed to that distance. A quantity of the Manchester goods in stock have thus been disposed of. Trade developments, however, have not yet reached a stage from which a helpful report can be made, as the opening of the interior is so recent, and the new political arrangements are not yet in working order. The whole coast of Tripolitania east of Tripoli has now, since the end of June, also been opened, but trade has not yet commenced in that direction.

Up to 1915 the import trade of Tripoli was very active, but in that year it suffered a very serious check through the withdrawal of the garrisons from the coast and the interior, and the war in Europe. In the case of many articles importation was restricted by prohibition of export from Italy and from abroad, while several foodstuffs were monopolised by the Consorzio Autonomo Tripolino dei Consumi. Therefore statistics, while they would give some idea of the trade of the colony, would not represent its commercial potentialities, inasmuch as they would only show the amount of the import trade of the country since 1915—during which period importation was considerably influenced first by the numerical reduction of the garrisons and then by the sudden influx of strong contingents of troops.

A company of local merchants has been formed into the "Società Tripolina," consisting of about 130 business men of Tripoli, united for the special purpose of selling to the natives of the interior on the interior being re-opened, from the stocks in Tripoli town of foodstuffs, colonial produce, Manchester goods, or any other merchandise.

The Società is to continue operations till 1930. Its capital is 4,000,000 lire, of which 10 per cent. has been paid up. The Società has done as yet comparatively little business. The demand for the Manchester goods has been disappointing. The natives of the interior, while shut off from the coast of Tripolitania, were getting such goods from Cyrenaica.

PROPOSED STATE BANK FOR CEYLON

The Ceylon Legislative Council has decided to appoint a committee to consider and report on the desirability and feasibility of establishing State banks for financing persons engaged in the production of food. During the debate it was stated that the Government at present gave the co-operative credit societies only ten thousand rupees, while their total capital was something like 75,000 rupees, and the amount of Government assistance was thus very small indeed. Large sums of money belonging to various institutions are available for such advances as are contemplated for the State banks. It was pointed out that the Savings Bank had four million rupees on deposit; some two millions were invested in Indian paper money earning only 3½ per cent.; the Widows and Orphans' Fund had nine million rupees to its credit. There were also investments in the Indian War Loan reaching to several millions.

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NEW ARABIAN RAILWAY.

Aden to Lahej.

A recent American Consular report gives some interesting particulars of a railway from Aden to Lahej, which was recently opened. The road is about 30 miles in length, and is the development of a short military line built from Aden to Sheik Othman in 1915 to supply British forces operating from the latter place against the Turks. The railroad was built by the Royal Engineers of the British Army, and the first few miles were built under shell-fire from the Turks. After the signing of the Armistice and the surrender of the Turkish forces, the railway was continued to Lahej, and has been recently opened for freight and passenger traffic.

At the present time one train a day each way is operated, and these trains are well patronised. The passenger rates are approximately 1½d. a mile for first-class, ¾d. for second-class, and ¼d. for third-class. Freight rates on coffee and skins average about 2d. per ton-mile, whereas they average 10d. per ton-mile by camel caravan to Aden. The railway is a narrow gauge, and the equipment is largely from the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway. As conditions improve and the amount of traffic increases it is likely that new equipment will be needed to replace the secondhand rolling stock.

All the way from Aden to Lahej the track is laid over fairly even ground, and the elevation increases very gradually. There are no bridges and few culverts. To Sheik Othman the distance is about 9 miles, and Lahej is about 15 miles farther, over fairly level desert of shifting sand. Approaching Lahej the sandy surface becomes harder, and there is extensive cultivation by irrigation through the use of the limited supply of water from the Tiban River, which comes down from the Yemen Mountains and divides 5 miles before it reaches Lahej. Dates, grains, melons, and vegetables are the principal crops in the Lahej delta.

In normal times Aden, where nothing grows, was able to draw some supplies of vegetables and other fresh foodstuffs from Lahej. These supplies then came in by camel caravan, but can now come in more cheaply and more quickly by the railway. Aden will thus benefit directly by having available a more plentiful supply of grain and other fresh foodstuffs.

Lahej has also been a centre for the collection of considerable quantities of goat and sheep skins, hides and coffee, coming down by caravan from the fertile Yemen country to Aden for purchase by exporters. From Lahej to Aden the only method of transport was by camel caravan, and in the last normal trade year the Aden Port Trust statistics show that an average of nearly 500 camel loads of produce per day came into Aden by caravan. Some part of these loads came from the East, but a good share of them came in via Lahej. Over these same caravan routes there was exported annually from Aden to the interior, in normal trade years, practically £100,000 worth of cotton piece goods, raw tobacco, spices, and grains. The number of camel loads (a camel load averages around 400 lb.) of exports is not ascertainable, but it was large, judging from the value of the goods carried.

Aden is the first of all Arabian ports, and is further important as a commercial centre for the collection and distribution of goods from and to the territories on both sides of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Owing to its superior advantages as a port it has long received a large share of the skins, hides, coffee, and other produce from the Yemen and other less important parts of the hinterland. The centre and capital of the rich and watered Yemen Plateau is Sanaa, which is about 200 miles north of Aden. Trade by caravan between Sanaa and Aden is said to have existed for many centuries, but in recent years, when speed in getting products to the coast has become more essential, some of the caravans have changed over from the Aden route to Hodeida, a port north of Aden, on the Red Sea, and about 150 miles from Sanaa.

The Hodeida-Sanaa Project.

Hodeida has been Turkish, and Aden has been and is British, and there has in recent years been much conjecture as to whether, by improving the former port and having better communication with the interior, it might not be possible to divert from Aden some of the business done by it with the Yemen. To this end a railroad from Hodeida to Sanaa was begun in 1906 by European engineers, using Turkish capital. Only a few miles of track were laid when the work stopped, and great supplies of railway material which had been brought in have since lain rusting on the shore near Hodeida. The matter of a railway from Aden to Sanaa had often been talked of, but owing to the longer distance as compared with Hodeida, and the possibly greater engineering difficulties when the mountains should be reached, no active steps to build such a road had been taken. As already stated, the necessities of war resulted in the beginning of the Aden-Lahej Railway, and as the start has been made with 30 miles of track, it may be possible to develop sufficient interest to continue for the 170 miles into Sanaa. The Government has built the railway to Lahej, and if it is continued private capital must, in all probability, carry it on.

The possibilities of profit in carrying the railway on from Lahej into the Yemen Mountains, and possibly to Sanaa, would seem most promising. The Yemen Plateau is well watered because of its altitude, and the soil is said to be fertile. This district produces the world's supply of genuine Mocha coffee, and many kinds of grain are successfully grown, while tobacco, indigo, cotton, fruits, and vegetables are also produced. Large herds and flocks of cattle, sheep, and goats are kept, and supply an important quantity of hides. Mocha coffee, the skins known to the trade as mochas, and hides and skins from the Yemen, would seem to be the most important products so far as world commerce is interested.

While the quantities of these products hitherto supplied have been considerable, they have naturally been limited by the difficulties of getting them to the coast for export, and by the further fact that the Arab farmer has had to devote much of his energy and attention to producing, as well, his own food supply. If he could get food from the outside, which would be feasible if a railway were built, he would have more time and energy to devote to producing greater quantities of the, to him, more profitable crop of fine Mocha coffee. He would incidentally want, and be able to buy, greater quantities of cotton piece goods and other manufactures from the world markets. These facts suggest, briefly and generally, the attractive possibilities offered to an extension of the Aden-Lahej railway to Sanaa, particularly as Hodeida-Sanaa Railway enterprise has for some years been abandoned, and is now obviously at a disadvantage compared with the Aden-Sanaa projects, Hodeida having been seriously damaged by bombardment during the war.

Engineers connected with the Aden-Lahej railway say that from the engineering viewpoint the construction of the road to a point 50 miles beyond Lahej would not offer great difficulties, but that the remaining 120 miles to Sanaa, being through a mountainous country, would undoubtedly offer difficulties, although the route has not been surveyed. As the Yemen country is said by travellers to resemble mountainous Abyssinia in many ways, it is unlikely that the physical difficulties of building a railway through the mountains would vary greatly from those comparatively unimportant ones of the route over which has been built the Franco-Ethiopian railway from Jibuti to Addis Abeba, 500 miles in length. It is possible that the Arab tribes between Lahej and Sanaa would not approve of a railway through their territory; and this is a feature for consideration.

Owing to the commercial, political, and general strategic importance of the Aden-Sanaa railway, it would seem probable that the line may be completed now that it has reached Lahej. Such a road would incidentally make Aden a much more livable place for Europeans by affording easy access to the cooler and more pleasant climate of the Yemen mountains, particularly during the seasons of greatest heat on the barren rocks of Aden; and the civilising effect of a railway upon the Arab tribes of the interior would not be an unimportant consideration.

INDIA'S TRADE IN JULY.

The trade returns for July, 1919, published by the Department of Statistics in India, show that imports amounted to £9,959,000, a decrease of £1,732,000; and exports (including re-exports) to £18,592,000, an increase of £5,027,000, as compared with the corresponding month of 1918. There was a considerable decrease in the exports of food, drink and tobacco amounting to £2,347,000, but raw materials and articles mainly manufactured increased by £5,778,000. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured rose by £645,000. During July of the pre-war year 1914, imports amounted to £9,335,000 and exports (including re-exports) to £13,045,000.

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OLDEST STEAMSHIP LINE.

The Royal Mail Company's 80th Anniversary.

On September 26, 1839, a Royal charter was granted by Queen Victoria in the third year of her reign to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which had been formed for the purpose of providing a mail and passenger service between "Great Britain, the West Indies, North and South America, and such other foreign parts as the public service may require." The ships of the company—for a long time past familiarly known as the R.M.S.P.—have kept up their connection with the West Indies ever since, in addition to serving Peninsular, South American, Moroccan, and Eastern ports.

It is remarkable how times have changed since the formation of the company. Its first vessels were paddle-boats of about 1,800 tons with a speed of about eight knots, and in those days the satisfactory victualling of passengers must have been a great difficulty, especially in the Tropics, as refrigerating machinery was unknown and live sheep and fowls had to be carried to ensure a supply of fresh meat, whilst dim oil-lamps were a poor substitute for the modern electric lights. The journey from the metropolis to Southampton for embarkation had also at that time to be made by road, as the first railway communication was not established until the following year—1840—when the London terminus was at Nine Elms. Waterloo Station was not opened until 1848, and Southampton Docks were non-existent.

The history of the company from many points of view is interesting to follow, affording as it does instance after instance of the development of trade routes to the benefit of British commerce in nearly all parts of the world, carried on by the company's own ships and those of its associated lines. The Panama Canal is one of the modern wonders of the world, but the Royal Mail Company organised transit by mules and canoes across the Isthmus as far back as 1846, and partially financed the Panama Railway Company in 1850.

Throughout its long history the company has provided steamers which have been of good service in war as well as in peace. The Coldstream Guards were taken in 1854 from Southampton to the Crimea in the Orinoco, and the Trent took the Royal Welsh Fusiliers to Constantinople. In the following year the Medway took the Royal Artillery to Balaclava. In 1861 the Confederate Commissioners—Slidell and Mason—were taken from the R.M.S.P. Trent by the Federal warship San Jacinto, and in connection with this incident, which nearly caused a rupture between England and America, the Magdalena and Parana carried troops to Halifax. In 1900 six of the company's vessels carried troops from Southampton to South Africa to take part in the Boer War, whilst, as regards the great war just terminated, practically the whole of the company's fleet has been on war service, either as armed cruisers, hospital ships, or carriers of food and munitions, among its famous modern vessels being the hospital ship Asturias, torpedoed in the English Channel, and the Alcantara, armed cruiser, which sank the German raider Greif in the North Sea on February 29, 1916.

It is interesting to note that on the 80th anniversary of the Royal Mail Company's foundation the first ship to resume the South American service after the war sailed from Southampton.

TRADE ROUTES FROM MOROCCO TO FEZ.

Articles in the French and local Press have lately been discussing the importance of the trade routes across the Algerian frontiers, says H.M. Agent at Tangier in a recent report. The *Journal* of July 17 gave details of the allotment of £7,250,000 for expenditure on public works for the current year, and some interesting information respecting the development of the trade routes to Fez, in view of the strong competition exerted via Melilla by the representatives of Spain, is contained in these articles.

At present the most favourable route for French trade is that across the Algerian frontier by Oudja, but it is anticipated that when the Tangier-Fez Railway is built and the harbour at Tangier constructed, the current of trade will return to the last-named town, whence it has lately been diverted to Casablanca and Kenitra. Fifteen years ago imports destined for Fez came by way of Tangier and Laraiche, but the French establishment at Casablanca, the creation of the port of Kenitra, and the construction of the railway on the shorter route, has driven the trade more and more to the latter places, and particularly to Casablanca. Various reasons are given in the articles for the establishment of another port to serve Fez and the hinterland. The insecurity to caravans on the Algerian routes is one, the French occupation of Eastern Morocco, and the completion of the railway from Oudja to Tasa, are among others which favour the development of traffic between Fez and Oran. The only obstacle that existed was the difficulty of transportation between Fez and Tasa by the hitherto long and precarious caravan route—122 kilos. out of a total distance of 602 kilos. Now, however, the establishment of the railway and a regular service of motor lorries within a few months has changed the outlook.

Oran, from which before the war there was a large export of wines, is considered favourable as a new transit port for Fez, because it would be more advantageous for use than Casablanca or the river port of Kenitra, which is often inaccessible, the result being that freights from France or foreign countries are lower than at the Atlantic ports, and are not burdened with the cost of anchorage, disembarkment being effected at the quay. The difference between the Customs regulations on the Atlantic coast and on the frontier also favours Oran, as does the difference between tariffs for certain goods in Eastern Morocco compared with those in Western Morocco. As it is this merchandise which represents the larger proportion of Moroccan imports, further support is lent to the desirability of Oran as a port from which the needs of Fez should be supplied.

AGRICULTURAL BANK FOR MOROCCO

H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier reports that a French Bank of Agriculture, Commerce, and Industry is to be established in the French zone with a capital of 5,000,000 frs., at least 30 per cent. of which is reserved for subscription by residents in Morocco, the remainder to be subscribed in France. The principal business of the bank, according to the *Bulletin Officiel*, "will be to favour the economic development of the country by advancing funds for agricultural, industrial, or commercial enterprises."

TELEGRAMS FOR GREECE AND TURKEY

The Postmaster-General has made arrangements with the Eastern Telegraph Company under which telegrams paid at triple rates will receive priority of treatment over other private telegrams on the cables between this country and Greece, the Greek Islands, and Turkey; but, in view of the pressure now prevailing on the lines, it must be understood that a rapid service cannot be guaranteed. The charges will be 1s. 4½d. a word in the case of Greece, Corfu, Crete, Euboea, and Poros, and 1s. 6d. in the case of Turkey and the Greek Islands not already specified. The word "Urgent" must be inserted before the address, and paid for as an extra word.

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Near East Markets.

London Produce Report.

Currants.

Supplies are totally inadequate to meet the demand, and prices show a rising tendency. It is highly probable that the maximum retail values will be advanced, since the new crop has realised in some cases prices in advance of these values.

Sultanas.

High prices have been obtained for the small offerings, and supplies are now very limited.

Coffee.

There was a slow demand at auction this week, when 2,724 bags were offered. Prices realised were:—East Indian, good bold greenish, 140s. to 142s. 6d.; medium, 136s. to 137s. 6d.; Costa Rica, bold greenish, 144s.; Salvador, good bold greenish, 148s.; Nicaragua, fine bold greenish, 145s. The futures market has been quiet, with an easier tendency. Quotations:—December, 112s. 9d.; March, 108s. 6d.; May, 106s. 6d.; July, 105s.

Sugar.

Quotations remain unaltered. There has been a fair demand from manufacturers, and the Continent is again a strong buyer. Favourable news continues to be received regarding the Cuban crop. The sugar-cane area in India is 2,686,000 acres, as against 2,550,000 acres in 1918.

Seeds.

Trading has been very restricted. Quotations for linseed are:—Calcutta to London, Sept.-Oct., £37 10s., and Bombay ditto, £38 10s. The market in rapeseed is inactive, but the cottonseed market has been steadier. Egyptian f.a.q. Oct.-Nov. is quoted £23.

Oilcake, etc.

Imports of olive oil amounted to 2,228 tons. The price of this commodity is 150s. per cwt. Seed oils are lower, linseed being 81s. and rape oil crude 98s. Linseed cake was done last week at 500s., while other sales included cocoanut cake at 440s., ground nut cake at 440s., rapeseed cake at 360s., and palm kernel cake at 360s. to 380s.

Cyprus Vine and Vegetable Growing.

(From a Correspondent.)

The importation of vine leaves into Egypt is now prohibited, and Cyprus villagers have been duly notified. In the exportation of fruit to Egypt, which at this season is considerable when shipping allows, vine leaves have been largely used, and Cyprus, in which such stringent measures have been taken against vine pests, is now, so to speak, on the black list with other countries.

Egyptian papers have recently commented on the lost opportunities of Cyprus as regards vegetables, and there is good reason for the hint. Nothing so far has roused Cypriots from their lethargy in market gardening in their "garden of the East." Even potato culture, which it was hoped might become a really lucrative branch of industry, is carried out on a very insufficient scale. As regards all other vegetables, there is lamentable negligence. One excuse made is that the market for Europeans is small, and that natives are satisfied with vegetables as they are; also that communications are uncertain. The latter excuse is true, but larger supplies would bring better communications from Egypt. Perhaps the backwardness in fruit culture is more marked. Take one example only: Serbia, where conditions are very similar, exported before the war the finest plums, in jams and prunes, to the value of £650,000, while large quantities of this fruit were used locally, and also made into spirit. Plums grow just as well in Cyprus, but this is only one example out of many.

Sudan Produce.

The following particulars are taken from the C.E.B. report for July:—

Dura and Dukhn.

Kordofan Province.—One hundred and forty-three ardebs (420 rottles) of dura and seven ardebs of dukhn were sold in El Obeid market during the month, at an average price of £E3.668 per ardeb. Owing to shortage of the supply of grain in the province and its excessive cost in the markets dura was obtained by Government from Khartoum and sold to natives. There has been no danger of famine, and no shortage of seed.

Red Sea Province.—There has been a tremendous demand for the Government dura. This is no doubt due largely to actual want, but, of course, all are inclined to take advantage of the lower prices and to demand more than they require for present needs. It is extremely difficult in a province, which consists so largely of a nomad population, to know exactly what the monthly requirements really are, and the Arabs, if they think that dura is more easily obtainable in one district than another, are quite prepared to travel many miles to avail themselves of the easier conditions.

Blue Nile Province.—Considerable quantities of Government dura have been issued on loan. Dura brought into Muradas during the month, in ardebs of 300 rottles (135 kilos), Wad Medani, 2,596; Hassa Hissa, 816.

Berber Province.—The average prices of dura per ardeb of 380 rottles (171 kilos) were:—White and red, £E3.750; feterita, £E3.300. The introduction of Government dura has tended to steady dura prices.

Wheat.

Halfa Province.—The wheat crops, which promised so well at first, gave a poor yield. This was chiefly due to the high lift and the weak cattle, which the natives have not been in a position adequately to feed this year.

Sesame.

Kassala Province. — The approximate market price per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos) were as follows:—Gedaref, £E3.750; Mefaza, £E3.000. Exports in ardebs:—Gedaref, 5,514; Mefaza, 3,401.

Sennar Province.—The sesame is now all sold. A certain amount is still being exported, but it is from merchants' stores.

Egyptian Crop.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in August:—

Cotton.

Lower Egypt.—The crop has continued to improve since last month, and is now only 10 per cent. below normal.

Middle and Upper Egypt.—Crop is as last month, almost normal.

The weather has been favourable. The water supply was ample except at tail ends of canals during the first quarter of the period under review. The cotton worm attack has affected the crop in Beheira and Daqahlîya, especially where precautions have been neglected. The examination of green bolls continues to show an improvement in the attack by the pink boll worm, which is still considerably less than during the corresponding periods of the last three years.

Maize (Nili).

Weather favourable and water supply generally ample. Many complaints from the Beheira and Upper Egypt that the sowing of the crop was delayed owing to shortage of water. Slight attacks of cotton worm and stalk borer are reported from Lower and Middle Egypt.

Millet (Nili).

Complaints from the Faîyûm that owing to insufficiency of water a smaller area has been planted this year.

Millet (Sefi).

Weather has been favourable and water supply sufficient. Harvesting has commenced, and the yield is reported as satisfactory.

Rice (Sefi).

Weather has been favourable, and water supply generally sufficient, with the exception of Daqahliya province. No enemies are reported. Prospects of the yield are below the average.

Rice (Nili).

Planting of Nili rice in the Faîyûm was completed by the middle of the month. The plants are looking well and healthy.

Sugar Cane.

Weather favourable, and water supply sufficient. Damage done by stalk borer is negligible, and the crop is in good condition.

The area under cotton in India is estimated at 13,302,000 acres as compared with 11,286,000 acres this time last year. The increase is due to favourable weather conditions at sowing time and to the high prices of cotton.

A cargo of raw materials, such as wool, bristles, horsehair, etc., to the value of £200,000, collected and shipped by the Trade Department of General Denikin's Government in South Russia, has arrived in this country by ss. Eden Hall.

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As half of the School consists of pupils on the £15 foundation, which includes both board and education, a deficiency of about £2,500 a year has to be met by contributions, which are earnestly solicited. Donations of £5 5s., giving one vote for life, or subscriptions of 10s. 6d., giving one vote for the year, may be sent to

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Engineering Notes.

Trade Possibilities at Mosul.

Mosul, which is about 400 miles north of Baghdad, on the east bank of the Tigris, is celebrated for the manufacture of various kinds of earthenware, such as water basins, bowls, etc. It also specialises in the manufacture of silk and cotton goods. These goods, as a rule, are exported to places in the vicinity. Needless to say that for the manufacture of the goods home-made tools, devices, looms, etc., are used. There are also many marble quarries around the city, the product being used on a large scale, while a considerable quantity is shipped to Baghdad. There are also six springs of sulphur and other mineral waters, quicksilver, two rich crude petroleum fields, and three coal mines in the vicinity of Mosul. There are other rich oil-fields in Gayara and at another place near the town of Kerkook, both in the Mosul vilayet. Mosul contains 34 quarters, comprising 9,106 houses, 2,852 shops, 17 baths, 34 khans, 110 commercial houses, 62 coffee houses, 266 flour mills, 56 mosques, 11 Dervishes' convents, 31 gardens, 20 churches, 25 marble quarries, eight monasteries, and various other buildings. The male population of the whole district, according to the official census of 1913, was 193,848, of which 182,900 were Moslems and 10,800 Christians and Jews. The majority of the people speak the Arabic language, the rest speaking Kurdish. The Turkish language also is understood. It is firmly believed by those who know Mosul well that under a good government the district, and especially the town, will soon be an important manufacturing centre.

Milk Pasteurising Plant.

The people in the Near East are great consumers of milk in its original state. It is a desirable food for the poor as well as for the rich. Those who live in the country and obtain their milk supply from the sheep, goats, or cows that graze on the mountains never think of "bacteria"; in fact they do not believe that such "things" could be contained in milk, and nothing amuses them more than to be told that their beloved, clean and refreshing yaourt is full of "microbes" which prolong the life of man who eats them! In recent years, however, many dairies have been established in towns and even villages, where cows are kept, often under unhealthy conditions and the milk from such establishments is frequently suspected as the cause of certain complaints, especially among children. Several of the district authorities order such dairies to use sterilisers, or pasteurisers, and some of them have adopted the methods ordinarily used in France; but very few, if any, adopted the British system of sterilisation. But the newest British inventions in this line will undoubtedly be found more efficient and more economical than any other methods or plants. The latest and up-to-date plant for the pasteurisation of milk which is now offered in the markets is of a pattern which draws considerable attention. The system comprises three separate units—viz., the heater, holder, and cooler sections. The first of these consists of a series of double inclined tinned copper tubes, the inner tube of which is for milk and the outer one for water. As the milk passes rapidly through the inner tube it is heated to a temperature of 140 degs. F., and then flows to the holder. Here it is retained for a period of thirty minutes. Each sub-section of the holder consists of a series of eight large tinned copper tubes covered with asbestos sheeting, and the complete sections are entirely enclosed in an airtight jacket, which maintains the milk at a uniform temperature as it passes through. Flowing to the generator the milk undergoes the initial cooling process, for which purpose the circulating water of the heater section is utilised, and helps to cool the milk to about 90 degs. F. without the use of any additional water. This arrangement, say the inventors, saves 60 per cent. of steam power. After passing through the water and brine sections of the cooler, which are of similar construction to the heater, the milk reaches the churns, tanks, or bottling machines.

Uniformity of Heat.

It is said that by this system the milk is uniformly heated by a wet heat to a low temperature, at which it is retained for thirty minutes, during which period deleterious germs are effectively destroyed without the milk being in any way injured. The complete operation is conducted in closed conduits, which protect the milk from exposure to the air, and from re-contamination in cooling. Loss by evaporation is avoided, and the system is asserted to be very economical in the use of steam power. Thermometers are placed in a convenient position on both the heater and cooler sections, so that the temperature of the incoming and outgoing milk can easily be recorded. By the regulation of the number of heater, holder, and cooler sections, from 400 to 2,000 gallons of milk per hour can be dealt with, so that the system is suitable for the small or large dairyman.

A Glass Substitute.

Belgium was the principal supplier of glassware, especially ordinary pane glass, to most of the markets in the East; the reported scarcity of pane glass for windows, roofing, etc., in that region, therefore, is easily explained. Like many other Belgian industries during the war, the glassware industry has been quite disabled, and probably will remain so for some time to come. A good opportunity is thus open to enterprising manufacturers or exporters to secure good business in the Eastern markets in that line of trade if adequate measures are promptly taken. In the meantime, those who are in need of pane glass and cannot obtain it will probably be interested to know that a fabric which has the strength and lasting qualities of metal, and which may be suited to any shape and used as a substitute for glass as wind-shields, skylights in factories, screens for lamps, and for many ornamental purposes, may be easily prepared, according to a well-tried formula, from ordinary mosquito netting and glue, coloured according to taste and to the use to which it is to be put. Take 2 oz. of glue and let it stand for one half-hour in 32 oz. of water; then place the vessel containing the glue in a saucepan of boiling hot water and let it remain until the glue is melted. Do not try to hasten the melting by setting the vessel over the flame, as this will spoil the setting properties of the glue. Strain the liquid through a wet cheese cloth into a heated tray. Have at hand several pieces of mosquito netting 6 or 8 in. or more wide and cut across the entire width of the roll, which is usually 30 in. wide. If this netting is previously coated with nickel or zinc by electro deposition it will prove a stronger fabric. Grip the strip at the ends and pass it slowly through the hot glue, so that the formation of air spaces may be prevented. Suspend the strip for one hour or until thoroughly dried.

Quite Insoluble.

Having thus prepared several of these strips take each one singly, bend it into U-shape and pass it backwards and forwards through a solution composed of 2 oz. of 40 per cent. formaldehyde and 32 oz. of clear water. Suspend to dry without washing. This will set the glue so thoroughly that it will be insoluble even in boiling water. When the strips are dry they may be dyed into any colour with aniline dyes. Common red ink will dye the fabric a brilliant red for the photographic darkroom, and blue ink will furnish just the right shade for developing paper paints. This fabric is light, pliable, fireproof and waterproof; it is semi-transparent, and can be rolled up and packed away, and will lend itself to any use. Owing to the pliability and texture of the material, it can be readily cut into any desired shape or size to fill in a window sash.

The receipts for the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended September 18 were:—Cattle markets, £390; general markets, £484; total, 874; total for year, £40,560.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the eleven days ended August 31 were £E10,735, making the total from the commencement of the year £E97,576. The figures for the corresponding period of 1918 were £E10,960 and £E121,338.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Tuesday.

As a result of the railway strike business in the market this week has been in a state of chaos, and buyers and sellers have scarcely known which way to turn. On the whole there has been a general tendency to mark time pending developments in the situation. It is feared that unless an early settlement of the dispute is reached numerous firms will have to close down very soon, owing to not being able to get raw material and fuel. No particular change can be recorded in the prospects for the Egyptian crop. There is some talk of a yield of about 6,250,000 cantars, but it is too early for any definite estimate to be published. Many fluctuations have again occurred in futures. In yarn made from Egyptian cotton demand has been quieter, there being very few buyers in the market. Users of American cotton have been rather alarmed at the decision of the United States Shipping Board to suspend sailings for the present. The general inquiry in piece goods for Egypt and Near Eastern outlets has been well maintained, but increased difficulties have been met with in arranging transactions. Rather more demand has been about for India. Standard makes have been in fair request for China. Further operations have occurred for Java and Singapore. Manufacturers have been very firm in quotation. In American yarns for home use the quotations put out have been generally nominal, and a certain amount of irregularity has shown itself. Users have had very little to buy. There has been less activity in shipping counts.

DISTRESS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram, received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agriculture Department, dated September 26:—My telegram dated September 19. Condition of crops is generally satisfactory, and timely rain has much improved prospects in Deccan and Hyderabad. Poor houses in Deoghar sub-division of Santhal Parganas in Bihar and Orissa, and relief operations in the United Provinces except Etawah and in Broach and West Khandesh districts of Bombay Presidency have been closed. Numbers relieved:—Bengal: Works, 15,925; gratuitous, 12,012. Bihar and Orissa: Works, 8,238; gratuitous, 56,153. Feudatory States of Orissa: Works, 6,858; gratuitous, 32,436. United Provinces: Works, 23; gratuitous, 1,919. Central India: Works, 3,400; gratuitous, 8,100. Central Provinces: Works, 17,852; gratuitous, 13,403. Bombay: Works, 7,913; gratuitous, 34,242. Hyderabad: Works, 30,000; gratuitous, 86,000. Madras: Works, 54,875; gratuitous, 92,991.

Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins, H.M. Commercial Secretary for Greece, has left to take up his duties at his post, and communications should be addressed to him at H.B.M. Legation, Athens.

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ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA
"We cannot speak too highly of it."—Lancet. SARSAPARILLA
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A World-wide Reputation for over Three-Quarters of a Century.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

SAMSOUN, September 13.

The following extract is taken from a recent report received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Despite the large arrivals of the week (by four vessels from Italy, one from England, and one from Spain) representing a value of two and a-half million pounds Turkish, prices remain high. All goods are absorbed for Russia, Roumania, and in a lesser degree for Bulgaria. The stocks here remain in consequence insignificant. In the countries of production the shortage of commodities is becoming more and more in evidence.

MOROCCAN FISHING CONCESSION.

H.M. Representative at Tangiers reports that the *Bulletin Officiel* of August 4 contains a Dahir and Cahier des Charges granting a concession for the fishing rights in the Sidi Moussa Lagoon, situated at Oualadiya, between Mazagan and Saffi. The lagoon is a narrow estuary running up a few miles parallel to the coast line. Neither in the Dahir nor in the Cahier des Charges is there any mention of the term for which the concession has been granted, nor is there any provision made for declaring the concession to have lapsed, or to be withdrawn. It can hardly be supposed, however, that the concession is intended to be in perpetuity. The grantees —two Frenchmen—have the right to construct the necessary works, such as barrages, piers, fish ponds, etc., within the limits of their concession, which extend inshore to a distance of six metres beyond high-water mark, but they must do nothing that would prevent the flow of the tide to the end of the lagoon or keep fish from running up.

The grantees must establish a school of fishing for natives, of whom there must be at least eight, and, should the authorities so require, there may be as many as fifteen. The course of instruction will be for one year, but may be extended to eighteen months if the Protectorate authorities think proper. The grantee must instruct, lodge, feed and clothe these pupils at his own expense, and must also pay them wages varying from 25 centimes to a franc per day, as a minimum, according to their length of apprenticeship. The right of control is reserved to the Protectorate authorities over the exploitation of the fishing, the construction of works, the instruction of the apprentices, etc. A reserve is also made in regard to the rights of third parties to fish in the lagoon, with line, dip nets, or cast net.

FRENCH TRADE BANK.

A Bill has been presented to the French Chamber of Deputies for the purpose of approving the creation of a trade bank, which will provide financial facilities for the export trade. It is pointed out, says the *Board of Trade Journal*, that the long credits essential in commercial transactions with buyers in foreign countries, particularly in Latin-America, and also the Far East and in certain countries of the Levant, have operated against French exporters, who have not had the same facilities in this respect as have British, United States, and German shippers, and to this fact is attributed in great part the relatively poor position of the French export trade. The Bill proposes the establishment of a French National Bank of Foreign Commerce, with an initial capital of 100,000,000 francs. The bank will possess an organisation for the development of long-term credit business abroad, and will also collect information likely to be of service in connection therewith and to exporters. It will also establish branches, agencies, and connections abroad to work in co-operation with the central organition at home, and a special reserve fund will be formed for this purpose from money, including an annual subsidy, provided by the State.

The Viceroy has appointed Mr. G. A. Moncrieff, Resident Director, Alliance Bank of Simla, as Hon. Treasurer of the Imperial Indian Relief Fund.

The Maharajah of Travancore has subscribed fifteen lakhs towards the Indian War Loan. This makes his Highness's contributions towards the War Loan Rs.40 lakhs.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
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LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
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LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER: 25, Pall Mall.
MARSEILLES: 41-43, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.
(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

American Tobacco Purchase.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, September 12.

During the last ten days representatives of the Standard Tobacco Co. of New York arrived here and purchased about two thousand tons of the choicest Macedonian and Thracian tobaccos at prices varying from 38 to 75 levas the kilogram according to quality and the year of the crops. There still remains a great quantity of tobacco in the country ready for export, which, according to the most recent regulations of the Direction of Prevoyance Social, may only be exported to Great Britain, the United States, France, Italy and neutral countries in exchange for the import of articles of first necessity prescribed by the said Direction, such as preserved sardines in tins of quarter and half kilogram, with or without oil, preserved meat, sugar, rice, linen, and a number of other goods.

Bulgarian Merchants to Visit England.

The British Board of Overseas Trade has granted permission to Messrs. Nicholas Dichkoff and Co. and Mr. Alexander Mehandjisky to visit England with the object of offering tobacco, opium, attar of roses, wool, hides, sheep, lamb and kid skins, and for buying agricultural machines and implements, electric materials, medical stuffs, and railway materials.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Assam Railways and Trading.

The report of the Assam Railways and Trading Company for the year ended March 31 last states that the length of line open to traffic is 105.20 miles. Capital expenditure on railway amounted to £21,171, making the total £793,716. Gross earnings amounted to Rs.13,78,079, a decrease of Rs.62,809, and expenditure to Rs.9,02,758, a decrease of Rs.38,039. The train miles run were 259,916, as against 315,159, while the number of passengers carried was 536,158, a decrease of 69,268. Total capital expenditure on the collieries, sawmills, and brick works remains at £365,983. Output and sales amounted to 257,746 tons and 263,155 tons, against 289,097 tons and 266,963 tons respectively. General revenue account shows a profit for the year of £106,654. After payment of debenture interest and allowing for preference dividends there remains a balance at credit of net revenue account of £17,483. The directors recommend a final dividend on the "B" stock of 3 per cent., making a total distribution of 5 per cent. for the year, leaving £2,483 to be carried forward. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., October 8, noon.

Rupai Tea.

The report of the Rupai Tea Company for 1918 states that the profit amounted to £27,928: £27,472 was brought forward, making £55,400. After deducting debenture interest, £600: excess profits duty paid on account of 1917, £18,379, and commission to staff in Assam on additional profit of 1916, £515, there is left £35,906. An interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent., less income-tax at 5s. 9d. in £, has already been paid and the directors now recommend a final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent., less tax at 5s. 9d. in £, and to carry forward £27,906, subject to excess profits duty.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The directors of the Eastern Telegraph Company announce the payment on October 15 next of a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, less income-tax, on the preference stock for the quarter ending September 30, and the second quarterly interim dividend of 1½ per cent. on the ordinary stock, free of income-tax, in respect of the year ending December 31 next.

Directors of the Grand (Ceylon) Rubber Estates, Limited, have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, payable October 13 to shareholders registered September 30.

The Bank of Athens announce that Coupon No. 15 of the Piraeus-Athens-Peloponnesus Railway 4 per cent. bonds, due July 14, will be paid on presentation at their offices, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.

Madras Electric Tramways (1904).—Holders of preference share warrants to bearer are notified that an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, will be paid upon presentation of coupon No. 15 on and after September 30, at the National Provincial and Union Bank of England, ?, Princes Street, E.C.2.

Nagolle (Ceylon) Rubber and Tea.—Transfer books are closed from October 1 to 14, inclusive.

The Mercantile Bank of India.—An interim dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum has been declared on the A and B shares, payable on and after October 7.

The directors of the Rani Travancore Rubber Company announce an interim dividend of 5 per cent.

The directors of the Assam Oil Co., Ltd., have declared an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30, 1919, at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the Cumulative Seven per Cent. Participating Preference shares.

Ottoman 4 per Cent. Loan on the Egyptian Tribute.—Half-yearly coupons for interest due October 10 will be paid on and after that date by Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Company, 67, Lombard Street, E.C.

Egyptian import duties on leaf tobacco have been raised by 62 per cent., on cigarettes by 48 per cent., and on cigars by 50 per cent.

Italy and Greece have signed the Convention providing for railway communication between Rome and Athens, with a ferry from Otranto to Valona.

Sir Richard Frederick Crawford, G.C.M.G., K.B.E., of Dalbury, Knyvton Road, Bournemouth, Adviser on the Reorganisation of Turkish Customs, 1911-14, left £15,126, with net personalty £14,924.

A Reuter message from Simla states that a Bill was passed on September 24 by the Legislative Council empowering the Government to increase the limit to which the currency reserve can lie invested from 100 to 120 crores of rupees, 100 crores of which must be in British Treasury bills.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the East Indian Railway Company, held on October 1, at the Cannon Street Hotel, a resolution was adopted authorising the acceptance of the arrangement offered by the Secretary of State for India in Council to the company for the continuance of the management of the undertaking.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

Business has this week been disorganised by the railway strike and the delays in communications. On the whole, the market has stood the shock rather well, and there has at no time been any rush to sell, but a steady amount of business has been passing at somewhat lower prices.

Egyptian Unifieds are closing only ¼ lower at 78½, after dipping to 78, and the 3½ per cent. prefs are about 1½ down at 66.

In Bank shares, whilst Nationals have dropped ½ to 19½, with some quiet buying in progress, Agriculturals have actually improved 1-16 to 5 9-16, with a good demand from Egypt. Anglo-Egyptians are 5-16 lower at 17⅞, but on the other hand Bank of Abyssinias are 4s. up at 34s.

In Railways there is no change to report.

Amongst Land descriptions, Aboukirs are 6d. lower at 27s., and Sidi Salems have dropped 1-16 to 2 5-16. Union Foncières have receded ⅛ to 3⅜, and Sudan Plantations, in which there is only a local market, have dropped rather sharply to 7⅜, a fall of ⅝ since last week.

Amongst Miscellaneous descriptions there is no change to report.

In Oil shares the market has also been weak, and Anglo-Egyptians are closing 3-32 lower at 5⅜. Roumanians show a decline of 1s. 9d. at 20s. 9d., and Traians are 2s. lower at 8s.

In Greek securities the '84 loan is 3 down at 68, but Monopolies have risen ½ to 56, and Rentes are about 1½ up at 54 xd. The 1910 issue is quoted 60 xd, and the 1914 loan, after declining to about 74, is closing only ½ down at 75½. Greek Currant Bonds have had a sharp rise of 2 to 92, round which price there are several unsatisfied buyers.

TRADE AT BATOUM.

There is a great deal of activity in trade at Batoum, says the *Board of Trade Journal*. During the period August 3-9 2,000 tons of manganese ore were exported from the port to Baltimore, and 301 tons of general cargo. Imports during the same period consisted of 100 tons of manufactured goods, 15 tons of soap, and 1 436 tons of general cargo. Numerous small Turkish sailing craft carry on an active trade with Crimean ports, with general cargoes, consisting chiefly of sugar. There is, of course, a great food shortage, and almost no coal. Prices, too, are high, and the exchange is in the region of 240 roubles to £1.

The Secretary for India announces that the acquisition rate for gold imported under license into India has been reduced from Rs.11 annas 11 to Rs.11 annas 9 per sovereign. The rate for gold bullion has been correspondingly altered from one rupee for 9.662 grains of fine gold to one rupee for 9.778 grains of fine gold. Gold which was engaged for shipment to India between September 15 and 29, while the higher rupee rates mentioned were in force, will be accepted in India at those rates on production of evidence of the fact and date of contract for purchase. Importers availing themselves of this arrangement will be required to give an undertaking to ship and deliver the gold with all possible expedition for payment at the rate stated.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON SEPTEMBER 11.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	20¾*
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	91
" Div.	Frs.	140
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11⅛
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	13⅛
" priv.	£	4⅛
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	131
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1¼
Building Lands of Egypt	£	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	3⅜
Société des Immeubles	£	6⅜
Bonded Stores	£	16½
Unifiée	£	81⅜
Privilégiée		70½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅞
Nungovich Hotels	£	7
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅞
" " Fond.	£	450
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4½
" Ord		109/6
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	21⅞
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6¼
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	110
" Jouissance	Frs.	168
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		32/4½
Egyptian Markets		24/6
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	385
" Div.	Frs.	325
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	280*
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5¼
Egyptian Salt and Soda		58/3
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	708
" Fondateur	Frs.	990
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	417
" 1903 "	Frs.	296½
" 1911 "	Frs.	285
Consolidated Land	P.T.	7
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	⅝

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at July 31, 1919, publishe in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£E.	£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)		2,925,000
Reserve Fund:		
Statutory Reserve	1,462,500	
Special Reserve	487,500	
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts	15,337,249	
Mixed Tribunals	2,491,725	
Egyptian Government	7,821,481	
Bankers' Accounts	1,712,450	
Cheques and Bills payable	264,039	
Sundry other Accounts	890,624	
		£E.33,392,568
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		20,609,448
Sundry Securities		229,888
*Advances on Merchandise		2,566,749
Advances on Securities		627,031
Advances otherwise Secured		364,399
Sundry other Advances		333,707
Bills of Exchange		1,493,698
Local Bills Discounted		82,806
Buildings and Furniture		232,258
Money at call and at short notice		1,340,625
Bankers' Accounts		1,543,631
Sudan Government		196,980
Sundry other Accounts		302,159
Cash—	£E.	
Notes	2,503,542	
Gold	48,081	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	917,560	
		3,469,189
		£E.33,392,568

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£E.	£E.
Notes issued		39,900,000
		£E.39,900,000
		£E.
Gold	3,309,191	
†British Treasury Bills	16,640,809	
		19,950,000
Securities:—		
Egyptian Government Securities & Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	536,322	
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds	19,413,678	
		19,950,000
		£E.39,900,000

* This figure includes advances against merchandise and advances made to the Cotton Control Commission and the Cotton Seed Control Board.

† By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended September 13 were £8,985.

Owing to the heavy congestion and delay to telegrams over their lines, the Eastern and Associated Telegraph Companies appeal to the public to refrain from using cables except for messages of the most urgent importance, and also to curtail the length of telegrams as much as possible.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price—Sep.25	Oct. 2
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	49¾	50
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	80	80
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	78¾	78½
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	67½	66
Greek 5%, 1881	70	70
Do. 5%, 1884	70	68
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	55½	56
Do. 4% Rents, 1889	53	54xd
Do. 5% 1890	70	70
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	65	65
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	66	66
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	62	60xd
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	76	75½
Do. 5% Currant	92	94
Montenegro 5% Loan	70½	70½
Persia 5% 1911	83	82¼
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	71	64
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	67½	67½
Do. 4% Unified	66	66
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5½	5⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	18⅛	17⅞
Bank of Abyssinia	30/-	34/-
Bank of Athens	65/-	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	8½	8·
British Trade Corporation	10½	10½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	10¼	10⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	11⅞	10⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	6⅜
London County and Westminster	16½	16½
National Bank of Egypt	20	19½
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅜	6⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	13	13
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	65½	65½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	65⅜	65⅜
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	68½	68½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	56	56
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	27/6	27/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	13½	13½
Do. Pref.	4½	4½
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	2/9	2/9
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	13/9	13/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	13/6	13/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅛	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	23/-	23/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅜	2⅛
Sudan Plantations	8	7⅞
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	70/-	3⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	11⅜	11⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	1⅜
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	2⅛	2⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅜	5⅜
Do. Do. Prefs.	4⅜	4⅜
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	98	97½
Chinese 4½% 1898	78	78
Do. 5% 1896	90	88xd
Argentine 5% 1890	83	83
Do. 5% 1907	87	87
OIL.		
Anglo-Egyptian B	5⅛	5⅜
Anglo-Persian	25/11	25/11
Anglo-Roumanian	10/1½	9/4⅜
Roumanian	22/6	20/9
Traian (Roumanian)	10/-	8/-

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Sept 25	Oct. 2
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	61⅞	61⅜
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	67½	66⅜
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		80	80
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		71½	71½
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		75	75½
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		80xd	80
Eastern		9½	9
Mercantile of India A.		37½	37½
National of India		55	54xd
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		5/-	4/6
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		⅛	⅛
Burma Corp.		9⅞	9⅛
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		14/1½	13/1½
Champion Reef Gold		4/-	4/3
Mysore Gold Mining		1½	1⅜
Nundydroog		14/6	14/-xd
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		15/-	14/6
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		1⅛	1⅛
Do. do. do.	(2s. 6d.)	¾	¾
OIL.			
Assam Oil		2⅛	2
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		1⅜	1⅜
Brit. Burmah		2⅛	2⅛
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		14½	13⅝
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		1⅜	1⅜
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		10⅜	10⅜

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES

Continued—

RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	54	54
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	135½	135½
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	60	59½
Bengal-Nagpur	116	116
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	105	105
Burma Railways	111	111½
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13x	13
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	13	12¾
Gt. Indian Pen Ann. "A," 1948	13	13
Madras and S. Mahratta	102½	102½
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	129	129⅛
Nizam's Guaranteed State	76	76
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	11⅜	10⅞
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	9⅛
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	93	92½
Do. Deferred	615	590
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	68½	69
Bengal United Tea Ord.	16½x	16½
British Indian Tea Ord.	9	9
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17	17
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	11/-	11/-
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	6⅜	6⅜
Consolidated Estates	6⅜	6⅜
Darjeeling Co.	19/6	19/3
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon, Ord.	2⅛	2⅛
Dooars Tea Ord.	3⅛	3⅛
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	⅜	⅜
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	57/6	55/6
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	30/-	30/6
Hewagam Rubber Co.	1	1
Jhanzie Tea Association	10	10
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	22	22
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	19/3	20/-
Lanka Plantations Ord.	18/6	19/3
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	54/6	54/6
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	44/4½	44/-
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14	14
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	30/-	30/-

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	August 22. Rs.	Aug. 29 Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	68	68
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	292xd	292xd
Bank of Bengal	1955	1965
Bank of Bombay	2280	2330
Bank of Madras	1500	1500
Bank of India	175	181
Tata Industrial Bank	90	81
COAL.		
Baraboni	20	19
Bengal	935	935
Burrakur	50½	50½
East Indian	39½	39
Equitable	51	51
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	73	72
Standard	73	72
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	280	280
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	1880	1885
Bowreah	430	430
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	662½	662½
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	560	550
Central India	2740 1370	2740 1370
Elgin	125	125
Gold Mohur	1500	1500
Khatau Makanji	4200	4200
Muir	120	120
New Ring	180	180
Phœnix	672½	640
Svadeshi	2630	2760
JUTE.		
Alliance	715	782
Barnagore	186	191
Budge Budge	685	630
Clive	310	300
Dalhousie	560	500
Delta	628	635
Fort Gloster	950	939
Gourepore	1140	1131
Howrah	46½	47
Kamarhatty	863xd	840
Kanknarrah	740xd	650
Khardah	525	460
Kinnison	970	950
National	420	400
Standard	635	645
Union	890	863
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	102	102
Bengal Timber Trading	433	433
Burn and Co.	340	340
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	225	226
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	221	221
Howrah Oil Mills	47½	45
India General St'm	179	180½
Indian Iron and Steel	110 112½	110 112
Marshall Sons and Co.	17	17
Titaghur Paper	405	400

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 440.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Yugoslav Cabinet deadlock still continues. At the end of last week the Prince Regent requested M. Marco Trifkovitch to form a new Cabinet, intimating plainly at the same time that it should include members of all the most important groups, and that the list of the new Ministers must be presented to him by last Sunday at latest. Prince Alexander doubtless hoped that this application of the spur might bring about the desired result, and for a few hours it looked as if the hope would be justified. M. Trifkovitch did, in fact, submit a list of members ready to serve in the Cabinet; but, apparently because the selection was not catholic enough, the proposal was rejected; and M. Trifkovitch thereupon gave up the task. Dr. Trumbitch and other leading statesmen have made eloquent appeals for that unity which to outsiders would appear to be what Yugoslavia stands most in need of at the present moment, but party feeling is reported to have reached fever pitch; and the only way out of the difficulty seems to lie in persuading some one outside the whirlpool to undertake the very thankless task. In these circumstances all eyes are again turned towards M. Draga Pavlovitch, President of the Skupshtina, and in all probability the Prince Regent will request him to form a Cabinet that, representing all elements of importance, may be able to see the country through its present difficulties.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that the Duke of Aosta and General Grazioli have accepted a mission to Fiume, presumably for the purpose of making Signor d'Annunzio see reason. Meanwhile Italy and Yugoslavia have both received hints from the Allied and Associated Governments to abstain from any provocative action. The self-appointed Dictator of Fiume has issued a decree fixing an election at the town for the choice of a representative in the Italian Chamber; but since he is receiving no support from Signor Nitti's Government, it is to be supposed that even this bit of braggadaccio will be ignored by the Powers as steadily as the many other follies that preceded it. It is, however, extremely unfortunate that the present dangerous situation is likely to be prolonged indefinitely by the illness of President Wilson.

In Roumania General Vaitoianu has succeeded in forming a Cabinet which must be unique in the history not only of Roumania but also of most countries. It contains no less than six Generals, with only one civilian portfolio, that of Justice. General Vaitoianu acts for the present as Minister for Foreign Affairs, but may hand over this office to M. Misu, who has served his country so ably as Minister in London. M. Misu has long been marked out for ministerial rank at home; he is not definitely associated with any party, and it is significant of the reputation that he enjoys that his name should have been mentioned in connection with each attempt to form a Cabinet since the resignation of M. Bratianu. Apart from his appointment, there is nothing in the composition of the new Ministry to suggest permanency. Greater Roumania is represented by Ministers without portfolios, but the formidable proportion of military officers points to an attempt at a non-partisan Government. If this Cabinet feels strong enough to raise the state of siege and to remove the censorship, and can then hold elections free from the heavy hand of ministerial influence, it will have deserved well of the country.

Like Roumania—and unlike Yugoslavia—Turkey has her new Cabinet. The position of the late Government had been becoming steadily worse for some time, and at the end of last month the Grand Vizier tendered the resignation of himself and his colleagues to the Sultan, by whom it was accepted. Some credit is due to Damad Ferid Pasha and his Cabinet for their courage in remaining in office so long—for a Turkish Ministry—in such difficult circumstances, and it is impossible to avoid feeling that they have not always received from the Powers that measure of help to which their sincere and well-meant, if not always well directed, endeavours would appear to have entitled them. The new Grand Vizier is General Ali Riza Pasha, a soldier of some distinction, who has formed a Cabinet which certainly cannot be suspected of sympathising with the C.U.P. or its programme. If only by reason of the long, and apparently quite unjustifiable, delay in settling the Peace Terms for Turkey, Ali Riza Pasha and his Government are sure to find their way beset by difficulties, and it remains to be seen whether they will be able to surmount the many and serious obstacles that they must encounter even in the most favourable conditions. If the expressions of goodwill that were made on behalf of the Powers to the Turkish deputation to Paris a few weeks ago meant anything at all, it is to be hoped that the Powers will now take entirely new methods of giving effect to their philanthropic aims.

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On Tuesday Field-Marshal Sir Edmund Allenby was, at the Guildhall, presented with the Freedom of the City and with a Sword of Honour, and afterwards took luncheon with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress at the Mansion House. In the course of expressing his thanks for the honour done him, the Field-Marshal paid a special tribute to the Arabs and to Emir Faisal, speaking with emphasis of the loyal support of the Emir, "who," he added, "is one of my greatest friends." His hearers were quick to take advantage of the opportunity afforded them of marking their own appreciation of our Arab allies, and later the Lord Mayor expressed the hope that the Emir's people might find in the celebration some recognition of their part in winning the victory. We are glad that these sentiments found expression, for we believe that Prince Faisal by his gallantry and his chivalry has won the sincere admiration of Englishmen, and we regret that they have not been afforded a suitable opportunity to manifest their feeling.

Persia has made a good beginning in the matter of setting her house in order after the state of confusion into which it had been thrown by the war. We reported last week the execution of Naib Hussein, a robber chief, who had achieved a notoriety that might almost be described as fame. Half-a-dozen times his death had been officially announced, only for the announcement to be contradicted by his recrudescence in such forcible style as to show that he was very much alive; and he and his son had for many years terrorised Kashan and its neighbourhood. Now their picturesque careers have been terminated beyond doubt, and the Persian Government is to be congratulated on the fact. Almost equally good reason for congratulation is provided by the announcement that "several polemical personalities have been temporarily banished, for active opposition to the Government." The wording of this announcement is quaint, and the stickler for constitutional procedure will probably find material for a fine display of frenzy over the Persian Government's action. But of the real wisdom of that action there will be no doubt in the minds of those best qualified to judge. Persia—like other countries—will get along much better without the freely offered criticism of agitators. Polemics, "polemical personalities," and politicians are not required at the present time, and they must not be allowed to hinder the work of statesmen and administrators, if Persia is to make real progress.

A British military mission is reported by a Teheran correspondent of *The Times* to be expected in that city. It has been invited to Persia by the Government of the Shah for the purpose of studying what forces are required to maintain order throughout the country. Thus another big step is being taken to render Persia independent, and to rid her of the constant menace of disorder along her main trade routes, and from the humiliating feeling that she had to rely for protection from her neighbours practically entirely upon foreign aid. The same correspondent announces that the Royal Engineers have constructed an excellent motor road from Kasr-i-Shirin, over the Pai-Tak Pass, to Kermanshah and Hamadan. This means that Teheran is in a fair way to be placed in rapid communication with Mesopotamia, and that one of the chief trade routes is being brought up to date. The fact that Kermanshah and Hamadan both lie within what was formerly the "Russian sphere" is not without significance.

The Spanish operations in Morocco have been very successful so far. On Sunday Spanish troops stormed Raisuli's stronghold, the Fondak of Wad Ras, after the ground had been prepared by a vigorous shelling, and this prompt following up of their early success will go far to restore their prestige, which had undoubtedly become seriously dimmed by the earlier operations against Raisuli, followed by the long period of inaction. Madrid is jubilant over the victory, which is regarded as justifying the high hopes placed in General Berenguer. There should be no slackening of effort, however, if Spanish Morocco is to be reduced to order, and until the elusive and resourceful Raisuli is safely laid by the heels Spain would be unwise indeed to regard her work there as anything like finished.

Malta has been passing through a trying time economically, and the fact has doubtless made the work of the political agitator in the island much easier than it would otherwise have been. It is difficult, nevertheless, to understand how the islanders can have allowed themselves to be led so far along the road of folly. It would be an interesting experiment to take a plebiscite of the population upon the question of the island remaining part of the British Empire, or being handed over to some other nation. Our Malta Correspondent's letters show that the pro-Italian party is losing ground, and that the Maltese are beginning to realise how much they owe to Great Britain. It is to be hoped that their gratitude will not be entirely of the kind defined as "a lively sense of favours to come." But it is to be noted that the Governor is reported to have left for England in connection with the proposals to give the island self-government, and to grant it an Imperial subsidy.

The full reports of Lord Chelmsford's speech at the opening session of the Indian Legislative Council show that the cabled summary did scant justice to an important and interesting pronouncement. We are not concerned just now with the Viceroy's references to past events, but his forecast of the immediate future calls for some comment, the more so that we feel a certain amount of difficulty in accepting his prognostications, though we can unreservedly admire the spirit of cautious optimism which he displayed. Put very shortly, his expectations point to an early relaxation of the existing strain on the political and economic spheres, and to an opportunity of settling down to solid constructive work directed towards the development of industries, and the remodelling of higher education, two branches of activity which, as he sees clearly, are very closely inter-related; the programme is undoubtedly well adapted to the needs of the time, but we have to ask whether its realisation is within the limits set by reasonable probability.

We are justified by the latest telegrams in looking for an early relaxation of the economic strain, which resulted mainly, though not entirely, from the bad weather of 1918. This year the rains have apparently sufficed to put the agricultural industry on its normal footing, though some parts of the country have had bad luck, and there should be little need to devote energy and intellect to the continued management of the food supply. We cannot, however, speak with equal confidence regarding the political tension. It is a small matter that the recent strike has delayed the proceedings of the Joint Committee on the Reform Bill, but there are grounds for doubting the ability of Parliament to deal with the question as rapidly as had been expected. A well-informed correspondent has recently expressed the opinion that the industrial legislation required in this country will need every day that remains between now and Christmas, and if that opinion is justified the Indian Bill will be left to struggle for a place in the welter of financial business to be expected in the spring. In that case the Indian Administration must expect to spend most of the year in what may fairly be described as its normal condition, overstrained at the moment, but hoping for an easier time next month.

Supposing, however, that the new constitution becomes law before Christmas, is there any real prospect that the political strain will be relaxed? The measure will be little more than a skeleton, and the elaboration of details will of itself be a task of considerable weight; meanwhile the politicians, some of whom are by no means certain how they will stand in the new conditions, will be doing their utmost to keep themselves prominently before the public, and they will seize every

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opportunity afforded by the somewhat lax regulations of the Legislative Councils to bring forward the programmes by which they hope to win the favour of the enlarged electorate. We are inclined, therefore, to anticipate that the Administration will hear more and more of contentious politics until the new Councils have actually come into being, and we think there is a very real risk that essential constructive legislation may suffer in the turmoil, either from neglect or (what is more probable) from the concentration of party feeling on provisions which are in themselves of small importance, but are well adapted to exploitation from the electioneering point of view.

If these anticipations are realised, the result may well be serious. The Government of India have tackled, after far too much delay, two of the most urgent groups of questions on which the future of the country depends. They have on their hands the reports of two Commissions, each of which has succeeded in formulating a reasonable programme, in the one case for the improvement of higher education, in the other for the development of latent industrial possibilities. To transform these programmes into concrete measures, to deal with active opposition and with impatient idealists, and to steer a steady course through the troubled sea of amendments, all this is work of the most difficult and delicate nature; and the task can hardly be accomplished with entire success in an atmosphere such as is likely to prevail. The results of any inefficiency at this stage will not be manifest at once, but the next generation will suffer alike in mind and in pocket. We can only hope that the politicians will act in the spirit of Lord Chelmsford's stirring appeal, to grasp this great opportunity with both hands, and devote all their efforts to securing their country's good.

We could wish that the debate on the Punjab Indemnity Bill, the conclusion of which has been reported by cable, might be taken as the last word of the Indian Extremist Party on the deplorable events of last April; but judging by what the public are being told in this country, we are forced to believe that the campaign is by no means finished. The line which is being taken here is that some trifling disturbances provoked an outburst of official fury, and that when patriotic Indians succeeded in forcing an inquiry, the Commission has been packed and the offenders promised an indemnity in advance. So little is known of the facts that this line can apparently be taken with impunity, and its object can perhaps be inferred from the conclusion put forward—that it is now the Secretary of State's duty to have the case for the "prosecution" laid before the Commission, while the Government of India will naturally be responsible for their own defence. Mr. Montagu will doubtless be grateful for this suggestion, which at any rate points to a new sphere of usefulness for the much-abused India Office.

The chief interest in this campaign is, however, to be found in the grounds which are being put forward for discrediting the Commission in advance. Those members who have executive experience are, of course, represented as pledged beforehand, and as sufficiently astute to be able to hoodwink judicial innocents like Lord Hunter and Mr. Justice Rankin; while as regards the Indian members, the innuendoes we have seen in print are so disgraceful that we prefer not to reproduce them. The result of the whole is to confirm the opinion we had already formed—that the Commission has been well chosen, and will perform its task with all reasonable efficiency, but that its findings are not likely to produce that "harmony" to which Indian politicians still aspire. The Report will state the facts, and, as usual, the facts will be ignored; the campaign of abuse will continue, Lord Hunter and his colleagues receiving an adequate share, until circumstances arise to divert the stream in some other direction; and the progress of India towards the goal of self-government and self-respect will be appreciably retarded. It is a pity, but the Extremist politicians will have it so.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 18.

The Industrial Troubles.

The industrial situation has not materially altered since last I wrote to you. The strike of the Alexandria scavengers, it is true, suddenly collapsed as the result of an ultimatum delivered to them by the Municipality to return to work in twenty-four hours or to be struck off the employment roll, but the strike of the trams in Cairo and Alexandria continues; and as far as can be seen there is no immediate hope of a resumption of the services. There has been much criticism of the Government for its failure to intervene with a view to putting an end to a deadlock which, whilst creating great public inconvenience, is recognised to be due to the activities of the political element. As far as can be gathered, however, the authorities have not been idle, but have been concerting measures with a view to having some solid ground on which to base their intervention if it became necessary, and have been taking steps to deal with the political element behind the present industrial unrest.

The underlying cause of the present industrial unrest is admittedly economic. It has undoubtedly been aggravated by the political element, who have used it to suit their ends, but it is none the less economic at root; and if these economic causes can be removed, or at any rate attenuated, the workers are less likely to become the tools of the agitators, though as long as the latter are left to play their own game there will be no real industrial peace in the country. The main economic causes are, as everyone knows, the high cost of living and the inadequacy of the present rates paid for labour of every description; and the initial problem to be solved was to ascertain first how far the present high cost of living was justified and by what means it could be reduced; and, secondly, to what extent an alteration in the present rates of pay could be reasonably demanded by the workers, and in what measure the employers of labour can be authorised to increase the charges they make to the public for their services. Until these questions could to some degree be answered no State intervention was really possible.

These are questions, however, which could not be answered at a moment's notice or by a stroke of the pen. If a satisfactory and lasting solution was to be obtained, very careful consideration had to be given to the points mentioned above. On the other hand, pending a solution of these questions, some means had to be found of carrying on the public services, and at the same time of providing the employees with sufficient to enable them at any rate to make both ends meet. It has been on this principle that the Government has from time to time granted bonuses to its

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personnel, and it is on this principle that attempts have been made to bring about an armistice between the tram companies and the tram workers pending the more complete examination of their relative positions—attempts which unfortunately have come to nought, for the simple reason that the syndicalist leaders insisted on the men accepting no arrangement—even though, in the case of that proposed for Cairo workers, it assured them, at any rate during the armistice, most of the points which they demanded—unless the unions were definitely recognised. I have seen the terms of the agreement, and I can only say that whatever their grievances against the company may have been, the men have put themselves completely in the wrong by not accepting the provisional arrangement offered them.

As regards the Government, the periodical granting of bonuses was admitted to be but a temporary expedient, and it has all along been recognised that the position would from time to time have to be reviewed until a more or less definite opinion could be formed of the extent to which the increase in the cost of living could reasonably be regarded as permanent. When the last bonus was granted it was decided that the time had come when in some measure this definite opinion could be formed, and Committees have been sitting to study the question with a view to making some permanent settlement. In parenthesis, it may be stated that the procedure followed by the Government has on the whole been successful, and that its success has to a great extent been contributed to by the loyalty with which the official class, which has suffered very much, has carried out its duties. Only lately has there been any whisper of industrial trouble amongst the artisan employees of the Government; and although to a certain extent this had been justified by the increase in the cost of living, it would not have made itself felt, in view of the assurances given by the Heads of Departments that the question was being seriously studied, had the "syndicalists" not been at work and tried to foment trouble in support of the general campaign which they have been carrying out.

One is glad to learn that the Committees have now completed their labours, and that a complete readjustment of salaries to officials and of rates of pay and conditions of service to the artisan and labourer categories has been elaborated. As far as concerns the officials and the enrolled daily workers, they are to receive an increase of 20 per cent. on their salaries, and a war bonus of 60 per cent. on the new salaries, the scheme to date back to August 1, but no one to receive more than £E300 in added salary and war bonus. This applies throughout the Service with the exception of the Native Court judges, who have recently received special treatment, and those of the Mixed Courts, who for some reason have had no special allowance to meet the increase in the cost of living.

The decision of the Government has created a sort of basis on which a discussion of the demands made by workers and of the concessions offered by employers in the country generally can now be embarked on. Admittedly each dispute will have its own peculiar characteristics, which may necessitate special consideration, but, generally speaking, a useful precedent has been set up which should materially assist in the settlement of these disputes and should put the Government, if it finds itself compelled to intervene eventually on behalf either of the workers or the employers, in a much stronger position than if it had not waited to study the situation, as it has done.

Price of Foodstuffs.

Simultaneously the investigation into the question of the justification for the present high price of foodstuffs, etc., has been proceeding, and a decision has been reached. Your readers may possibly recollect that the tariff was established in Egypt at the beginning of the war, but that it was not a success because (1) the authorities had no adequate machinery to impose its enforcement, and (2) the general public was too apathetic; and, although it complained, rendered no assistance whatsoever to the authorities in bringing offenders to book. This time an appeal is directly made to the general mass of consumers to assist in the campaign against the profiteers. The whole country is to be divided into zones, in each of which is to be set up a Committee of notables, whose task it will be to supervise transactions in their zone and report any attempts to evade the tariff to the authorities, who are being empowered to bring offenders before the civil and in certain cases before the Military Courts. The reintroduction of the tariff system alone, even if the public co-operates whole-heartedly, will not solve the difficulty, however. It will, indeed, be useless unless more abundant supplies are assured. It is understood that this difficulty is being met by the Government, who are arranging to place regular supplies of wheat, maize, meat, etc., on the market at relatively cheap prices.

It is sincerely to be hoped that now that the tariff has been introduced the Government will adhere to and enforce its decisions in connection with it, and that its efforts to increase supplies will be successful; for on these two factors, especially the second, depend the permanent relief of the present economic situation and the driving out of the profiteers, who in the main are responsible for it. Incidentally, it is interesting to note that the Egyptian public by being called upon to collaborate with the authorities is thereby being given the opportunity not only of protecting its own interests but also of demonstrating its ability to carry out the most elementary functions of municipal government.

Passages to Egypt.

There seems to be something radically wrong with the manner in which passages to Egypt are allotted by British steamers. British residents who have been returning during the past few weeks report that they have had very great difficulty in obtaining accommodation in England, and that some of them, in order not to be late in returning to Egypt, have had to come back viâ Italy, which is a far more expensive route than the Marseilles one. What seems inexplicable is the statement made by many of these returning residents that, although they were told in England that there was no more accommodation available, and many British officials and residents have in consequence been shut out, yet there have been amongst their fellow-passengers quite a number of foreigners, some of whom have admitted having obtained their accommodation at the last moment; whilst to make matters worse some of the transports have left Marseilles with quite a number of vacancies. Clearly there is a call for some very close inquiry, and for reorganisation of the machinery by means of which British officials and residents obtain accommodation. Certainly, in view of the numbers of Anglo-Egyptians and their families waiting to return, there is no excuse for a single berth to be vacant on any eastward-bound boat, and there is still less excuse for any accommodation on British transports being allotted to non-British passengers.

A Postscript.

I have re-opened this letter, as at the last moment has come the news that the Heliopolis Railway workers have agreed to resume work to-morrow for a month, during which their claims will receive consideration, the compromise being made on conditions which meet most of their demands. Meanwhile negotiations are proceeding with the other companies, and the Government has taken action against the political agitators, ten of whom have been ordered to leave the country.

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MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, Sept. 16.

The Riot Commission.

The inquiry into the riots drags slowly on, and the home authorities seem determined to find out the real causes of unrest. Major Fox O.B.E., is not alone in believing that the pro-Italian party has added to the general state of dissatisfaction. In this connection it is of interest to read the Major's remarks: "This party (that is, the pro-Italian) is small but noisy, and preaches that Malta should belong to Italy. During the war its leader was tried by a general court-martial, was found guilty, and sentenced, but he subsequently received a free pardon from the late Governor."

The riot of the students, to which we referred when they occurred some time ago, came up for consideration by the Commission; and, as is the case in most student embroilments, it appears to have arisen from the hot-headedness of the young bloods who had been largely led away by those behind the scenes of a club known as the "Giovine Malta"—a juvenile club conducted on semi-political lines.

Concurrently with the Commission of Inquiry the general court-martial is proceeding, with sentences given to those found guilty of helping to cause sedition, one to nine months' hard labour, and another to penal servitude of three years.

Colonel Amery's Views on Malta.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Colonies has been, made his inquiry, and has left. Before leaving he gave somewhat fully his views on the island—not only as to the financial condition—his real object—but on the political and general situation. These remarks may be briefly summarised as follows:—He admired the industry and resourcefulness of the people; he saw that the great natural and historical attractions of the island should prove a valuable economic asset, and advocated the erection of suitable accommodation for visitors. He also suggested, what has been proposed so often before, organised emigration. Whilst appreciating Colonel Amery's remarks, we cannot help but add that it is the empty coffers of the island and the near approach to national bankruptcy which are the crux of the matter on which depends the solution. As finance was primarily the object of Colonel Amery's mission, it is to be hoped that the suggestions he may make may be followed out by the Home Government.

"Olla Podrida."

The Food Control Board still acts here, and the price of fresh beef has been fixed at 3s. 4d. per rotolo (28 ounces). This continuation of control is quite necessary, as it is plainly observable that secret profiteering is still rampant. The latest case brought to light has been that 600 dozen eggs have been discovered stored in tanks and subterranean passages.

A step in the right direction has been taken in establishing a Juvenile Court to prevent the presence of juveniles in Courts of Criminal Jurisdiction. Those who have been in Malta know, to some degree, the extent of the rapacity of the lower part of the local boyish element.

September 20.

The Reform of the Constitution.

Much is looked for, now that the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies has carried out a thorough inquiry as to the grievances—supposed or real—and also the wishes of the people. The views of most sections of the community have been taken, including those of the President of the National Assembly, the elected members, His Majesty's Judges; while the aspirations of representative leading citizens have also had a hearing. It is easy to see that there is bound to be a conflict of views, but it is hoped that such a spirit of reasonableness and give-and-take will be manifested, that the result will be something lastingly good. The agitation for reform has well-nigh reached the stage of utter wearisomeness, and a significant sign of the times is that the local Press is less rabid, is showing more of common sense, and putting forth views more in keeping with practical politics.

The Riot Commission.

This Commission has completed its work, and its Report is anxiously awaited. From the latest evidence it transpires that, contrary to the general public belief, the home Government went out of its way to provide Admiralty work for the island, in order further to relieve the strain on it. As a matter of fact the Imperial Government kept 12,000 men employed instead of the usual 4,600, and Admiralty work was actually sent to Malta to keep up the employment, thanks largely to Admiral Ballard and the late Governor, Lord Methuen. Evidence such as this is proving disconcerting to the real culprits, the pro-Italian party, whilst at the same time it is showing the rank and file to what extent they have been hoodwinked.

A further point which has come very much to the fore in the course of the inquiry has been the inefficiency of the police in general, and the force has come in for some sharp criticism. The Commissioner, Lieut.-Colonel Bamford, has during his short time in the island made some startling discoveries, not the least of which is that the force is heavily in debt. This in itself is bad enough, but it appears that it may have led in many cases to bribery and corruption. Commissioner Bamford has gone further, and has advocated increased pay all round, with the elimination of those who still persist in contracting debts; and he supports sterner disciplinary measures in this all-important matter.

LETTER FROM PORT SAID.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, Sept. 19.

General News.

Things are somewhat settling down in Port Said, though it was feared that after the great Feast of the Sacrifice there might be some disturbances. The military authorities made preparations to deal with any trouble that might arise by posting pickets in various parts of the town. However, all went off quietly, and no one would notice now anything different from the normal life of the place.

On the 16th inst. H.M.S. "Alacrity" passed through the Canal on her way to the Far East, having on board Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander L. Duff, K.C.B., who is proceeding to China to take up duties as Commander-in-Chief on that station. Two days later H.M.S. "Hawkins," a first-class cruiser, which will be Admiral's Duff's flagship on the China station, passed through. H.M.S. "Hawkins" is one of the new type of cruisers, which has comparatively light armament but high speed. It will be remembered that Admiral Duff was the organiser of the convoy system for merchant vessels, by which the submarine menace to the country was eventually completely thwarted.

Housing Problem.

The housing problem is getting more acute than ever, and would-be tenants are offering landlords considerable bribes to get rid of present occupiers. Landlords, not being more sluggish than other folk where money is to be made, are taking the hint, and rents are now about double what they were before the war. Material is so expensive now that anyone who starts building is looked upon with suspicion or envy, according to individual ideas of meum and tuum. Another factor which accentuates the housing difficulty is the scarcity of available land; for many of the best sites are held by individuals who will not utilise them, and who will not sell, as they are hoping for a still greater appreciation of land values. The price of the Canal Company's land runs about £2 10s. per square metre, and that owned by the Government about £1 15s. per metre. The lesser price of the Government land is more apparent than real, as there are certain restrictions as to building, quite good and necessary, in their way; but the price even then makes it almost prohibitive for anyone except a war profiteer to build a residential villa.

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BELGRADE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, Sept. 27.

The serio-comedy at Fiume is watched at Belgrade with mixed feelings of amusement and anxiety, but on the whole the Serbs are confident that Paris will eventually settle the matter on reasonable lines, and the dignity and correctness of their behaviour are in marked contrast to the *furor italicus*. The incident at Trogir (Trau) is regarded with a kind of resigned indignation, like the occupation of Bar (Antivari), in Montenegro, where the Italians have gone so far as to arrest Serbian civilian functionaries. When the American vessel left Trogir the town was quiet, patrolled by Yugoslav troops. The Italians made a poor show; for unarmed citizens appear to have been able to disarm many of them, while the majority fled in panic and threw down their weapons. A sixty-year-old veteran, Ivan Sentinela, cried, "Down with the rag," and, aided by Professor Katalinitch, tore down the offending Italian flag from the Town Hall. Dr. Petar Sentinela seized an Italian motor-car and took prisoners a crew of about a dozen men and a couple of officers. Women, too, joined in the fray, helping to disarm the Italian troops. Mme. Sunjara actually took a machine-gun, and Mme. Katitch disarmed an Italian officer. When Yugoslav regulars arrived the affair was over and peace restored.

The Cabinet Deadlock.

Dr. Pavlovitch is continuing his attempts to form a coalition Government, and has been in conference with Mr. Stoyan Protitch, M. Laginja, and Dr. Koroshets; but so far without result. The Croatian Nationalists are reported to be in favour of signing the peace; but it is easier for them to swallow the obnoxious minority clauses than it is for the Serbs, who are indeed mostly willing to sign in respect of the new provinces, provided that the old territories of the kingdom be excluded from its operation. So it is not unexpected that M. Protitch is against signing, though he formerly appeared willing. M. Pashitch seems to be acting as a kind of consultant to the Radical party, of which M. Protitch is still leader; both insist that the Radicals nominate the Prime Minister in the new Cabinet, and refuse to join with Dr. Pavlovitch. There is no doubt that the arrival of the Grand Old Man of Serbia has greatly strengthened the Radical cause, and it is quite probable that M. Protitch will once more be entrusted with the task of constructing a Cabinet. M. Triftkovitch's name has been mentioned, but not much importance is attached to this, as he is only leader of a small group of Dissidents, about half a dozen in number.

Meanwhile, many rumours are in the air. One is that Dr. Ante Trumbitch may form a Cabinet; another that a non-parliamentary provisional government be formed to carry on till the Constituent Assembly be summoned. There is some justification for this, since the present Skupshtina has arrogated to itself the position of a full Parliament, while in reality it is only a kind of provisional national council, the main duty of which was to prepare the ground for the Constituent Assembly. The expressions of discontent at the long crisis are coming in from all parts of the country, and there is an indefinable feeling in the air that the end is near. The most interesting rumour is that the Radical party is now in favour of a federal constitution. The origin of this cannot be traced to any statement by any politician, nor to any article in any of the Radical papers; but it would be a statesmanlike move, for it would win the adherence of the Yugoslav Club, of Dr. Koroshets, and of the Croatian Nationalists. One can hardly imagine that any one district could be against a federal system that would give them a large measure of autonomy, and owing to the different history of the component parts of Yugoslavia, giving rise to a different set of conditions in each district, it is certainly a very rational suggestion. One would expect that the keenest opposition to it would come from the Conservatives of Serbia, who would aim at a centralised and unified form of government. But it is attributed to the Radicals, who are in effect the Conservative party of Serbia; so it is a clever move tactically as well. From the foreigner's point of view it certainly seems the wisest course; it at once meets the objection of Liubliana and Zagreb to be dictated to by Belgrade, and gives Serajevo freedom to deal with its own peculiar set of conditions.

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JERUSALEM NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Jerusalem, Sept. 20.

An Arab Demonstration.

Reports have reached here from Damascus about a great demonstration which the people of that city and its vicinity organised and carried out on the 9th inst. Large crowds, composed of all classes and sects, paraded through the streets of the city protesting against the demand of the French Press for the execution of the Treaty of 1916. Many prominent speakers addressed the public, denouncing this demand, voicing the universal dissatisfaction caused by the proposed partition of Syria into Syria and Palestine, and pointing out the danger of such partition.

Before the departure of Emir Faisal from Damascus his attention was called by the Arab Club to the dangers that were threatening Syria in the form of this partitioning of the country, and from the influx of the Zionist. The deputation begged him to do his best to defend the rights of the Arabs of Palestine, and he promised to do so.

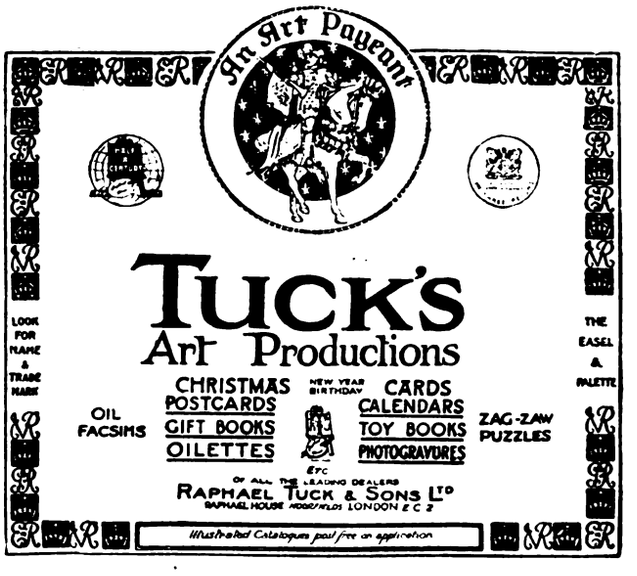
Cardinal Justini in Jerusalem.

On the 17th inst. the Italian cruiser carrying Cardinal Justini, representative of the Vatican, anchored in Jaffa. The Cardinal was met at the quay by the Military Governor of the district and the representatives of the other foreign Consuls and bodies. On Friday afternoon his Eminence left Jaffa for Jerusalem. He was met at the entrance of the city on the Jaffa road by the representatives of the Italian and the French Consuls and Military Attachés and notables of the city, who drove in a procession to the Jaffa Gate. On reaching the gate his Eminence descended and proceeded on foot to the Church, as is the custom.

NEW S.H.S. STAMPS.

One important step towards finality in the philatelic affairs of new Europe is the issue of unified postage stamps for the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, instead of the separate issues for Croatia, Slavonia, Bosnia, and Serbia. They bear the likeness of the veteran King Peter I., as overlord of Greater Serbia, and are inscribed in both Latin and Cyrillic characters. Meanwhile, from Agram (Yugoslavia) comes news that the Croatian national postage stamps issued on January 16 this year have been obsolete since May 27.

At a meeting of the Balkan Committee held on October 1 the following two resolutions were carried unanimously:—(1) In order to secure that the Balkan settlement now under consideration in Paris may form the basis for a durable peace in South-Eastern Europe, the Balkan Committee is of opinion that: (a) Bulgaria should be allowed to hold any port allotted to her on the Ægean Coast in full sovereignty; (b) Autonomy under the Yugosla flag should be secured to Macedonia together with a resident representative of the League of Nations. (2) The Balkan Committee places on record its condemnation of the Italian raid on Fiume in open defiance of the Peace Conference at Paris; and its conviction that in those Adriatic regions where the Slav peoples form the overwhelming majority of the population no settlement can be expected to be final which disregards either their racial aspirations or their economic needs.



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CORRESPONDENCE.

BRITISH INTERESTS AND THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It is encouraging to note from this week's NEAR EAST that Captain Ormsby-Gore is continuing his able advocacy of the institution of a new department for dealing with British interests and responsibilities in the Near and Middle East. We are on the threshold of a new era in these regions, and in the shaping of this era Britain is certain to have no inconsiderable share. Not only service but sympathy will be needed; not only knowledge, but understanding. To this end a special department, as advocated by Captain Ormsby-Gore, is a pre-requisite. It is not only salutary, but saving, for it is more economical to avoid errors than to repair them. It is necessary to have the right men "over here" as well as "over there." The Jewish, the Arab, and the Armenian national revivals are all constituent elements of the great renascence. A wondrous opportunity presents itself for aiding a series of far-reaching national movements which, wisely guided, can be helpful to both East and West, and inaugurate a new epoch in the history of mankind. Guidance will be needed "over here" and "over there." Front and base must be linked. Men who both understand and sympathise with these related manifestations and appreciate the spirit of the British Commonwealth of Nations are needed in the new department, where in friendly counsel much can be done to smooth the path and speed the pace of progress and fellowship.—I am, etc.,

BERTRAM B. BENAS.

The Athenæum, Liverpool.
October 6, 1919.

NEW ROUMANIAN CABINET.

The new Roumanian Cabinet is composed as follows:—

GENERAL VAITOIANU	Prime Minister and *ad interim* Foreign Affairs.
GENERAL LUPESCU	Public Instruction.
GENERAL POPOVISCI.....	Agriculture.
GENERAL J. POPESCU	Industry and Trade.
GENERAL ST. MIHAIL	Public Works.
GENERAL RASCANU	War.
M. MICLESCU	Justice.

Also the following Ministers without portfolio:—MM. Inculetz and Ciugureanu, Bessarabia; M. Nistor, Bukovina; and the Voivode of Vajda, M. Goldis, and M. St. Pop, Transylvania. It is further announced that, M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister in London and head of the Roumanian Peace Delegation, who left Paris yesterday for Bucharest, has been offered the post of Minister for Foreign Affairs.

According to further "revelations" made in the Vienna semi-official *Arbeiter Zeitung*, the Bulgarian Foreign Office informed the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Sofia on October 10, 1915, that "a frontier collision will be provoked in an uninhabited region in order to give grounds for an attack on Serbia."

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THE BISHOP OF JERUSALEM ON ZIONISM.

The annual meeting of the Jerusalem and the East Mission was held on October 7 at the Church House, Westminster. The Bishop of London, who presided, said that he looked upon the mission as having untold possibilities. Jerusalem, in the hands we hoped and believed it would be left in, had the chance of becoming the centre of a far-reaching missionary effort stretching up towards Mesopotamia.

Colonel Sir Courtauld Thomson (formerly British Red Cross Commissioner in Palestine) said he had witnessed the remarkable work done by the mission. Speaking of the ophthalmia so much present in Egypt and Palestine, he said that a great consulting surgeon had told him that it was less due to climatic conditions than to dirt, ignorance, and superstition. A mother considered it an ill omen if anyone praised the good looks of her child, and to prevent this the infant was left in a deplorable state of dirt. Flies settled round the eyes, the mother did not brush them off, and ophthalmia followed.

The Bishop of Jerusalem said that if missionary work was carried on wisely among the Mohammedans we could win their love and respect, and very rarely need call forth their enmity; it was not a question of cramming religion down their throats. For work among the Jews the mission was taking out a very highly trained Orientalist. Referring to Zionism, the Bishop said the difficulty was that Zionism had not succeeded in winning the allegiance of more than a comparatively small fraction of the Jewish people throughout the world when the British Government announced that it would give its might and power to the support of the Zionist movement. By so doing it had put the leaders of that movement into a very difficult position. For a long time since Mr. Balfour's statement about encouraging the Jews to return to Palestine, and there to make their national home, not another word had proceeded from the mouth of the sphinx in London. The result had been a sea of intrigue. In addition to what had been said by the Government, a great deal had been said by the Press, harmless at home, but capable of complete misunderstanding in Palestine. He had no doubt the Jews would return, though when and how he did not know. What he was afraid of was that they might return under political pressure rather than under a movement of the spirit. But statements in the Press that the Jews were to return had created consternation in Palestine. The present inhabitants asked what about themselves? What was Great Britain going to do? He did not blame the leaders of the Zionist movement, but the people already in the country had been so irritated that it would be imposible to establish a Jewish State in Palestine at the present moment without providing an army of at least fifty thousand men to keep order.

NEW TURKISH CABINET.

Reuter's Constantinople Correspondent reports that the new Turkish Cabinet has been composed as follows:—

General ALI RIZA PASHA	Grand Vizier
MUSTAPHA RESHID PASHA	Foreign Affairs
DJEMAL PASHA	War
SALIH PASHA	Marine
DAMAD SHERIF PASHA.....	Interior
MUSTAPHA BEY.....	Justice
TEWFIK BEY	Finance
NAMED [HAMED?] ABOUTE PASHA	Public Works
HADI PASHA.....	Agriculture
SAID BEY.....	Public Instruction
HAIDARIZADE IBRAHIM EFFENDI	Sheikh-ul-Islam
ABDURRAHMAN SHERIFF BEY ...	President of the Council of State

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

In connection with my recent remarks on the commissions of newspaper boys, I am pleased to be able, through the kindness of Mr. H. E. Wortham, of the *Egyptian Mail*, to give some precise information. My correspondent writes:—

"Will you allow me to correct a mistaken supposition of 'Corsair's' regarding the remuneration of newsvendors in Cairo? They get the *Bourse Egyptienne* at seven milliemes and sell it at ten, and are thus not worse, but very much better, off than London newsboys, whose commission, he says, is a penny in the shilling. Their claim was that they should receive not 30 but 50 per cent. commission! In the case of the *Bourse*, the newsboy strikers were beaten. Other employers faced with equally exorbitant claims have not been so successful."

***

The following is part of a letter recently received from Belgrade:—

Wandering in the streets of Belgrade is a little poverty-stricken boy aged fifteen. He is chiefly remarkable for the fact that he is brother of the youth who by one act brought on the war which led to the union of the Southern Slavs, the downfall of Germany, the release of Alsace-Lorraine, the collapse of the Tsars, the break-up of Austria-Hungary, and the expansion of Italy. His name is Printsip, and it was his brother Javrilo who shot the Archduke Franz Ferdinand at Serajevo five years ago.

***

There have been a good many indications of late that the eastern coast of the Adriatic has not yet settled down after the war sufficiently to make it a really pleasing region for the Tame Tourist to disport himself—or herself—in. Even before d'Annunzio and his gallant band of brothers—or whatever they call themselves—went to Fiume that port seemed to have developed "a certain liveliness." Now—well, now, only Gabrielle himself could do justice to the state of affairs; so it is no use my trying. But what amuses me is to learn how the British phlegm seems to have puzzled the mercurial Latins. Before the Poet went to Fiume things were in a very sweet state: the Italians and French were doing the cat and dog business on every possible occasion; and the soldiers—officers and men alike—of all the other nations represented in the bear garden were going about armed to the teeth. The British, on the other hand, strolled about with only a cane or a bathing towel in their hands, the officers very often in flannels. And the other nationalities simply couldn't understand it.

***

With all respect to the excitable gentlemen who were thus puzzled, I would suggest that it is a pity they could not, and did not, follow the example set them by the British. But, of course, they did not, and could not; and rows, often leading to bloodshed, were, and doubtless are, quite common. Thus, for example, on one occasion at Cattaro a number of Italian officers and soldiers were in a café garden when a number of Serbian officers and soldiers were also present. Ere long the inevitable result followed. A too ardent adherent of one side—which I will not say—threw a bomb—a real bomb—into the enemy camp, so to say. Of course, there was gorgeous trouble at once, both sides using their swords and bayonets freely, with results that may be imagined. On the whole, the British method seems to me to have certain advantages over the other.

***

Another feature that I find it difficult to admire in the present state of "peace" on the eastern side of the Adriatic is the employment by Italy and Serbia—or by Italians and Serbians, perhaps I had better say!—of bands of Montenegrin *komitajis*, to fight t'other fellow and *his* bands. The subject has been mentioned, discreetly, by the Belgrade Correspondent of THE NEAR EAST. When it becomes possible to get at and publish the facts regarding the present state of much-harassed Montenegro it ought to make startling reading for those people who at present have no opportunity of learning what is going on there.

CORSAIR.

ZIONISM: The Jewish National Movement,

with Appendices of Diplomatic Documents and Contemporary Articles and Reports, by BERTRAM B. BENAS, B.A., LL.B., Barrister-at-Law.

"In this essay we have an attempt by a very competent authority to justify the very peculiar position of Jews in this world as compared with various nationalities. . . . The case is ably and persuasively put. . . . The appendices are of considerable interest. . . . The whole . . . is well worth careful study."—THE NEAR EAST.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE SERBIAN LANGUAGE.*

There has been a boom in manuals and grammars of the Serbo-Croatian language during the war, but most of them have been superficial and hurriedly put together. This work is of a different stamp, and will be indispensable to the serious student of this language, which will repay study, not only because of its greatly increased commercial and political importance, but on account of its inherent beauty and wonderful popular literature. The authors deal in considerable detail with two points that have been shirked in all grammars hitherto published, that is, the aspects of the verb and the order of words in the sentence, above all the position of the reflexive pronoun, though oddly enough they have failed to lay stress on the inseparability of the negative from the verb. It is disappointing to find that here, as in all other published works on the language, the authors labour over the pronunciation of two peculiar letters which we can only express as dj and tj for typographical reasons. There is no difficulty in these. Dj has exactly the sound of the English d in the word "dew," that is to say, d followed by a y-sound, and is quite distinct from the Turco-Serbian letter corresponding to dzh, which is the English j. Beginners often quite unnecessarily confuse these two letters, owing to the wording of most grammars, which correspond respectively to the initial sounds in the two English words *dew* and *Jew*. The letter tj is the voiceless equivalent of dj, and we hear it in the English words *tube*, *bitumen*, and *picturesque*; it only offers difficulty to an Englishman when it occurs at the end of a word, as it does in the vast majority of Serbian surnames, where it is usually written *ch*; it is totally distinct from the true *ch*, and to pronounce it as such is a solecism that exactly corresponds to the common mispronunciation of *picture* as *pikcher*. It is interesting to note that tj is, in Serbian, the phonetic equivalent of the soft Turkish k or *kiaf*, though the Serbian gypsies retain the Turkish form. It is, perhaps, pedantic to regret that the authors have made this interesting point only half clear in the footnote on page 15; nor do they give prominence to one very marked peculiarity of the language, the collective feminine substantives in *-ad*, declined like *stvar* (page 48), which are singular in form, but in meaning are the effective plural of neuter nouns in *-e*; thus *bure*, a barrel (neut., nom., sing.), has for its plural *burad*, barrels, which is fem. sing., although the sense so far dominates the form that *buradima* is a common form in the oblique cases instead of the more correct *buradi*. Nor do we agree that the pluperfect is never used in conversation; *ja sam vetj bio izashao*, "I had already gone out," for instance, is quite a common expression. Beginners, it is true, cannot go far wrong if they confine themselves to the use of the perfect, as in French, but the imperfect (*kako se zvashe?* "What was his name?") and the preterite (*rekoh*, "I said") are commonly heard. The authors ignore the existence of a declinable present and past participle, describing *budutji*, *birshi*, etc., as adjectives. On page 210, referring to the use of the conjunction *da* to express an unreal condition, instances are given of its use with the past tense, but there is no example of its effective rhetorical use with the present. How often have the Serbs in Salonika used the expression, "*da smo sad u Srbiji!*" "If we were now in Serbia. . . ."

The difficult question of the Serbian accent, which is a matter of quantity and tone rather than stress, in contrast with the Russian, is well dealt with. No student of the language can do without this book, though the beginner may be frightened by the rather exaggerated difficulties, and it is to be hoped that a consignment has been sent to Belgrade for the benefit of the growing British colony.

BOOK RECEIVED.

"By the Waters of Fiume." By Lorna de Lucchi. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

* "Serbian Grammar." By Draentin Subotich, Ph.D., Munich, and Nevill Forbes, M.A. (Oxford Clarendon Press, 1918. 2s. 6d.)

SUDAN.

¶ All interested in the commercial development of the Sudan are invited to communicate with the offices of the

Sudan Government Railways & Steamers,
5, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C. 2.

where information regarding the produce of the country, facilities for transport, etc., may be obtained.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. October	1919. September		1338. Moharram.	5680. Tishri
10	27	Friday	15	16
11	28	Saturday.....	16	17
12	29	Sunday	17	18
13	30	Monday	18	19
	October			
14	1	Tuesday	19	20
15	2	Wednesday	20	21
16	3	Thursday	21	22

Lord and Lady Inchcape have returned to 4, Seamore Place from Scotland.

Queen Marie of Roumania, with Princess Marie, left Bucharest for Italy on October 2.

Madame Misu, the wife of the Roumanian Minister, has returned to town from Eastbourne.

Mirza Abdol Ghaffer Khan Emadol Molk, Counsellor to the Persian Legation, returned to town on October 1 from Folkestone.

Major-Gen. MacMunn, Commander-in-Chief in Mesopotamia, arrived in Teheran on September 25 on a private visit to Sir Percy Cox.

The Prince of Wales has consented to preside at a festival dinner in aid of the Great Northern Central Hospital early in December.

The Senate of Glasgow University are conferring the degree of Doctor of Divinity on Bishop Gwynne at their next Graduation Ceremonial.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes:—The Yugoslav representative on the International Danubian Commission is Captain Yanko Vilhar.

M. Yovan Yovanovitch, formerly Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James, and Madame Yovanovitch will leave London shortly for Belgrade.

General Lord Byng has accepted an invitation to become hon. president of the United Kingdom branch of the Great War Veterans' Association of Canada.

Sir Reginald Stubbs, formerly Colonial Secretary of Ceylon, who was appointed in February last to succeed Sir Francis May as Governor of Hong Kong, has arrived at the latter place.

Dr. Leco, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Belgrade and chief director of the chemistry institutions of the Yugoslavs, arrived in London on October 1 on a special mission.

Owing to the strike, Miss Frances E. Newton motored to Folkestone, en route to Trieste, to catch the Italian Lloyd s.s. "Helouan," leaving on October 9, on her return to Haifa, Palestine.

The Pope received in private audience on September 30 Count de Salis, Great Britain's Special Envoy to the Vatican, for the first time since his return from his recent mission to the Balkans.

The marriage was celebrated on October 2, at St. Augustine's Presbyterian Church, New Barnet, by the Rev. W. Fearson Halliday, M.A., T.C.D., between George H. Anderson, National Bank of India, and Beryl, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Weston, of New Barnet.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Robert William Church, Indian State Railways, eldest son of Mr. W. J. Church, of Durham, and Winifred Florence, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Platt, The Priory, Hungerford, Berks.

The engagement is announced of Capt. Edward Davis Atkins (I.A.R.), 6th K.E.O. Cavalry, of Trans Nzoia, British East Africa, second son of the late H. C. Atkins, of Wynaad, India, and Mary Violet, second daughter of Herbert Sansome Preston, of King's Langley, Herts.

A marriage will shortly take place between Major-Gen. Sir Thomas O'Donnell, K.C.I.E., C.B., D.S.O., late D.M.S. India, and Marion Graham, widow of Capt. W. L. Graham, Indian Army, Reserve of Officers, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. James N. Graham, of Carfin, Stonebyres, Lanarkshire, N.B.

General Gouraud is appointed High Commissioner of the French Republic in Syria, and Commander-in-Chief of the army in the Levant.

It is not expected that the Shah will reach London until the middle of November. His present visit to Paris is strictly private and later he intends to spend some time in the south of France, returning to Paris on an official visit at the beginning of November.

A number of missionaries representing the London Jews' Society are now engaged in re-opening the society's work in the East. The Rev. C. Neill is the head of the Jerusalem Mission, the Rev. A. C. Martin is to be responsible for the work in Baghdad and district, and the Rev. J. H. Adeney for Bucharest.

The marriage was celebrated on September 25 at St. Nicholas's, Hatherop Castle, Fairford, Glos., by the Rev. Harold Gibson, M.C., assisted by the Rev. A. Cheales, between Major Charles A. G. Mackintosh, of the Arab Bureau, The Residency, Cairo, Egypt, and Norna Labouchere, of 23, Chapel Street, Belgrave Square, S.W.

The Greek Premier, M. Venizelos, accompanied by M. Vassilovulos, arrived at Folkestone from Paris on October 3. His Excellency was met by the Greek Minister, M. Caclamanos, and Commander Talbot, specially attached by the British Government. The party motored to London. M. Venizelos dined later at the Greek Legation, Hyde Park Corner.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in November, between Captain Errol F. Arnoldi, Royal Engineers, eldest son of Frank Arnoldi, K.C., Toronto, Canada, and Ruth Gage, only daughter of the late H. F. Matthews, M.A., I.C.S., and Mrs. H. B. Jones, The Grange, Gillingham, Kent, and stepdaughter of Colonel H. B. Jones, C.B., R.E.

The Imperial Travel Bureau (132, Sloane Street, S.W.1) is an association of ex-officers formed with the idea of enabling the relatives of the fallen to visit war graves in Belgium, France, Egypt, Italy, and Palestine, under an organisation of experienced ex-officers who know these countries, and in many cases the actual ground. It is their aim to ensure privacy on these visits.

It is announced that the marriage was celebrated on September 4, at the Catholic Church, Indore, India, by the Rev. Father Raphael, O.C., between Captain F. L. R. Munn, M.C., 46th Punjabis, only son of the late Major F. H. Munn, D.S.O., Royal Irish Fusiliers, and Mrs. Munn, of Creggan, Athlone, Ireland, and Catherine Mary Aline, second daughter of Mr. Bernard Coventry, C.I.E. (late Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India), Indore.

The marriage was celebrated on September 30, at St. Paul's Church, Salisbury, by the Rev. H. W. Allen, Rector of the Parish, between Sydney William Cross, of Cairo and Port Said, son of the late G. A. Cross, formerly secretary of the London Homœpathic Hospital, and of Mrs. Cross, Muswell Hill, London, and Mary Amelia, daughter of the late William Beach, of Dunstan, Weston-super-Mare, and of Mrs. Beach, Wilton Road, Salisbury.

Canon Alexander Wood, of the Scottish Episcopalian Mission at Chanda, in the Central Provinces of India, has been nominated by the new Metropolitan of India, Dr. Westcott, formerly Bishop of Chota Nagpur, as his successor in that diocese. The Bishop-designate is a graduate of the University of Aberdeen. He was ordained in 1895, and after serving as curate of St. John's, Forfar, he left for the Mission at Chanda in 1898. In 1914 he became an hon. canon of Nagpur Cathedral.

The marriage was celebrated on September 27 at Powerscourt Church, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow, by Rev. W. Boyle, assisted by Rev. H. C. S. Mecredy, between John Reginald Hare Duke, Egyptian State Railways, eldest son of the late Canon John Hare Duke, D.D., of Craigavad, Co. Down, and Priscilla Louisa Frances, widow of William Chatterton-Adams, and eldest daughter of the late Bindon Blood Stoney, F.R.S., LL.D., M.I.C.E., and of Mrs. Bindon Stoney, Mervyn, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow.

THE CONQUEROR OF PALESTINE.

On October 7 Field-Marshal Sir Edmund Allenby, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in Egypt and Palestine, received the Freedom of the City of London and was presented with a sword of honour. The occasion was a very memorable one. Prince Emir Faisal, who was in picturesque costume, took part in the reception, and received a great ovation.

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OBITUARY.

The death occurred on October 1 of the Rev. A. E. Stanley, of 14, Westbourne Square, W., late Senior Chaplain H.M. Indian Establishment, aged 57.

Major-Gen. Sir Charles Tyrwhitt Dawkins, K.C.M.G., C.B., died on October 4. He was born in November, 1858, and joined the Shropshire Light Infantry in 1878. In the year following, during the Afghan War, he served with the Kuram Division, in the Zaimusht Expedition, and the assault of Zawa, and received the medal. He also saw much service in the South African and European wars.

The death is announced in Edinburgh of Major-Gen. Sir John Munro Sym, K.C.B. He was born in 1839, and in 1858 he entered the Bengal Army; five years later saw service on the North-West Frontier of India, taking part in the operations in the Umbeyla Pass. He was engaged in the Hazara campaign, and in the Afghan War of 1879-80 was present at the battle of Charasiah, and took part in the march from Kabul to Kandahar. In 1888 he commanded a column in the Hazara Expedition, was again mentioned, and was nominated a member of the Order of the Bath. In 1891 he again commanded a column in the Miranzai Field Force, and was mentioned in despatches, and was promoted to major-general in 1896.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Volia, the cruiser which was seized by the British in the Black Sea, is to be returned to General Denikin.

Having completed their inquiry into events in the Smyrna Vilayet, the Allied Commissioners have returned to Constantinople.

A Malta telegram states that the Lieutenant-Governor has left for England in connection with the granting of self-government and of an Imperial subsidy to the island.

Our Malta Correspondent writes (September 20):—Troops have arrived in the island from the Fiume theatre of war in H.M.S. "Ceres" and "Cardiff."

By the recent purchases of some two score French and two dozen British aeroplanes, the Spanish Government has considerably increased the strength of its reconnaissance and fighting aeroplanes in Morocco.

Several members of the Moderate and Home Rule deputations, including Mr. Surendranath Bannerjee, arrived at Bombay from England on October 1. They all spoke hopefully of the prospects of the Indian Reforms Bill.

A Commission for the regulation of Danube shipping and the organisation of a shipping register is expected shortly at Budapest. Communication on the river will be made free from Regensburg to the mouth of the Sulina.

It is reported at Belgrade from Spalato that on September 22 an Italian airman dropped on Zara proclamations issued by d'Annunzio promising that he would occupy Spalato and Dalmatia as far as Cattaro as soon as he had sufficient forces.

Officers are being selected by the Supreme Council in Paris to consider means for the repatriation of German and Austrian prisoners of war from Siberia as soon as the Polish, Roumanian, Yugoslav, and Czecho-Slovak troops have been repatriated.

Emir Said, who was recently arrested by the British authorities in Syria, arrived at Marseilles on October 1. In an interview at Marseilles, he declared that he intended to remain in France until the situation in Syria had been finally settled by the Supreme Council.

The Times' correspondent in the Middle East states that from the railhead of the line from Mesopotamia at Kuretu, close to Kasr-i Shirin, on the Persian border, there is an excellent motor road over the Pai-Tak Pass to Kermanshah and Hamadan, made by the Royal Engineers.

Operations in the Spanish zone of Morocco have been resumed. The adherents of Raisuli refuse to release Lieutenant Tapia, who was recently taken prisoner, unless four Moorish prisoners are given up in exchange. Several Arab villages in the neighbourhood of Fondak are reported to be in flames.

The Modern Section of the War Memorials Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum is now closed. Some of the exhibits in this section are being transferred to the War Memorials Exhibition shortly to be held at Burlington House. The Retrospective Section will remain open for the present.

The Secretary of State for India announces that revised rates of pay for cavalry, artillery, and infantry officers of the British Service in India, and for cavalry and infantry of the Indian Army (including the Indian Army Reserve of Officers) have now been approved, and will have effect from July 1, 1919.

Turkish bands, says a Constantinople telegram, have blown up the fort of Vezir Kopru, near Biledjik (Turkey in Asia, 50 miles east of Brusa).

A Reuter message states:—Egyptian Nationalists continue to agitate for the boycotting of Lord Milner's Commission, insisting that the Prime Minister should take the lead in ignoring it. It is believed that the Prime Minister favours the postponement of the Commission until peace with Turkey has been signed and the general treaty has been ratified.

"The Armenian Army has driven back the Turks towards the line Digur-Getchevan, in Transcaucasia, and is continuing its advance to the south of the River Aras, just to the north of the former Turco-Russian frontier. The threatened cutting of the line Kars-Alexandropol to the south of Djamousli, which has menaced the army for the last fortnight, is now averted."—Armenian Press Bureau.

The latest news regarding the captured British Mission under Colonel Jacobs in the Yemen is contained, Reuter's Agency learns, in a message dated September 27. This makes it clear that the members are alive and well. The telegram adds that the attitude of the Arabs is constantly changing, and they are now demanding the evacuation of Hodeidah by the British prior to the release of the Mission.

A correspondent in Switzerland writes:—Very numerous members of the Sultania Family of Egypt are staying at present in Switzerland, and intend remaining here throughout the winter. In Geneva are Princess Eminé Ismail, Princess Azizé Hassan, Princess Mehmed Ali Halim, and Prince Djéonil Tossoun. In Lausanne: Prince Abd El-Moneim, Princess Nimet Noukhbar, Princess Ibrahim Halim, Princess Bedia Halim, and Princess Bedia Osman. In Montreux: Prince Mehmed Ali. In Territet: Princess Izzet Djelal, Princess Zeyda Fuad, and Princess Eminé Chérine. In Mont-Pélerin: The Khedivah Ikbal. In Zurich: Prince and Princess Mehmed Ali Hassan. In Davos: Princess Eumer Tossoun and Princess Eminé Kiamil.

"THE NEAR EAST" INDEX.

The Index to Volume XV. (January 3—June 27, 1919) is now ready and may be obtained, post free, by subscribers on application to the Manager.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1919.

THE EXPANSION OF INDIA.

India in these latter days is not backward in pressing her claims on the attention of the Empire and the world at large, and among the demands which perplex statesmen and come as a surprise to ordinary men a prominent place is taken by that for freedom to expand beyond the historic limits set by her mountains and her seas. This demand is twofold: sometimes it insists on the earmarking of some particular area, be it in Mesopotamia or East Africa or elsewhere, as a field for definitely Indian institutions and for colonisation in the ordinary sense; while at others it presses for absolute equality of treatment for Indians in every other portion of the world. In either case the demand is felt to be highly inconvenient by the authorities in India, while in the latter shape it is, to say the least, viewed with suspicion by statesmen and politicians in the Dominions and in foreign countries, and its recurring outbursts add materially to the burden borne by the weary Titans of the British Cabinet. It is worth while, therefore, to examine the matter at some little length, to endeavour to understand the basis of the popular clamour, and to see what action can be taken to provide such opportunities as the circumstances show to be required. The claim to expand has some basis in material considerations, but at the present time its force rests almost entirely on sentiment; and where sentiment exists statesmen can do little beyond allowing for its strength. It is important, however, to recognise that this particular sentiment is in itself a satisfactory symptom in that it marks a return of national self-respect. The fashion just now is to bestow extravagant praise on the old political system worked out in India before the Christian era. Whatever were the merits or defects of that system, it became finally bankrupt about eight centuries ago, when the country abandoned the task of defending its own frontiers, and lay helpless before a long succession of invaders. During these centuries there was no room for national self-respect, the new growth of which has been rendered possible only by the security which Britain has provided and the institutions which she has introduced. The sentiment in question is evidence that the work has been well done, and the friends of India can welcome it cordially, though they are bound to censure the form in which it sometimes finds expression.

When we turn to seek the material basis of the demand for expansion, we are met by a striking contrast. The claim is urged most strongly by men who are familiar with the congested poverty of some of the most important agricultural tracts, and who contend with justice that life in these conditions is not worth living. Some outlet, they say, must be found for the human energies wasted in such an environment. Other observers, however, insist with not less justice on the vast potential wealth lying dormant in the land, waiting to be won by just such energies as are now being wasted, and they urge that in view of these possibilities the export of brains and muscles is a crime against the country as a whole. The contrast is perhaps most obvious in the province of Bihar, where there are tracts with an agricultural population approximating to 1,000 persons to the square mile, and also highly mineralised areas where the supply of labour is the outstanding industrial question, but the same features can be observed over practically the whole country, and while it is true that the agricultural districts require an outlet for the stagnant population, it is equally true that mines and industries can afford that outlet to the advantage of India as a whole. Extensive emigration from the congested areas would leave the country much as it is: less food would be produced, but there would be fewer mouths, and the relation of mouths to food would not be materially affected. Migration to mines and industries would, on the other hand, largely increase the average national income, provided that agricultural efficiency were simultaneously increased, so that the smaller numbers remaining on the land should produce an undiminished supply of food and raw material. India, in fact, is just at the beginning of a vast process of economic reconstruction, and the essential condition for success is that the increase of agricultural efficiency shall keep pace with the development of industry, the land casting off its surplus workers as quickly as they can be absorbed in mines and factories. The process depends mainly on the energy which India herself contributes, and its pace cannot be completely controlled by the activities of the Administration; but there is nevertheless a well-defined sphere in which the State not only can but must act, and that is the expenditure of money and effort on preliminary operations which, taken by themselves, are unremunerative, but without which progress will be retarded and uneven. We hear much nowadays of a great forward move to be made in mining and manufacturing development as the result of the deliberations of the Industries Commission; such action is necessary, but we must insist that it will be largely sterilised unless a similar forward move is made in the development of agriculture. The Agricultural Departments have been starved for nearly a decade, and the consequence is that India is less ready than she should be for the industrial programme which has been prepared; until the lost ground is recovered a marked economic advance cannot be expected, but given wise guidance and adequate expenditure on the great productive departments, there are good grounds for hoping that Indian peasants and workmen will be placed in a position to march steadily forward towards a state of well-being of which as yet they scarcely dream.

We do not think, therefore, that material considerations would justify the provision of facilities for mass-emigration at the present time, and so far as can be foreseen no such need is likely to arise in the near future; the interests of India will be secured more effectively by a redistribution of workers than by a reduction in their numbers. But when this view has been accepted, the fact remains that outlets are still required for the exceptional cases. Every country produces its share of social and economic misfits, and the number produced in India is exceptionally large. At present many of them tend to drift into the ranks of professional criminals, or in the alternative join the crowd of religious mendicants, and thus contribute to the maintenance of a pernicious parasitic class; they are often well fitted to thrive in a different environment, and their departure would relieve India of a burden, while benefiting the countries in which they made their homes. For the sake of these exceptions, as well in recognition of the sentiments to which we have referred, we trust that no effort will be spared to secure for Indians the widest possible scope both within the Empire and beyond its borders; men of all classes should have an extensive field of choice, and should not be tied down to a few countries with an environment similar to that from which they seek to escape. At the same time there is at present no need of special inducements to tempt Indians to go abroad; the true line of policy seems to us to be to keep the door wide open, but to leave the individual to decide whether the vista which it offers is sufficiently attractive. Let the exceptions go freely, but let ordinary people, and the leaders of ordinary people in particular, concentrate their attention on their own land, the potential resources of which are so enormous that even its vast population can be profitably employed.

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CYPRIOTE SHRINES.

By Lieut.-Comdr. H. C. LUKE, R.N.V.R.

II.*

Many other remarkable relics at one time found a home in Cyprus. These included a part of the rope by which our Lord was bound by the Jews when led away to crucifixion, one of the thirty pieces of silver paid to Judas Iscariot for betraying Him, one of the nails by which He was fastened to the Cross, together with three drops of His blood, one of the jars containing the water which He changed into wine at Cana in Galilee, one of the arms of S. Anne, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and a rock on the summit of Mount Troödos which disputed with Ararat the honour of having been the resting-place of the Ark. These objects, and many others described by the early chroniclers of Cyprus, are no longer in the island, and have disappeared from ken; but in recent years there has sprung into prominence a shrine bidding fair to outdo them in the popularity they once enjoyed.

MEVLEVI TEKYÉ, NICOSIA.

At the extreme end of the Karpass peninsula, that long and narrow strip of land which, like an index finger, points at the Syrian coast, is a tiny Gothic chapel, built in the days of the Lusignans over three ἁγιάσματα, or holy springs. The name of the place is Apostolos Andreas, for the springs are believed to have issued from the spot where S. Andrew first set foot on Cyprian soil. A visit to this Ultima Thule of Cyprus is no light undertaking for an inhabitant of, say, Limassol or Paphos, entailing, unless he can afford to drive many days of weary journeying on donkeys; and for this reason pilgrimages to the shrine were, until lately, few and far between. The sanctity of the spot was recognized, but it had no resounding miracle to its credit; and thus there was little inducement for a pilgrim to embark on an expedition which would take him from his home for three or four weeks, or even more. Those who visited the spot were for the most part people of the neighbourhood, of which S. Andrew is supreme and undisputed patron (being alluded to by Karpass folk as "the saint" *tout court*); and the popularity of the shrine remained largely local until 1912. In that year there occurred an episode which has made it the most frequented place of pilgrimage in the island, and has enriched it beyond its founders' wildest ambitions.

In 1895 one Maria Georgiou, a Greek peasant woman and a widow, living in the small seaport of Alaia, on the border of the vilayets of Adana and Konia in Asia Minor, lost her son Panteli, a lad of thirteen. The boy had gone to a neighbouring village to visit an old friend of the family, the *papas* who had baptized him, and was not seen again. His mother, after waiting in vain for his return, set out for the village, in the hope of finding him there. But neither the priest nor anyone else had seen Panteli, all trace of whom had completely vanished. Inquiries were set afoot, but without result, and the only way in which the boy's mysterious disappearance could be explained was by the supposition that one of the roving bands of brigands which infested the neighbourhood had kidnapped him as he was walking along the road. Years passed, and the sorrowing mother abandoned all hope of finding her child.

Seventeen years later, in the early part of 1912, Maria declared one morning that in the night she had seen a vision of S. Andrew. The Apostle, so she affirmed, had appeared to her as she slept, and had communicated to her a clear and precise injunction. He bade her, if she desired to hear news of her long-lost son, make a pilgrimage to his shrine in Cyprus, to the church of Apostolos Andreas; and she announced her intention of proceeding thither with as little delay as possible.

Setting out from Alaia, she travelled through Adana and Tarsus to the port of Mersina, where she embarked for Larnaca, in Cyprus. It was the week before the Orthodox Easter, and the ship was filled with Cypriotes, labourers on the Baghdad railway, who were returning home to celebrate the feast, τὸ μεγάλο πάσχα, with their families and friends. Among the deck passengers were also two Turkish dervishes, with one of whom Maria fell into conversation. It transpired that they were bound for the same destination, and that the dervish and his companion were proceeding to Cyprus on business connected with the property of the *tekyé* of Mevlevi dervishes in Nicosia. It should, perhaps, be explained that in parts of the interior of Asia Minor the Greek peasants are largely, and in some districts wholly, ignorant of Greek, and employ the Turkish language not only in everyday life, but even for the celebration of the liturgy in their churches. Hence Maria engaged more naturally in conversation with the Turkish-speaking member of a Moslem religious confraternity than with her Cypriote co-religionists. For some time they talked of the events of the voyage and of the unknown island, their objective, until a chance question from her companion moved Maria to tell him of her loss and marvellous vision, the cause of her journey to the distant shrine.

For a while the dervish listened in silence, but became more and more agitated as she proceeded with her story. Finally, he asked her if her son had any distinguishing marks on his body.

"Yes," said Maria; "a mole on his chest and another on his shoulder."

* The first part of this article appeared in THE NEAR EAST of September 19

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On hearing this the Turk opened his robe and showed the very marks which Maria had described, while the woman first gazed dully, then leaned forward and touched them, as if unable to believe the evidence of her eyes. Her companion poured out a flood of explanations, unintelligible to any but the mother, whose quick instinct was now convinced of the truth which the bearded and strange face had previously concealed. With a cry she clasped her son in her arms, as he tore off his high brown bonnet of camel-hair and flung it into the sea. Though stunned at first by the sudden joy of their reunion, the pair were soon able to talk connectedly. The son told the mother how, as he was going to the priest's village on the fateful day, he had been kidnapped by Turkish brigands, who eventually disposed of him in Constantinople. There, after passing through various hands, he was instructed in the tenets of Islam, and educated as a dervish. He was never left alone, and was moved constantly from place to place, so that his childish memories had very nearly become effaced. He had forgotten his native place and the name of his parents, yet some strange and instinctive attraction had drawn him to his mother, whose story, with its details of events and places, reforged in a flash the missing links in the chain of memory which still bound him to his former life. When Maria was calm she turned to the passengers who had gathered around her, and, with the slow tears of age running down her wrinkled face, told them of the miracle which had restored her son after so many years. The Cypriote labourers, many of whom hailed from the Karpass, raised shouts of rejoicing, and fell on their knees to praise the saint for the sight which they had been privileged to witness. Willing hands helped the ex-dervish out of his robe, and clothed him in the baggy blue breeches, loose shirt, and embroidered waistcoat worn by the Christian peasantry of Cyprus, the men contending for the honour of providing them from their store. A collection was made for Panteli and his mother, who announced their intention of going together to the shrine to return thanks for their happiness; and thus, surrounded by their newly-made friends, and in an atmosphere of religious fervour, the two arrived at Larnaca.

It is no part of the purpose of this narrative to account for Maria's vision and its marvellous accomplishment. Let it be assumed that it was one of those remarkable occurrences whose prevalence in the Levant explains the multitude of wonder-working shrines and icons, and the faith reposed in them by the population at large.[3] To show that this faith is common to all classes, it is only necessary to recall the illness of ex-King Constantine of Greece in May, 1915, when, at the instance of the Greek Government and of the Holy Synod, the famous icon of the "Evangelistria" of Tenos was brought by a man-of-war from its island home to the Piræus, and thence was carried in solemn procession to the King's sick-room in Athens.[4] The reunion of Panteli and his mother through the intervention of S. Andrew has assured the popularity of "the saint" for many years to come. In the place of a trickle of pilgrims from surrounding villages, an impressive stream from all corners of the island now converges upon the chapel at the season of the *panegyris*. Generous gifts fill the monastic coffers, the modern church above the mediæval chapel is choked with *ex voto* offerings, the accommodation for pilgrims has been enlarged, and the managing committee of the monastery is spending a substantial sum of money on the construction of a carriage-road, and talks of installing a telephone. Such are the results of a modern miracle.

A quaint account of an earlier miracle is given by Alexander Drummond, English Consul in Cyprus from 1753 to 1759, in the course of a description of the church of S. Mamas at Morphou, on the west coast of the island[5]:—"S. Mamas, to whom this church is dedicated, performed abundance of miracles while he lived upon earth, and even now affords daily matter for astonishment. When alive he either could not or would not pay his carache (*kharaj*), or poll-money, and the collectors were always restrained by the operation of some preternatural power upon their bodies and spirits from using him in the savage manner in which they treated others who were deficient in their payments. The prince, being informed of this extraordinary circumstance, ordered him to be hunted out from the hollow rocks, caves, and gloomy woods in which he always lived, and brought into his presence; and S. George and S. Demetrius, hearing of his being taken, followed, overtook, and accompanied him in his captivity. During his journey to court, seeing a lion rush out of a thicket and seize a lamb, to the terror and astonishment of his guards, he ordered the beast to quit his prey, and his command was instantly obeyed by the lion, who fawned and wagged his tail in token of submission. The good man, being tired with walking, took the lamb in his arms, and mounting the wild beast rode forwards to court, to the amazement of all who saw him. He presented himself in this equipage to the king, who, being apprised of these circumstances, accepted the lamb, generously remitted the caraches he owed, and gave orders that the saint should live without paying any tax for the future. Thus favoured he came hither and built a little church, in which at his death his body was deposited. This is one way of telling his story, which is varied by every papa whom you consult on the subject. As I have related one of his performances while in life, I will now communicate one of the feats he has acted since he went to the other world. Just above the place where he lay interred a marble sarcophagus was placed, and on the wall is a picture representing him riding on the lion, with the lamb in one hand and a shepherd's crook in the other; upon his right is S. George, and on his left S. Demetrius, both on horseback."

"The Turks," adds Drummond, "expecting to find a treasure in this sarcophagus, broke it up, and ever since, through two little holes which were then made, water is continually conveyed into a hollow, being supplied from the sweat that issues from the face of the above picture, which is never dry, though those of his brethren saints, who are close to him, show no signs of moisture."

The sarcophagus of S. Mamas continues to sweat to this day, but the liquid issuing from it (to which Father Stephen de Lusignan attributes some remarkably piquant properties) is reinforced by water discreetly poured into the tomb by the custodians of the church through the holes made by the Turks.

(To be continued.)

[3] Did miracles not sometimes take place, that faith would long since have disappeared. A favourite modern Greek proverb is to the effect that a Saint who works no wonders is not worth bothering about:—

"'Αγιος ποὺ δὲν θαυματουργεῖ δὲν λατρεύεται."

[4] In consequence of this, so many other celebrated icons offered their services that the Greek Government had to issue a notice intimating politely that no more were required.

[5] "Travels through . . . several parts of Asia," etc., London, 1754.

GAME PROTECTION IN CYPRUS.

(From Our Cyprus Correspondent.)

Under the Game and Wild Bird Protection Law, considerable tracts of land in all the six administrative districts of Cyprus have been closed against sportsmen from November 1, 1919, to August 12, 1921. The measure is a very wise one, and the areas seem well selected. So great has been the destruction of game, owing to the immensely increased issue of gun licences, coincident with largely extended cultivation, that protective steps became necessary some years ago, but it was not till 1911 that a comprehensive law was passed, under Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams, dealing with the preservation of all game and of wild birds. Moufflon, the only species of large game in the forests, was threatened with extinction. No person can now kill or take one without a special permission from the High Commissioner, only given under very exceptional circumstances. The francolin, which used to be fairly plentiful, as it is in many parts of Asia Minor, is now rarely found except in a few valleys of the Papho district. This bird is also specially protected. No one can take or sell the eggs of any game bird; nor can the skins or eggs be exported. No birds may be shot from shelters except wild swans, geese, and ducks, nor may decoys be used.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Next week will see the opening of the Athens Exhibition of the Federation of British Industries. This enterprise marks an entirely new departure in Great Britain's relations with the Near East, and the exhibition will be in every way worthy of the occasion. No more suitable building than the Zappeion could be imagined, and there the thousands of visitors will be able to inspect a wealth of exhibits of British manufactures. I understand that about 300 firms are exhibiting, and the manufactures shown will make the exhibition as nearly representative of the industries of the United Kingdom as possible in the time at the disposal of the Federation for organising the event. The preliminary work, it must be remembered, has been carried on in most unfavourable conditions. Industries generally were in a state of flux for some months after the Armistice, and the representative character of the exhibition is a great tribute to the resolution with which British manufacturers have faced the task of reconstruction.

***

It would be impossible in these columns to give the exhibits in detail, but their comprehensive nature will be gathered when I say that they range from aeroplanes to household requisites, from oil engines to glassware and hardware, and from motor-cars to dyes and chemicals. In short, the exhibition includes examples of all the commodities of which Greece and other Near Eastern countries are in need; and its great value lies in the fact that it will show business and commercial circles in Greece and the Levant the varied ways in which Great Britain can be of assistance in the work of reconstruction. I have constantly emphasised the keen desire on the part of the Balkan countries for the development of commercial relations with this country. By arranging this exhibition the Federation has gone more than half way to meeting this desire, and in so doing has given a lead to British manufacturers and exporters which I trust they will not be slow to follow.

***

There is no doubt at all as to the results of the exhibition. All accounts agree that the keenest interest is being taken in the enterprise not only in Greece, but also throughout the Levant. British goods have never lacked appreciation in the Near East, and commercial circles there are fully alive to the advantages offered them by the exhibition; and it is to be expected that while it lasts Athens will be thronged with business men from all parts. It is evident, in short, that the exhibition will be the means of giving a great impetus to British trade with the Balkans.

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Judging from information which reaches me with regard to last month's Leipzig Fair, I do not think that British manufacturers need worry themselves about the prospect of German competition in the near future. The general impression conveyed by the fair was, I understand, that nearly all German industries are in a most critical position, this being due in the first place to the coal shortage, and, secondly, to the loss of export trade, without which Germany is unable to obtain the requisite raw materials. The whole fair emphasised the desire of the German people to recover its economic position, but among every class of exhibits there was striking evidence of the hopeless dependence of Germany on raw materials from abroad, and on an increased coal output. With the German glass, pottery, textile, leather, toy, and numerous other branches of industry either closed down or being worked at from 5 to 10 per cent. of their normal output the fair left no room for doubt that Germany has been placed by the war in a very difficult position indeed.

***

As regards the special features of the fair, new mechanical devices and novelties were much in evidence, the German manufacturer, my correspondent points out, concentrating in this direction with a view to forcing a wedge into foreign markets. It was also much remarked that wherever possible production had been confined to articles requiring the absolute minimum of coal and raw materials from abroad. Some of the sections were largely exhibitions of substitutes, notably the section for textiles, the exhibits of which, my correspondent comments, were very poor, mostly made of shoddy; while there was a great display of paper carpets, rugs, tablecloths, etc. It is worth noting that the prices of these paper textiles were high; for instance, paper rugs, which at a distance looked like the genuine article, cost about double the pre-war price of the real thing. The general conclusion to be derived from the fair is that the will to win is still present in Germany, but that the means are lacking at the moment to resume the struggle for trade.

***

The settlement of the brief railway strike leaves the industrial outlook brighter than it has been for many a day. It has done much to clear the air, since would-be strikers have learnt the lesson that the resources at the disposal of a community are quite adequate for the maintenance of essential services until such time as the strikers condescend to return to work. There are, it is true, some industrial problems in the offing, but these despite, I remain convinced that the industries of this country will now begin to go rapidly ahead. Since the turn of the year the trade returns have borne testimony to the general industrial recovery, and I shall be much surprised if the export figures are not revolutionised during the next few months.

***

In the American consular report which I quoted last week on a new Arabian railway, the question of an extension of the line from Lahej to Sanaa was discussed, and it was pointed out that a feature for consideration would be the attitude of the Arab tribes in the vicinity. That sums up the position rather mildly. I cannot imagine the Arabs between Lahej and Sanaa regarding with anything but annoyance an attempt to introduce the "iron horse" into their domain, and they have a habit of expressing their feelings rather freely when they are displeased, and in a manner apt to be extremely unpleasant for the object of their attentions. No, it would be a piquant experience, but I for one would not care to form one of the working party, and frankly, I cannot imagine the railway being constructed at any rate in the near future.

***

There is an interesting note on the Egyptian flax industry in the September issue of the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, which remarks that many years ago flax was an article of some importance in Egypt, but that from various causes, including faulty treatment of the stalk, the trade languished. "With the large demand from Europe, however, the old business has again come into prominence," adds the *Journal*, "and the excellent quality of the Egyptian product as compared with the Indian and Continental varieties, coupled with improved methods of preparation, have fostered the trade, which is now only limited by short supply. During the four months ended April 30 this year over 143 tons were exported, as against 36 tons for the same period last year. With the arrival of new machinery to cope with the much increased production anticipated next year, an impetus should be given which will establish the Egyptian flax industry, now very favourably considered in Europe, on a sound basis.

***

The idea of an all-India banking institution has frequently been put forward in the past fifty years, and an impetus has been given to the project by the industrial development of the country. The union of the three Presidency banks is the obvious method of establishing such an institution, and it has this advantage, that the amalgamation will not be open to the objection so often raised in regard to banking developments in this country, that it tends to diminish competition, since the three banks each have their own spheres of action, the banks of Bombay and Madras being limited respectively to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, while the Bank of Bengal covers Bengal and the rest of India outside Bombay and Madras. There is no question of the gain to India by a strong institution formed by the three banks; but it is at least open to doubt whether the immediate object aimed at—namely, the provision of increased banking facilities—could not have been attained more readily by freeing these banks from restrictions.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Coal Resources of the Near East.

A General Survey.—I.

By John Kirsopp, M.I.M.E., F.G.S.

At the present time there is an acute shortage of coal throughout the whole of Europe, a position which is likely to continue for some time to come. In common with other regions, many countries in the Near East were largely dependent on Great Britain for their supplies, and now that it is impossible at present to obtain their requirements from us, the question of the coal resources of these countries becomes naturally of exceptional importance. The following table, compiled from statistics of the export of fuel (coal, coke, and manufactured fuel) from Great Britain for the year 1913, will testify to the extent of such dependence in the past, and will also, perhaps, approximately indicate their present industrial condition :—

	Tons.		Value.
Aden and Dependencies	181,204	..	£154,350
Algeria	1,496,356	..	1,059,606
Bulgaria	58,170	..	45,342
Egypt	3,223,936	..	2,456,337
Gibraltar	358,167	..	259,549
Greece	764,602	..	503 264
Malta and Gaza	708,564	..	527,197
Morocco	24,227	..	21,302
Persia	1,765	..	1,349
Roumania	282,364	..	236,436
Tripoli.....	5,696	..	5,116
*Tunis	261,246	..	178,634
Turkey (European)	222,230	..	176 952
Turkey (Asiatic)	193,918	..	161,864
*Russia	6,021,334	..	4,440,831
British India.....	200,275	..	169,472
Ceylon and Dependencies ..	219,637	..	205,384
	14,223,711	..	£10,600,985
In addition the following countries produced respectively (in 1912†):—			
Bulgaria	245,314	..	—
Roumania	242,025	..	—
Russia.....	31,296,900	..	—
Serbia	313,001	..	—
‡Turkey	745,676	..	—
British India.....	14,706,339	..	£3,310,365
Total Consumption.....	61,772,966	..	—

The figures quoted in the subsequent text regarding the extent of the various resources includes all coals of one foot or over in thickness, and existing within a depth of 4,000 ft., which has been in the main briefly extracted from a large mass of information gathered together and tabulated from geological surveys and mining bureaus throughout the world by the International Geological Congress at their Twelfth Session, held in Toronto in 1913. Without further reference it will be understood that, dealing with the subject, as the writer is doing, in the light of the position in 1913, the geographical distribution of countries then obtaining has been followed for the sake of simplicity.

Turkey, with her enormous and undeveloped coal resources, her large expanse of coast-line adjacent thereto, thus being more or less within favourable situation of exportation facilities, offers an attractive starting point for such a survey.

Turkey in Asia.

No geological survey has yet been made of the Turkish Empire, and, according to the writings of M. Leon Dominian, the knowledge and extent of its coal resources are still very limited. The north-westernmost projection of Asia Minor immediately south-east of the Dardanelles forms part of a district wherein lignite deposits have been worked in a number of localities. The formation of this district can also be traced to the north on the adjoining European coast of the Marmora. These lignite beds occur mostly in the Tertiary Cacustrine deposits, probably in a zone of transition between the Miocene and the Pliocene. In the Ægean Sea the same grade of coal is found in the islands of Mytilene and Lemnos, where it was mined in 1875. The best-known of the deposits is worked at Manjilik, where the outcrop coal seam can be traced for a distance of four kilometres (2½ miles), the product being used as fuel for an electric power station feeding the smelters and workings. Lignite is also found near Lampsacus, but has not yet been worked, but is mined in the Troad, near Edremid, the product being sent to the seaport of Akchai, where it is stacked and sold in small quantities. Further south, near Loma, the terminal of a branch railway from Manissa, there are also mining operations on a small scale, and near Panderma, 4 km. from Tchamakdagh, some exploration work took place about 20 years ago. Samples of the coal analysis :—Volatile matter, 32.6 per cent.; fixed carbon, 45.4 per cent.; ash, 12.6 per cent. Further west, lignite outcrops occur at Dernirtash, 20 km. north of Broussa, and at Ghemlik, and mining was carried on formerly at Tchaidere, near Bilejek, and at Gueve, near Seyyud. The most westerly extension of these coals exists in the mountains environing Tchai, near Afiounkarahissar. The thickness of the coal attains 2 metres (6 ft. 6¾ in.). Practically every one of the abovementioned deposits are capable of development in order to meet local requirements.

The Heraclea coalfield is at present the best developed in Turkey. It comprises a length of about 60 km. (37¼ miles) in length along the Asiatic coast of the Black Sea, between the seaports of Heraclea and Filios, the former town being situated 135 nautical miles from Constantinople. The coal beds outcrop near the coast, and are known to extend farther than 8 km. inland. The coast facing this section of the Black Sea is precipitous, 60 m. or under elevation, and gradually increasing southward. The geological formation outcrop in three long and parallel bands consisting of culm, lower carboniferous amentoner, and upper carboniferous coal measures. The correlation of this sequence with the belaceous of the Balkans has been established, and the local subdivision corresponding to the three stages of the European carboniferous are respectively Aladjaaghzy, or lower stage; Cozloo, or the middle stage; and the Caradon, or upper stage. The best coal is derived from the Cozloo, this and the Aladjaaghzy subdivisions being also economically the most important. The western boundary of the basin is determined by a long fault line occurring at Kiosseaghzy at a distance of about 10 km. east of Heraclea; hereabouts some thin seams of coal being worked of the Cozloo stage, the entire measures seemingly having sunk at this point. Immediately beyond are situated the valleys of Kiretchlik, Chaoushaghzy, and Ilisoo, within whose limits the Aladjaaghzy series is first seen. About 20 km. (127 miles) further east, the Cozloo series outcrop, and at this portion of the field the widest and greatest exploitation and mining operations have been and are being carried on. The coal measures come on about 2 km. (1½ miles) further east, and at Domooz taking a gradually southerly strike inland, attaining a width of 5 km. (3 1-6 miles) across the Zoongooldak Valley, and extending beyond Tchatalaghzy Valley to Gooksoo. Mining ceases at this locality, but coal is known to occur as far east as Djide. The Aladjaaghzy stage is best represented in the locality bearing that name, where fifteen seams of an average thickness of 0.75 (2 ft. 6 in.) occur, and are known by different names, although several of them are probably the same, but cut up by the profound faulting to which this region has been subjected. The same measures have also been developed to a less degree in the valley of Kiretchlik, and at Tchaoushaghzy.

A zone of transition between the Aladjaaghzy and the Cozloo measures is revealed by a number of almost vertical seams with a thickness of those below. They occur along a double east-west line of faulting which form the southern extremity of the coal basin. These vertical seams therefore indicate the beginning of the Cozloo stage, best represented in the valleys of Zoongooldak, Kilimli, and Tchatalaghzy. The strata in this zone dip respectively to the north and south, forming an anticlinal fold plainly discernible in the valley of Kilimli. Twenty-five seams are distinguished locally, with an average thickness of 1.5m. (4 ft. 11 in.).

The possible zone of transition representing the upper level of the Cozloo stage is best seen in the vicinity of the Kiosseaghzy fault. Two systems of seams occur here known as the Tsamly and Beylik groups, the former comprising fairly thick seams having a maximum thickness of 2 metres. The Tsamly system can be traced to the seashore of the village bearing that name, and extends to Candilly Valley, a distance exceeding 4km. (2½ miles) in length. The Caradon zone comprises eight seams which have been worked at Caradon, Tchatalaghzy and Cozloo, their thickness varying between 1 and 1.5m. (3 ft. 3⅓ in. and 4 ft. 11 in.).

The Amasra basin comprising the Tchatalaghzy district, consisting of five seams of similar average thickness, also appears to form part of the same series, and the outcrops east of the town of Amasra near Capoosoo probably constitute an extension of this group. A number of outcrops also exist in the valley of Itisoo near Sefedier also belonging to this group. The coal mined at Heraclea is bituminous, and belongs to two groups. That obtained from the middle series is excellent for coking purposes, whilst the Aladjaaghzy product is used chiefly for the manufacture of illuminating gas and for steam generation. The annual output from this coalfield has increased from 70,997 metric tons in 1884 to 750,000 metric tons in 1911, and probably will soon reach a million tons owing to the settlement of dispute between the Turkish Government and the French company holding the most important concession in the district.

Eastern Asia Minor.

A large number of coal seams of all grades occur in the region extending east of the 34th meridian east of Greenwich to the Russian and Persian boundaries. Lignite is found in the Tavihandagh Mountain in the vicinity of Mersivan, and coal outcrops in the immediate neighbourhood of Tokat are also in a district 60 km. (37¼ miles) south-east of that town, and further south near the town of Sivas. Coal exists and extends almost from the eastern to the western boundary of the province of Mamouretuetziz, the localities being Tchemishguedsek, Zafranik, Dersim, and Derstek, and lignite occurs at Shengyah near Baibourt.

In the Erzeroum district mining operations have been done on coal seams of the Upper Eocene age, viz. at Kukurtlu, Sivishlu, Tazegul, and Chareet, in the province of Erzeroum, Kheneke in the province of Narman, and at Varlik in Terjan province. These lignite seams are well developed at Kheneke, near Migri in the valley of the Arax, as well as to the east in the Kashkaldagh Mountain. South of Erzeroum bituminous coal occurs in the mountains lying west of Mushplain, and anthracite is found near Erooh in the province of Bitlis between the villages of Tchemak and Dergal, and also farther west near Galu, suggesting the possible existence of an anthracite basin in this region. West of the Persian boundary ample reserves of fuel exist in the province of Van, viz., lignite at Bashkale in the Hekiari district and near Tcough Pass.

* This also includes what was sent to the northern ports.
† For 1912 } The last available returns.
‡ For 1911 }

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Bituminous coal is found at Aktchai on the Karasoo river about 24 km. from the harbour of Chesaker on Lake Van, and also at Sivan near Archek 27 km. (16¾ miles) east of Van. At Chahmanis in the district of Chatak a number of seams occur with a maximum thickness of 1m.

Mesopotamia.

Coal was mined about half a century ago in the northern section of Harpot province, and used on the river boats plying on the Tigris, as also at Jebel Hamrin, 90 km. (55¾ miles) north-east of Baghdad, and has been found at Mosul. North-east of Baghdad 160 km. (99 1-3 miles) upper coals are to a small extent mined by the natives in the low hills lying east of Kafri, near the Nasalah village.

Syria.

Lignite occurs in the province of Beyrout, and to a very small extent is worked near Gezzim and also near Kermael, both deposits being capable of yielding much larger outputs. Outcrops also exist in the valley of the Nahrelkalb. In the Lebanon, coal occurs at Falooga, near Hamana, at Æbdin, near Bekfaya, Mreyjatt, and Gezzim, at Falooga there having been native exploitation on a small scale in order to supply the silk factories of the district with fuel. Other deposits exist at Meshgara, in the Bekas Mountains, and Huleh, in the province of Damascus, also in the neighbourhood of Tyre and Safed, and at about 80 km. (49½ miles) south-east of Aleppo. Two other localities regarding which very little is known are Suedieh, on the Mediterranean coast, and the Ajiloon province in Palestine.

The distribution of coal in Asia Minor is wide. It exists in the Beirootdagh Mountains, and anthracite has been found near Siz, between Adana and Zeitoon, in the valley of the Jihoon River. The south-western coast of Asia Minor is also not devoid of coal. Seams are known near Makry, in the foothills of the Eljikdagh Mountain, and in the province of Smyrna. Lignite beds exist at Gulhissar, Mitas, Sokia, Aidin, Kiosh, Nazilli, Scala Nuova, and Keramos. The Sokia and Nazilli seams have been developed for local use.

Turkey in Europe.

The Keshan district, in the province of Adrianople, has been prospected for coal more thoroughly than other districts of European Turkey. Here several seams of bituminous quality occur at the edge of synclinal sandstone basin, 13 km. (8 miles) in diameter, one of which 1 metre thick, has the characteristics of a cannel coal, with a specific gravity of 1.37, and yields about 2 per cent. of ash, has been proved by prospecting borings at Boztepe, 9.6 km. (6 miles) west of Keshan, and several seams are known to exist along the Marmora coast between Sarkeui and Ganis, 48 km. (29¾ miles) south-east of Keshan, their thickness varying between 0.30 and 0.45 m. (1 ft. and 1 ft. 6 ins.).

Another deposit, with seams averaging about 0.70 m. (2 ft. 4 ins.) in thickness, occurs at the head of the Gulf of Saros, near the village of Capoodjidere. The extension of the Marmora-Ægean lignite field can be traced to the vicinity of the seaport of Rodosto, in the Sea of Marmora, and to Dervent, near Dedeagatch, 5 km. (3 miles) from Ferejik station of the Oriental Railway, and lignite is also known at Soofii and Oozoonkeupri, and at Grissanhissan, about 8 km. (10 miles) from Xanthis railway station. (In Albania a fair quality of coal has been mined near the towns of Telvino and Triano.)

As no geological survey has ever been made, it is impossible to give any approximate probable reserve, but from the foregoing it will be seen that the available coal reserves of the region must be enormous and, with the exception of the Heraclea mines, practically virgin and untapped. The building of railroads through certain sections of the country will probably have an important bearing on the future growth of the mining industry. M. Dominian states that the annual consumption of coal in Turkey and such of the adjacent countries as are geographically dependent on her (Egypt, for instance) may be safely reckoned at about five million tons, whilst the annual production of Turkish coal is still less than one million tons.

Greece.

There are several deposits of lignite throughout the country, principally on the island of Eubœa and in Oropos and Aliveri. The coal is, however, of poor quality, and the only deposits that were being worked were at Coumi (Eubœa), where there are two seams having an aggregate thickness of 2.2 m. (7 ft. 2 ins.), calculated as covering an area of 20 s. km. (12½ square miles), and with an actual reserve of ten million metric tons. The deposits at Oropos, Aliveri, etc., are reckoned to contain a probable approximate reserve of thirty million metric tons.

ROUMANIA'S RAILWAYS.

Credits Needed for Material.

The most important problem of reconstruction for Roumania has been the restoration of communications. The current issue of the *Board of Trade Journal* gives an important review of the Roumanian railway situation, dated August 18, from the Director-General of Roumanian Railways, which we quote below:—

On November 12—at the time of the Armistice—both in Wallachia and in Moldavia, there were only 150 locomotives at the disposal of the Roumanian Government for the whole of the original kingdom. In spite of this it was necessary to lose no time to arrange for the following transports:—(1) Repatriation of more than 150,000 refugees with their luggage from Moldavia. (2) Repatriation of the Roumanian Army with all its munition depots and equipment. (3) Redespatching after reorganisation of the Roumanian Army of the Dniester, as well as that of the Theiss. (4) Revictualling of the country with the cereals received from England and America at the ports of Constanza and Braila.

At the same time, it was necessary to busy ourselves from the first with re-establishing workshops to enable them to handle the repairs of locomotives, wagons and coaches, tracks and bridges, station buildings and installations.

Lack of Materials.

One of the difficulties encountered in the repair of rolling stock was the absence of materials. All belting had been requisitioned. Luckily, however, a small amount of material was found in certain depots which the Germans had not had time to destroy. The workshops were started again in the month of December. The conditions of labour were miserable. Without clothes and food the morale was not conducive to hard work. But the most important cause of low output was the lack of materials. It was for this reason that the Government was obliged to stop piecework—the only means of controlling the work—but it was impossible to establish rates for making any definite piece while the proper material was lacking, and it was necessary to employ other materials and to have recourse to methods invented locally for each piece. With coke and pig-iron lacking, it is easy to imagine the output of the foundaries.

The English Mission at once realised the state of things and lost no time in arranging a credit of £500,000 for the materials which were urgently necessary. But this material could only suffice for two months, during which it was thought that Roumania, having obtained the desired help from the Allied Powers, would be able to put its rolling stock into condition again. Unfortunately, the country is still awaiting other credits, and, to make matters worse, only a small quantity of the material promised has come to hand, and scarcely 500 tons of the total of 2,000 have reached the workshops yet, or are in one of the Roumanian ports, or *en route* at the time of writing.

In order to understand the state in which the locomotives were, owing to lack of materials, it will suffice to say that since 1914 there have been no materials, and that it was only by the interchange of parts at the expense of the rest of the locomotives that it has been possible to keep some going. The final limit has now been reached, however; 150 engines are still working, but are momentarily in danger of falling to pieces. Since the Armistice 280 engines have left the workshops to deal with the daily train kilometrage of 25,000 in the original kingdom of Roumania. They would do more if it were not for the difficulties in maintaining a good service, due to the destruction of the other installations, such as telegraphs, which necessitates their stopping at every station, and by increasing the block length to the total distance apart of the stations. The destruction of the safety devices for the switches and signals, and, finally, the congestion of traffic, due to the insufficient number of trains, also promote delays. All the above causes contribute not a little to the bad utilisation of locomotives, without mentioning the low calorific value of the coal from the Petroshani mines, especially for engines which are not adapted for coal burning. Outside help has been insignificant. Sixty locomotives have been received from France, which have had to be put into workshops, both for assembling, and especially for cleaning the boiler tubes.

Hungarian System.

The railway system taken over from Hungary is none the better for having been used by the Germans and having been abandoned by the Hungarians, who took with them all they could. Some difficulties have arisen from the union of three railway systems—Roumania, Austria, and Hungary, in Transylvania—difficulties of different languages, different methods of working, etc., caused by the fusion of such different railway systems, will be apparent to any specialist, and their uniting will not be the work of a day, especially after such a war as this, which is not yet finished for Roumania.

The best proof of the activity of Roumanian engineers is the speed with which they have re-established the railway tracks. Three months after the evacuation the train service was resumed on all Roumanian lines, with the exception of the two large bridges over the Danube and the Sereth. The rebuilding of these bridges is continuing. The working is hindered greatly by the destruction of the safety apparatus, water installations, etc. Although of only secondary importance, they form together a sufficient cause to delay the circulation, and are the cause of the bad use of material. The state of the station buildings is the worst. Certain stations no longer exist. In this case, however, the authorities are not waiting for foreigners to help in the work, the materials for which can be found to a large degree in the country. If the country can obtain credits for materials, the work of reconstruction would proceed rapidly. It will certainly be necessary to complete existing material with new wagons and locomotives, unless these can be taken from Hungary—*i.e.*, the material belonging to the Transylvanian railways, and that which the Germans took from Roumania.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.

The position with regard to this commodity remains unchanged. The advancing tendency of prices has continued, and it is obvious that if retailers are to obtain supplies the maximum retail rates will have to be changed.

Sultanas.

The supply of sultanas is still very limited, and the strong demand keeps the level of prices high.

Coffee.

Business has been very restricted. At auction this week 2,932 packages were offered, and met with only a moderate demand. Prices obtained included East Indian bold grey-greenish and greenish 145s. to 152s. 6d., and medium 137s. for export, Costa Rica fine bold greenish 156s. to 157s. 6d., good bold and bold 151s. 6d. to 155s. 6d. The futures market has been featureless. Quotations are:—December 118s. 6d., May 109s. 3d., July 107s. 3d.

Sugar.

Both for home consumption and for export the demand is very firm, and quotations are steady with an advancing tendency. There are ample stocks in the country at the moment, and the restriction imposed during the strike was to ease distribution.

The British Sugar Beet Growers' Society state that in the coming factory season in Germany there will be about 50 fewer raw sugar factories in operation than in 1913. The area under sugar beet it is stated has declined by about 19.4 per cent., the weight and sugar content of the crops being also seriously below the average. In France the damage has been on a much larger scale. Before the war there were 250 factories turning out one million tons of sugar annually. Of this about three-quarters were consumed in France, the remaining quarter being exported. The invaders destroyed 150 factories, and to-day the production is less than 150,000 tons per annum. The world's supply has fallen greatly below the demand, and will apparently continue to fall. The society therefore point out that it is urgently necessary that England should produce, as well as consume, sugar, and no longer be, as she was before the war, wholly dependent upon imported supplies.

Oilseeds.

Linseed has been rather dull, and buyers and sellers have had difficulty in coming to terms. Quotations, Calcutta to London, October-November, 39s. per cwt., Bombay 40s. There has been little more activity in rapeseed. Quotations, ordinary Ferozepore at Hull 33s., October-November 37s.; Toria 39s. The cottonseed market has been inactive, and buyers have had the advantage. The Egyptian new crop is quoted f.a.q. 20s., while the quotation for Bombay-Hull, spot, is 17s., and for December-January 19s.

Oilcake, etc.

The market in oilcakes is much more active, as this is the season when there is the greatest demand for the land. Linseed cake at 500s., soya bean cake at 480s. to 500s., decorticated arachis cake at 480s., cottonseed cake at 400s., and rapeseed cake at 340s. to 360s., have all been in strong request. Oils are easier. Linseed oil has been done at 81s. 6d., rapeseed oil at 98s. to 102s., refined cotton oil at 100s., and crude cotton oil at 75s. to 80s., and soya bean oil at 82s.

World's Cereal Crops.

The Board of Agriculture has received the following information from the International Agricultural Institute at Rome:—The yield of wheat in Spain, Scotland, Italy, Canada, the United States, India, Japan, and Tunis is estimated at 929,525,000 cwt., or 5.6 per cent. below the 1918 crop, and 1.1 per cent. below the average yield of the five years 1913-17. The estimated production of rye for Italy, Canada, and the United States is given as 48,274,000 cwt., or 7.1 per cent. below last year's production, but 67.3 per cent. above the average crop for the years 1913-17. The barley crop for Scotland, Italy, Canada, the United States, Japan, and Tunis is estimated at 159,397,000 cwt., or 15.1 per cent. below last year's production. The estimated production of oats in Scotland, Italy, Canada, the United States, Japan, and Tunis is 491,933,000 cwt., or 18.4 per cent. below the 1918 yield. The maize crop in Italy, Canada, and the United States is estimated at 1,473,592,000 cwt., or 10.2 per cent. above the 1918 production.

TRADE CONDITIONS IN MALTA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, September 22.

Six hundred tons of white sugar have reached the island by the ss. Molchonoff, and will be available for sale to the public shortly. Only brown sugar of a very coarse type has been on the market, this being retailed at 11d. per rotolo (28 oz.). The white sugar is to be 35 per cent. higher in price.

The latest imports into the island will give some idea as to the requirements of our markets. The chief are cotton seed, frozen beef, and glass and enamel ware.

Looked at generally, the financial and commercial position of the island is very uncertain. All recognise that something will have to be done, and that quickly; but what, is another matter.

Merchants are having their licences suspended for various contraventions of the food regulations.

September 27.

White sugar has been put on the market through the agency of the local Government. The price has been fixed at 1s. 3½d. per rotolo, so there can be no profiteering at least in this particular food, whilst it is seen that with the importation of large orders already placed in Egypt, the price of this commodity will soon fall.

The price for local wheat has been fixed at 80s. per cwt. of 480 lb.

The chief imports—all in great local request—have been the cargo of sugar, rice, and leather.

TRADE WITH BULGARIA.

Import and Export Regulations.

The Bulgarian Government, by an Order dated August 6 and published in the *Official Gazette* on August 13, has introduced alterations in the control of imports and exports. From the date of the publication of the Order all previous Orders were annulled and the new Order came into force declaring the import and export of all the articles mentioned in lists annexed to the Order free from special permits for these articles. Changes in these lists (exclusions or additions of other articles) will come into force one month after publication. Special permits issued up to the date of the Order remain valid, but permits for goods not mentioned in these lists, the import or export of which should not have been effected within three months from the publication of this Order will become null and void. Every importer of goods must hold the original invoice from the vendor, certified by the chamber of commerce, society, or corporation of the exchange, or accompanied by the official exchange list, or, in the last resort, certified by some authority in the country from which the goods are exported. This invoice, signed by the importer with this declaration, "I hereby declare that the prices shown in the present invoice are the actual prices," must be deposited in duplicate with the chamber of commerce in whose district the goods are imported, or, if the Customs House is in a town where there is no chamber of commerce or committee, will be returned to the merchant.

Every merchant must sell his goods wholesale, accompanied by an invoice signed by himself and certified by the chamber of commerce or committee, who will verify the prices by those indicated in the original invoice deposited with them. The importer has the right to sell wholesale and retail, as also his buyer, but after that the last buyers can sell only retail to the consumer, when the increase on the original price (viz., that of the importer), representing the merchants' profit (excluding only the cost of carriage) must not exceed for the first sale 15 per cent. (if retail 20 per cent.), for the second sale 10 per cent. (if retail 20 per cent.), for the third sale 15 per cent., or altogether 40 per cent. Every invoice issued by the merchants in connection with the sale of imported goods must be certified by the chamber of commerce (or by the committee, where there is no chamber of commerce), so that it may be clearly shown that the merchant is selling within the limits of profit established by law. Members of chambers of commerce, in towns outside their central seat, are attached as members with a consultative voice to the local committee to advise on all questions which concern this Order. Each chamber will notify the respective committee of the name and address of its member in that town.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended September 10 were £E2,114, making the total for the year £E106,355. The corresponding figures for 1918 were £E2,910 and £E130,336.

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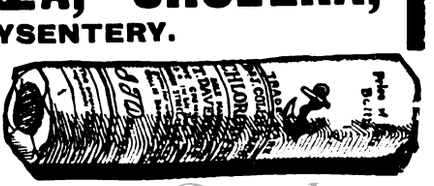

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COTTON GROWING IN MESOPOTAMIA.

By Brevet Major P. M. Hope, O.B.E.

It was good reading to find that the British Cotton Growing Association had decided to send out two experts to Mesopotamia on a mission to inspect the land there with a view of developing the growing of cotton as an industry of the country.

I have recently returned after spending three strenuous years in Mesopotamia and Persia, and I was connected as an engineer with experimental cotton gardens laid out by the Government just below Baghdad, so that any future development of the country in this form is of great interest to me, as I know from actual experience on what lines the experiments were made. I have also had an opportunity of perusing the official reports and data, and I can vouch for the great success of the experiments, and I am one of those who believe that as a cotton and cereal producing country Mesopotamia has a very great future before it.

The Government experiments were conducted by a cotton expert, who took up several acres of land about six miles below Baghdad, on the bank of the Tigris just above the junction of the Tigris and Diala rivers. Seeds were imported from all cotton growing parts of the world, and each lot of seeds was allocated to a certain block of land. All necessary tilling of the lands was done by local Arabs, mostly women. For irrigation a six-inch high-lift pump, driven by an oil engine, was fixed on the bank of the river, and the water conducted inland over the cotton field by raised earth channels. I inspected the crop after it had come up, and it certainly impressed one by reason of the large amount of cotton borne. As was natural, some seeds did much better than others, but the experiments amply proved that in a large tract of Mesopotamia there could be grown a cotton of longer staple and of at least equal quantities to anywhere in the world.

Since my return to this country, I have constantly represented the great commercial possibilities of Mesopotamia, and I was glad to notice that Sir William Marshall, speaking at Durham, after receiving a degree from Durham University, stated that in his opinion Mesopotamia would become one of the greatest cotton-producing country of the world. I do not think that any real policy has been laid down by the Civil Government as to how it is proposed to assist commercial organisations in the acquisition of land, but it appears to me that one of the soundest methods of development would be to give private enterprise every possible encouragement to take up land and thus to open up the country. It may be that the Local Government would be averse to allowing land to be purchased outright: in fact the prices ruling for land near Baghdad at present would make this course commercially impossible, but it is sincerely to be hoped that any leases granted will be drawn up on an equitable basis and allowed to be renewable at stated figures on their expiration. It has so very often happened in the initial handling of our possessions that the Governor or Commissioner has thought so much about securing the rights of the inhabitants that he has drawn up such impossible restrictions on the opening up of commercial enterprise in his jurisdiction as to put back the development of the country for many years.

It is extremely unlikely that large sums of money can be granted by the Home Government to assist Mesopotamia. It is therefore in my opinion vital for the quick development of the country that any advances made by large commercial organisations of this country to open up trade by investing capital in Mesopotamia should be met with sympathetic consideration by the Civil Government, and if that is done I have little doubt that British commercial firms will only be too willing to take a hand in making Mesopotamia one of the most prosperous adjuncts of the British Empire, and in developing through Mesopotamia Persia.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The settlement of the railway dispute during the past week has been welcomed by traders in all sections of the market. With this obstacle removed buyers and sellers have been able to make progress. Inquiry has been very substantial, the tone strong, and the turnover in yarn and cloth larger. Advices relating to the Egyptian crop have again been favourable, and the plants are said to be doing well. Demand in Egypt for yarns has shown an improvement, and spinners have been very firm in quotation, in fact, there has been a tendency for rates to be advanced. Business in cloth for Egypt and the Near East generally has been substantial, although more business probably would have been done if buyers could have secured earlier delivery than most makers have been willing to grant. An encouraging trade has been done in cloth for India, chiefly in miscellaneous fabrics. Grey shirtings, sheetings, and fancies have been in steady request for China. Rather more activity has transpired in home trade circles. Prices in home American yarns have been advanced, and transactions have been on a larger scale. Export descriptions have again attracted considerable attention.

The Egyptian Crop.

Recent reports relating to the Egyptian cotton crop for the current season have been favourable, and there seems to be every probability of a substantial yield. The plants are rather backward, but the general conditions are satisfactory, and it is stated that the pink boll worm is doing less damage than usual. The area under cultivation is estimated at 1,573,662 feddans against 1,315,572 feddans last year, and 1,677,308 feddans in 1917. It is rather early for any definite forecast to be published of the probable output this season, but according to some authorities the crop is expected to be between 6,000,000 and 6,250,000 cantars. Last year the acreage was restricted by order of the Government, and the growth only amounted to about 4,826,000 cantars. In the previous season of 1917-18 the yield was 6,316,000 cantars.

Cotton Trade Prosperity.

It is usual for numerous Lancashire cotton spinning companies to take stock at the end of September, and the results just announced are striking. According to a table of fifty reports, all the companies have made a distribution to shareholders, and in no case has the dividend been less than 10 per cent. per annum. One company has paid a dividend at the rate of 120 per cent. per annum, and another at the rate of 80 per cent. per annum. Three concerns have paid 40 per cent., five 30 per cent., three 25 per cent., twenty-three 20 per cent., six 15 per cent., and eight 10 per cent. per annum. Certain companies, in addition to paying a substantial dividend, have decided to increase the paid-up capital by paying calls out of past profits. For instance, the directors of the Dale Mill, Rochdale, are paying a call of 10s., and the directors of Era Mill, Rochdale, are paying a call of £1 out of profits. A bonus call of 20s. a share is being paid by the Haugh Mill at Newhey, and the directors of the Mons Mill, Todmorden, are paying a bonus call of 10s., whilst the Newhey Ring Mill is increasing its paid-up capital by 30s. a share out of profits. The New Ladyhouse Mill at Milnrow is paying a bonus call of £1 a share. The results just announced are probably the best ever recorded by Lancashire spinning companies, and it is probable that this record will even be exceeded by the companies that take stock at the end of December.

IRRIGATION IN INDIA IN 1918-19.

The "Review of Irrigation in British India" in 1917-18 shows that during that period the area irrigated amounted to almost 26,000,000 acres, or about 40,625 square miles. Productive works were responsible for 16,922,000 acres of this area. The capital outlay of the year on productive irrigation works amounted to nearly 57¾ crores of rupees. The gross revenue reached Rs.701½ lakhs, and working expenses nearly Rs.216⅜ lakhs. The net revenue, at a little over 485 lakhs, represents a return of 8.40 per cent. on the total capital outlay. The total areas irrigated by thirty-six protective works in operation amounted to 497,000 acres. The net revenue was only a little over one lakh, equivalent to 0.10 per cent. on the total outlay. This low return is partly due to expenditure on works under construction which are not yet earning.

It is reported that the Indian authorities have sanctioned a proposal to establish aerodromes for commercial purposes at Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi, Nagpur, Madras, Rangoon, Singapore, and Delhi. The Government advocate the formation of a big company independent of any aircraft construction company, with a monopoly for the carriage of mails for ten years.

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Engineering Notes.

New Fiat Car.

A new 20-25 h.p. six-cylinder car was presented by the Fiat Company at the Paris Salon, and will be produced by them during the coming season. This car, which presents a very neat appearance, is notable for the care which has been taken to render every part fully accessible. The engine, clutch and gearbox form a unit secured in the frame by four point attachment. The steering gear is bolted to this unit, and it carries all the carburettor, ignition, clutch and brake controls. The cylinders are a single casting with detachable head, this system having been adopted because of the greater accuracy it gives in boring and grinding, and also because of the facility it affords for cleaning out carbon deposit. The crankshaft is of the balanced type carried in four plain bearings. The greatest care has been taken to secure accurate balancing, with the result that the engine is absolutely free from vibration at all speeds. The valves are on one side and naturally have their stems inclosed. The magneto and water pump are driven by means of a cross shaft, this arrangement giving the maximum of accessibility to these two organs. The fan, a four-blade cast aluminium, is driven by a belt from the crankshaft. The electric generator is of circular section and is received in a circular extension of the timing gear housing.

New Type of Carburettor.

The carburettor is an entirely new double type with a single float chamber and is provided with two slow running and two high speed jets. All the hot air for the carburettor is drawn in around the valve stems, but instead of passing through a gauze in the valve stem cover, it is admitted at the rear of the cylinder block. All the petrol is contained in a tank at the rear, and is brought forward by means of an air pump driven off the camshaft. A single aluminium housing containing both the clutch and the gears is bolted to the rear face of the engine base chamber. The rear axle is an entirely new construction. The axle casing, which also encloses the propeller shaft, is formed of two steel stampings which are welded together into a very light but rigid housing. On the rear face of the central portion of the axle housing there is a detachable plate which carries the whole of the differential and the crown wheel. Both sets of brakes are now on the rear wheels and are operated by lever and pedal through flexible steel cables. The six-cylinder chassis has a wheelbase of 129 inches and a track of 55 inches, with a length of 106 inches available for the body. The speed with full touring body is 56 miles an hour.

Mesopotamia's Oilfields.

Germany, who kept a very keen eye on the mineral wealth of Asia Minor, showed a particular interest in Mesopotamia, whose oil deposits appear, according to German investigations, to form the western limit of the vast system of petroliferous strata which extend from the Apsheron Peninsula (Baku and neighbourhood) on the Caspian Sea to the mountainous frontiers of Persia and to Baluchistan. The Ahwaz wells are situated in the neighbourhood of the Persian Gulf, and their oil has proved, according to German opinion, to have splendid qualities as a liquid fuel. The most productive areas of Mesopotamia are found at Mendeli, of which the oil has a similar, and not inferior, composition to that of Baku. The deposit of Hit, on the Euphrates, is noted for its numerous and good bituminous springs, which rival the asphalts of Trinidad. The springs of Mendeli and Hit, and those of Ramadi and Nafata, also on the banks of the Euphrates, belong to the vilayet of Baghdad and to that of Mosul, situated to the north-east of the first-named. Here also are the still richer springs of Kerkuk, where the oil appears on the surface, as well as those of Tuz-Kharmati, Kifri, Gahara, and Nimrod. At Kerkuk the oil is obtained in many places from hand-dug wells three or four metres deep. The total production, of a value of 30,000 to 40,000 piastres, was sent during the war, according to a German version, into Kurdistan. At Kerkuk is the celebrated spring mentioned by Strabo, the source of the "eternal fires" worshipped by the Arabs. At Sulphur Mountain, Kifri, where there are the ruins of an ancient Sassanid castle, about half-a-dozen rich oil springs flow. Generally in this region the oil sources are found in the faults of gypsum beds, the oil above salt springs, and the local Arabs utilize both the salt and the oil, sending all to Baghdad. Except the petroliferous area of Tuz-Kharmati, all the fields above mentioned were the property of the Turkish civil list. The Sultan Abdul Hamid had intended to develop on his personal account all the discovered sources, but the project was not carried into effect. Before the war it was said that French and English syndicates had made all possible efforts to obtain charters for developing the oilfields of Turkey; there was even a question of a Turkish syndicate. The Turkish Government, on the other hand, had the idea of a State monopoly for the development of all its oilfields. According to German opinion, a rational development of the oilfields of Mesopotamia is severely handicapped by the great difficulties of transport, but as the British, the Germans say, have shown at Ahwaz, these difficulties can easily be surmounted. The above-named deposits are situated partly in the neighbourhood of the Baghdad railway, whence branch lines could easily be constructed. The rich oil deposits of Gahara are even crossed by this line, and there being no cheap coal, the locomotives of this line and its branches could with great advantage burn oil fuel.

An Important Amalgamation.

The reported amalgamation of five leading British agricultural machinery and implement manufacturers will, undoubtedly, have a far-reaching effect in the present "Trade Struggle" which, since the cessation of hostilities, is carried on with acute energy throughout the East for economic and trade supremacy in that region. The amalgamation has been formed under the title of "The Agricultural and General Engineers, Limited, the amount of capital involved being £3,000,000. The firms concerned are Messrs. Aveling and Porter, Ltd., Rochester; Messrs. Richard Garret and Sons., Ltd., Leiston; Messrs. E. H. Bentall and Co., Ltd., Heybridge; Messrs. J. and F. Howard, Ltd., Bedford; and Messrs. Blackstone and Co., Ltd., Stamford. The names of these firms, apart from being household words in the agricultural engineering industry of this country, are familiar to the agriculturists and others in the Near and Middle East, the Balkan States, and South Russia, where for many years in the past they were among the principal suppliers of agricultural implements, machinery, traction engines, steam-road-rollers, etc. The object of the amalgamation is, according to authoritative information, to secure a world-wide expansion of all branches of the agricultural engineering trade, and the prospects of attaining this are described as "magnificent." Mass production upon scientific lines will be aimed at, but the works of the various firms will remain entirely under the control of their own boards of directors. Commercial efficiency will be sought by thorough organisation of the productive and sales side of the business; but while the works will be solely concerned with production, from the London offices of the new body the whole question of selling will be dealt with. In view of the systematic commercial and economic energy of foreign competitors in the Near East, developments in the progress of the amalgamation will be awaited with much interest in those markets.

Method to Economise Coal.

The unsettled "coal crisis" and the continuous advance in the price of coal are causing considerable anxiety to householders as well as to manufacturers and steam users. Coal may be roughly divided into three groups—anthracite, with over 90 per cent. of carbon and a smokeless flame; bituminous coal, with 70 to 80 per cent. of carbon, used for household purposes; and steam coal, intermediate in character between the two. As the second category is of general interest at present, we will describe here what the effect is of gas chlorine on bituminous coal. It has been proved that if such coal be immersed in water containing chlorine in solution, the coal absorbs the gas to the extent of 0.10 per cent. Small though this proportion is, the effect on the bituminous fuel is remarkable, causing it to burn like anthracite coal—i.e., slowly and without the formation of soot or smoke or much ash. In boiler tests the evaporation has proved to be 25 per cent. better with chlorinated bituminous slack than with similar but untreated material. The process is very cheap, and coal so treated will not burn in the present wasteful way, which means considerable economy of fuel and with better results.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

ENGINEER.—Englishman with extensive experience in Turkey and Near East in the erection of Oil and Gas Engines, Suction Gas Plants, Steam Engines, Thrashing and Flour Milling Machinery, etc., etc., speaks Turkish. Wishes either erection of plant or permanent situation.—Box 144, THE NEAR EAST, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

STAMBOUL, September 20.

The following extracts are from a recent report received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

The market remains active and prices are maintained despite the low exchange and the continued depreciation in Russian and Roumanian paper money. The arrivals of the week, of small importance, have been, as usual, bought up for the Black Sea ports, principally Batoum and Novorossisk. The tendency of the market is clearly towards higher prices, and it is not thought that the position will be changed within the next six months, the term of the delivery of the last orders for manufacturers.

Produce.

There is a downward tendency, following the decline in the rates of exchange on Europe.

Sugar.—Independently of that reason, successive offerings from the centres of production have had the effect here of inducing holders to try to dispose of their stocks at very low prices. The quotation for Java sugar for October delivery is £57-£58 the ton, and the futures market is £60-£61 the ton. American sugar is quoted 104s. to 108s. 100 kilos. Arrivals, two vessels containing 250 wagon loads of American. Stocks here about 650 wagon loads.

Coffee.—There is no change to report. There have been no arrivals and the market is quiet.

Rice.—The falling tendency of this commodity continues. Arrivals of the week: 15 wagon loads of American. Prices: Ps.42 to Ps.45 the oke, according to quality.

Exports.

The decline in foreign exchange has also influenced the prices of the products of the country, which have fallen.

Opium.—The market has been inactive and sales have been insignificant. 2 cases of Druggist Karahissar at Ps.7.70, against 7.90 the previous week; 7 cases of Soft I. Hadji-Keuy at Ps.10.70.

Mohair.—Arrivals of the week, 140 bales. Sales: 78 at Ps.80 the oke, prices showing a decline of Ps.5 the oke.

Wool.—No arrivals or sales; market quiet.

Silk.—A dozen bales of silk from Broussa were sold at £T12.70 the oke, against £T13 the previous week. Syrian is completely ignored at £T10.25 nominal.

Cereals.—Wheat, Ps.12 to 14 the oke, according to quality; barley, Ps.6¾-7 the oke, according to quality. Flour, extra, £T13 the sack; 1, £T12 the sack; 2, £T11 the sack. There has been a fall of £T½ on the prices of the previous week.

The India Office announces that the applications received at the sixth sale in New York of telegraphic transfers on India totalled Rs.1,13,63,000. The average rate realised was 43.0945 cents per rupee. At the seventh sale to be held next week the amount offered will be Rs.30,00,000, and the minimum price will be 42¾ cents per rupee.

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"We cannot speak too highly of it."—LANCET. **SARSAPARILLA**

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"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—EARL OF ALDBOROUGH.

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PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. **ARABIA.** **MESOPOTAMIA.**

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Shipping at Malta.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, September 22.

It has been a fairly busy week. The latest and most notable arrivals and sailings have been as follows :—

Arrivals.—s.s. Calypso from Algiers, s.s. Brodhurst from Madagascar and Port Said, s.s. Glengorm Castle from Marseilles, H.M.S. Speedy from Marseilles, s.s. Caledonia from Alexandria, and H.M.S. Coras from Fiume.

Sailings.—H.M.S. T.B.D. Tribune, s.s. Vesta for Piræus, s.s. Calypso for Marseilles, and s.s. Caledonia for London.

There seems to be a desire to establish a Mail Service between Malta and Syracuse as in pre-war days. At that time it was undertaken by the Adria Steamship Company. There can be no doubt that a daily service would prove of great commercial value, and it is a pity that local capitalists do not come forward to fill the breach. Naturally Government support ought to be forthcoming.

September 27.

This week the arrival of the depot ship H.M.S. Ambrose and six submarines of the L class has aroused great local interest, since, although the Island was on one of the main high-roads to the East, and was a great port of military and naval call during the war, few submarines of a modern type were seen in the port. In addition to the above, H.M. ships Donovan, Boxol, and the oiler Derdgal are in port. Other notable arrivals are also chiefly naval. H.M. Trawler Andrew King and T.B.D. Tribune.

Freight Markets.

There is still a great shortage of tonnage and the demand holds good. The outward coal markets are firm. Fixtures are reported from Wales at 20s.; Liverpool, 17s. 6d.; London, 45s.; Gibraltar, option Aden, 55s. The Mediterranean markets are also firm, Alexandria fixing up to 55s. Inquiries were circulating for the Near East, and Aden was fixed at 55s., this being the first fixture reported for some time past. The Eastern markets are exceedingly dull and India has done a very poor business. On scale basis, Karachi or Bombay would pay 105s. to this country, and on deadweight up to 125s. might be conceded. Jute from Calcutta would pay 180s.

The United States Shipping Board rates on coal from North Atlantic ports and Charleston S.C. are, per ton, to Piræus 134s.; Salonika, 124s.; Constantinople, Constanza, Smyrna, 124s.; Alexandria and Port Said, 124s.

CYPRUS CAROB CROP.

(From A Correspondent.)

The carob crop is estimated to be about 30 per cent. less than that of last year. The present price is 32s. to 34s. the Aleppo kantar, at Limassol. Carob growers have had an unusual experience in failing to obtain sufficient labourers for the gathering of the beans. In some places the villagers who usually seek employment said it would not pay them to leave their villages owing to the shortage; and considerable difficulty was caused. At Limassol, the principal place of export, the *namals* (porters) struck for higher wages, stating that they were not paid a living wage. The merchants were obliged to concede higher rates.

COMPANY MEETING.

Assam Railways and Trading.

The annual general meeting of the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Ltd., was held on October 9 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, Lord Ribblesdale (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. S. M. Jack) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the effect of the epidemic of influenza, to which he had referred at the last meeting of the company, had proved to be much greater than at first had been anticipated It had not only made itself felt on the immediate coal out-turn, but had left as a legacy a good deal of maintenance work undone which had had to be made good at subsequent dates before the collieries could be put upon their proper footing. The reduction in the coal output was the outstanding feature of the year; it had also reduced traffic earnings on the railway and had influenced the whole of the accounts under consideration. Another thing from which they had suffered—in fact, it was affecting them more in the current year than in the twelve months covered by the accounts—was that they had been feeling the effects of the long period through the war during which they had been unable to ship supplies to India. They had suffered and were still suffering from a shortage of wire rope and of pit tubs, both essential for working the mines. Things were getting better, but those were additional difficulties which had hampered them in getting production back to its normal condition. Having started the year with good stocks of coal, they had been enabled to maintain to a great extent their position of the previous year, but they had been prevented from extending and supplying many of the markets in which, in the ordinary course, they would have done business had their coal supplies been available. Quantities sold had been practically the same as in the previous year, but owing to improved prices a higher total figure for the coal sold had been obtained.

Generally the colliery year had been a very difficult one, but most of the difficulties had been overcome or were in process of being overcome, and they were returning to their ordinary position. The collieries, the board was assured, were in thoroughly good order, and Mr. Harris, their colliery adviser, had sailed for India and would report on the collieries for the information of the board. As to the railway, traffics were slightly less. Coaching traffic was less owing to the number of trains having been reduced, and to the fact that the increased cost of living among the native population in Assam had rendered the native disinclined to travel so much. In goods the chief decrease had been in the carriage of coal. They had also carried less tea, but on the whole, taking present conditions into consideration, traffics were not disappointing. On the other side, the board were able to point to a decrease in expenditure. Possibly that might have resulted in part from their inability to carry out work which might have been done had material been available, but the line and all the rolling stock had been well maintained. In connection with the railway, too, it was important to note that in relation to the right of the Government to purchase the line at the end of 1921, they had recently heard from the Secretary of State that subject to certain conditions with which the company had had no difficulty in agreeing to comply, the Government had decided not to buy the line at present, which would postpone until 1931 the right to purchase it. They had recently been in negotiation with the Government to secure fresh timber concessions, and extensive areas on each side of the line had been granted to them. The intention of the board was considerably to extend their timber business, and in particular they intended to develop the supply of railway sleepers, which would be treated with preservatives by a method which the Assam Oil Company had tested, and for which that undertaking would supply most of the necessary ingredients. The "New Garden" referred to in the report was being opened between Digboi and Tingrai Station, and from all reports opportunities at that spot were favourable, and the development would be conducive to the benefit of the company. The Assam Oil Company had increased its rate of dividend to 8 per cent., and the Makum Company had again paid 20 per cent., while the Rivers Company had paid the same dividend. As to Namdang, he hoped that by March 31 next a much smaller figure would be shown as owing by that company. The actual result of the year's working was a profit of £106,654, as against £108,953.

Mr. Butler seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The dividends paid and to be paid, as set out in the report, were sanctioned and approved, the retiring directors and the auditors were reappointed, and a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors terminated the meeting.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

East Indian Railway Company.—The registers of holders of the 3 per cent. new debenture stock and the 3½ per cent. debenture stock will be closed from October 14 to November 3, both days inclusive, for the purpose of preparing warrants for the payment of interest for the three months ending November 3.

The directors of the Scottish Ceylon Tea Company have declared an interim dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

GREEK HONOUR FOR LORD MAYOR AND SHERIFFS.

The King of the Hellenes has conferred upon the Lord Mayor the Cross of Grand Commander of the Order of George I. and upon the ex-Sheriffs, Sir Banister Fletcher and Sir William R. Smith, the Commandership of the same Order, in celebration of the victorious conclusion of the war and the establishment of peace. The Greek Minister (M. Caclamanos) invested them with the insignia at the Mansion House on October 8.

Mr. Robert Gladstone, of Liverpool, retired merchant, formerly of Messrs. Ogilvy Gillanders and Co., for eleven years chairman of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, formerly chairman of the East India and China Section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, who died on July 12, aged 85 years, left unsettled property of the gross value of £143,058, with net personalty £134,340.

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The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

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The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

Excepting in the oil department, business this week has been extremely quiet in nearly all the stocks we quote, and here and there the market has inclined to be on the easy side. Among Government stocks, Egyptian Unifieds have been especially weak, changing hands as low as 77¼, at which price they close. The 3½ per Cent. Prefs. are also a shade easier, closing at 65½.

In Bank shares, Nationals have been steadily absorbed at the current price of 19½, while Agriculturals have been in rather strong demand on local buying, and have been pushed up to 5¾.

Prices for Railway stocks are all unchanged.

In Land descriptions Aboukirs are a little harder at 27s. 9d., and Sudan Plantations have also been in rather good demand, closing in the neighbourhood of 7 15-16.

In the Miscellaneous group there are no changes to report.

The Oil market has predominated during the whole of the week; it has been exceedingly strong and active. Anglo-Egyptians are closing at 5 31-32, Roumanians at 24s., and Traians at 11s. 6d.; these are all notable increases, especially the last two, the quotations last week having been 5⅜, 20s. 9d., and 8s. respectively.

Among Greek securities the only change to report is a fall in the 1914 Loan to 74½.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from September 9 to October 3 were 2,270,000 francs against 820,000 last year.

The report on the Maritime Trade and Customs Administration of Burma for 1918-19 shows that the export of rice and paddy from Burma, including Burma and Indian ports, was 2,487,171 tons of the value of Rs. 24,13.91 lakhs, against 2,058,631 tons valued at Rs. 18,52.73 lakhs for the previous year.

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"I was a stranger and ye took me in."

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD., 4, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Oct. 2	Price Oct. 9
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	50	50⅜
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	80	80
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	78½	77¼
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	66	65½
Greek 5%, 1881	70	70
Do. 5%, 1884	68	68
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	56	56
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	54xd	54
Do. 5% 1890	70	70
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	65	65
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	66	66
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	60xd	60
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	75½	74½
Do. 5% Currant	94	94
Montenegro 5% Loan	70½	72½
Persia 5% 1911	82¼	83
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	64	64
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	—	76½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	—	63
Do. 4% Unified	—	50¼
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅝	5⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¼	7¼
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17⅛	17⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	34/-	34/-
Bank of Athens	65/-	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	8	8
British Trade Corporation	10½	10½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	10½	10½
Imperial Bank of Persia	10⅞	10⅝
Ionian Bank, Limited	6	6¼
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6¼	6¼
London County and Westminster	16¼	16¼
National Bank of Egypt	19½	19½
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅝	6⅝
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	13	13
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	65½	65½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	65⅞	65½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	68½	68
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	56	55
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	27/-	27/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	13¾	13¾
Do. Pref.	4½	4½
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	2/9	2/9
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	13/9	13/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	13/6	13/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅛	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	23/-	23/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅛	2⅛
Sudan Plantations	7⅛	7⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	3⅝	3⅝
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	11⅝	11⅝
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	1⅛
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	2⅛	2⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5½	5½
Do. Do. Prefs.	4¼	4¼
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	97½	98½
Chinese 4½% 1898	78	78
Do. 5% 1896	88xd	88xd
Argentine 5% 1890	83	83½
Do. 5% 1907	87	87
OIL.		
Anglo-Egyptian B	5⅜	5⅜
Anglo-Persian	25/11	26/9
Anglo-Roumanian	9/4½	10/6
Roumanian	20/9	24/-
Traian (Roumanian)	8/-	11/6

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	61⅜	63⅜
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	66¼	64
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
	Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959	80	80
	Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	71½	73½
	Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938	75	75½
BANKS.			
	Chartered of India	80xd	80
	Eastern	9¼	9¼
	Mercantile of India A	37½	38
	National of India	55	55xd
MINES.			
	Balaghat Gold Mining	5/-	4/6
	Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	⅝	⅝
	Burma Corp.	9⅞	11 7/32
	Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	14/1½	14/6
	Champion Reef Gold	4/-	4/3
	Mysore Gold Mining	1⅛	1¼
	Nundydroog	14/6	14/-xd
	Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	15/-	14/9
	Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	1 1/16	1⅛
	Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)	¾	¾
OIL.			
	Assam Oil	2⅜	2⅝
	Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	1⅛	1⅛
	Brit. Burmah	2⅛	2⅜
	Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	14½	14⅝
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	1⅝	1⅝
	Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.	10½	10½

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES

Continued—

RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	54	54½
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	135½	135⅝
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	59½	60
Bengal-Nagpur	116	116
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	105	105
Burma Railways	111½	112
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13	13
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	12¾	12¾
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	13¼	13¼
Madras and S. Mahratta	102½	103⅛
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	129½	129⅝
Nizam's Guaranteed State	76	76
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	10⅝	11xd
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	9½	9¾
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	92½	92⅝
Do. Deferred	590	620
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	69	70
Bengal United Tea Ord.	16½	16½
British Indian Tea Ord.	9	9¼
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17	17
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	11/-	11/3
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	6⅜	6⅜
Consolidated Estates	6⅜	6⅜
Darjeeling Co.	19/3	19/3
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	2½	60/-
Dooars Tea Ord.	3 1/16	3⅛
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	⅞	⅞
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	5/	3
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	30/-	30/3
Hewagam Rubber Co.	⅞	1
Jhanzie Tea Association	1⅛	10½
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	22	22¼
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	20/-	20/-
Lanka Plantations Ord.	19/3	19/3
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	54/6	54/6
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	44/-	2 7/32
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14	14½
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	30/-	1½

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Aug. 29 Rs.	Sept. 5. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	68	68
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	292xd	292xd
Bank of Bengal	1965	1965
Bank of Bombay	2330	2330
Bank of Madras	1500	1500
Bank of India	181	187
Tata Industrial Bank	81	82½
COAL.		
Baraboni	19	19
Bengal	935	935
Burrakur	50½	50⅝
East Indian	39	39
Equitable	51	50½
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	72	72
Standard	72	68
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	280	280
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	1885	1880
Bowreah	430	430
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	662½	700
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	550	575
Central India	2740 / 1370	2735 / 1367½
Elgin	125	125
Gold Mohur	1500	1500
Khatau Makanji	4200	4200
Muir	120	120
New Ring	180	180
Phœnix	640	660
Svadeshi	2760	2800
JUTE.		
Alliance	782	94
Barnagore	191	200
Budge Budge	630	640
Clive	300	320
Dalhousie	500	543
Delta	635	642
Fort Gloster	939	910
Gourepore	1131	1181
Howrah	47	49½
Kamarhatty	840	872
Kanknarrah	650	720
Khardah	460	460
Kinnison	950	930
National	400	400
Standard	645	662
Union	863	840
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	102	102
Bengal Timber Trading	433	433
Burn and Co.	340	350
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	226	226½
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	221	207½xd
Howrah Oil Mills	45	44½
India General St'm.	180½	180½
Indian Iron and Steel	110	110
Marshall Sons and Co.	112	103
Titaghur Paper	17	18
	400	400

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 441.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The prolongation of the political deadlock in Yugoslavia is as much a matter for regret among the friends of the new kingdom as it is a source of weakness to the country itself. Failure to evolve a working agreement between the chief parties had intensified mutual animosities, and M. Pashitch was reported to have been summoned to act as peacemaker. The rôle would have been a novel one for the veteran statesman of Serbia, who was bitterly attacked during the war for his uncompromising policy and autocratic methods. But the Prince-Regent has made a fifth effort to find a less violent solution by entrusting M. Drashkovitch, a member of the Davidovitch Cabinet, with the task of forming a Ministry. It is certain that Yugoslavia is in urgent need of reaching some political settlement which will enable the country to proceed with its constitutional organisation and to devote more attention to economic reconstruction. The Paris Conference provided the opportunity for removing M. Pashitch's vigorous personality from the administration of the new State, but Yugoslavia has not found political salvation during his absence. From a distance it would seem as if political parties were looking to strengthening their own positions, instead of allowing the political sagacity of the new kingdom as a whole to assert itself through a Constituent Assembly and the regrouping of parties in the light of altered conditions.

The resignation of the Bulgarian Prime Minister follows upon the success of the Agrarian Party at the recent elections rather than as a direct consequence of the conditions of peace imposed upon Bulgaria. Indeed, if it be true that M. Theodoroff, although not a member of M. Stamboliski's Government, will remain at the head of the Bulgarian Peace Delegation, the decision suggests the inference that the Bulgarians intend to accept their fate philosophically. In the Delegation as originally constituted the five chief political parties were all represented, and there was little chance of anyone seeking to make political capital out of the failure to secure better peace terms. The present arrangement of retaining the services of M. Theodoroff in Paris is the best for all concerned, although his personal reluctance to sign a treaty which hands over to Serbia part of the district of Tsaribrod, which he has represented in Parliament off and on for twenty-five years, can be understood. But he has earned the goodwill and respect of the Powers represented in the Allied Military Mission at Sofia by his correct and tactful attitude, and in this way he has done much to lessen the prejudice created by Bulgaria's action in the war.

M. Stamboliski's career will be watched with interest outside Bulgaria. As head of the Agrarian Party his political outlook is mainly bounded by domestic problems, and it will be no bad thing for the country if, for a season while foreign affairs offer a more or less barren field for Bulgarian statesmanship, the whole attention of the Government and people is concentrated on internal reform and material progress. M. Stamboliski came into special prominence as an outspoken critic of King Ferdinand's policy; but if he was ever driven to coquet with Republican theories, there is no reason to suppose that the attitude survived King Ferdinand's reign for long. The interval between the signing of the Armistice and the Peace Terms has been long enough to enable the majority of Bulgarians to recognise that they have in King Boris an able and essentially democratic sovereign as well as a valuable asset to the country. His tenure of the throne is the best possible guarantee against the nation being exploited by personal ambition and political antagonism carried to excess.

The political situation in Turkey is somewhat disquieting. The new Cabinet is reported to be in close touch with Mustapha Kemal Pasha, the "Nationalist" leader, who has issued a manifesto assuring it of his support; and it now appears to be quite within the bounds of possibility that the Cabinet may attempt to follow the old policy of the Committee of Union and Progress. Such a development could hardly please anybody outside Turkey, with the exception of the Germans and, apparently, the *Temps*, which shows a disposition to welcome the new Government as likely to favour French interests—presumably financial. For the rest, the obscurity of the situation and the conflicting reports that come to hand make it advisable to suspend judgment until Ali Riza Pasha and his colleagues are more firmly in the saddle, before endeavouring to guess in which direction they will ride.

The report that General Allenby was cutting short his visit and returning in haste to Egypt not unnaturally gave rise to rumours that things there had taken a turn for the worse. The report was promptly contradicted, and it was officially announced that General Allenby is returning in a few days only because his period of leave will then have expired. It is

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obvious, however, that Egypt remains extremely restless, and the latest move of the Extremists is to endeavour to secure a boycott of the Milner Commission, if it should begin its labours before the Peace terms with Turkey are settled. According to a Paris report, the British Government has actually abandoned the idea of the Commission, but it is impossible to credit such a rumour. To give way now to the clamour of the students, the disaffected junior officials, and the rest of Zaghlul Pasha's noisy following would be most unwise. It would certainly be regarded as a sign of weakness, and the less rabid of the "Nationalists," who have broken away to some extent from the extremist influence, and are showing an inclination to endeavour to come to terms direct with England, would be thrown back into the arms of Zaghlul Pasha. However distasteful the fact may be to the "Nationalists," Great Britain is in Egypt to stay; she recognises the responsibility placed upon her to ascertain how best she can serve the country in the new world conditions brought about by the war; and she has appointed the Commission to help her in performing her duty. In such circumstances she is unlikely to be turned from her path by methods hitherto followed by the Zaghlulites.

The appointment of General Gouraud as French High Commissioner in Syria has led to a fresh discussion of the Syrian Question by the French Press. Suspicion of Great Britain is, happily, less in evidence, though by no means entirely absent; but there is clearly a very sore feeling on the subject, and the Emir Faisal is coming in for some criticism which would be called vulgar if it came from any other quarter than Paris. Even if there were no question of mandates for any portion of the lands peopled by Arabs, the Emir would have before him a task of extreme difficulty; and the misunderstandings—many of them avoidable—over the question have made it the more difficult. But the Prince has shown himself a statesman of no mean parts, if not moulded strictly on conventional lines, and it would be as unwise as it would be ungenerous to predict that he will not prove equal to overcoming all the difficulties he may have to encounter. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Paris Press may soon adopt a more friendly tone towards him, and a less querulous one in regard to the Syrian Question generally. General Gouraud has set an admirable example in a statement he has made through an interviewer, but it would be idle to pretend that the example has been widely followed yet.

Among the men who know the facts there will probably be a substantial measure of agreement with the main conclusions reached by Sir George Buchanan in the series of articles on Mesopotamia published recently in *The Times*. The country, in his view, is not at the moment an Eldorado; immediate possibilities of trade exist, but the development of production must be slow, and the irrigation works, on which almost everything depends, must themselves wait on the increase of the population. The immediate need is to check extravagant expenditure, and put the finances on a sound basis; otherwise the drain on this country is likely to be great, while the chances of an adequate return are small. Perhaps these conclusions can best be summarised by saying that what Mesopotamia needs just now is a strong civil administrator, a man of the type of Cromer, always ready to go forward, but never forgetting to cut the coat according to the cloth.

Perhaps we shall be considered fanciful if we suggest that the pace of development will depend largely on the progress made in designing tractors for use in agriculture. The immediate need of Mesopotamia is men, and in Asia the area which men can cultivate is at present limited strictly by the pace of the oxen which they drive; replace oxen by tractors, and a given population can till much more ground, so that irrigation schemes would become remunerative far more quickly than is possible under existing conditions. The tractor has come with a rush; three years ago it was a name, and now it can almost be described as an integral part of English agriculture. Even the latest models are not in our judgment sufficiently "fool-proof" for widespread use in Asia, but the course of mechanical invention is usually from complexity to simplicity, and experts in India are, we know, watching eagerly for a model suited to their special needs; if that model should happily materialise, Mesopotamia, and the other waste spaces of Asia, could go ahead, and the world would be very much richer than it is to-day.

The reassembling of the Joint Committee on Indian Reform was marked by an important development of the case for the opposition; the heavy artillery came quickly into play, and by this time the members know the worst that is to be said about the official scheme. Sir William Duke and Sir James Brunyate have spoken against the emasculation of the Secretary of State's Council, perhaps the most dubious item on Mr. Montagu's ambitious programme; Sir Thomas Holland has pleaded for the maintenance of central control over the development of industries in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission over which he presided; Sir John Hewett and Sir Michael O'Dwyer have stated the case for unified government, and thus attacked the very foundation of the Reform Bill; his Highness the Aga Khan has urged the grant of the suffrage to women, and the introduction of such constitutional expedients as the Referendum and the Initiative; while Mr. Booth Tucker, of the Salvation Army, has very properly been allowed to speak for the backward and depressed classes, the people who never had a chance before we went to India, and who stand to lose most by a restoration of anything like oligarchy.

From some points of view Mr. Booth Tucker is the most interesting witness who has appeared before the Committee. The Salvation Army in India has a worthy record. Deficient perhaps in that worldly wisdom which characterises the older ecclesiastical institutions, be they Christian, Moslem, or Hindu, the Army has tackled with zeal and devotion some of the problems which those institutions have usually been content to shirk; it can show well-laid foundations and a certain amount of definite achievement; and, though the statement will probably be repudiated, it has undoubtedly set the example for those philanthropical movements which are beginning to take a place among the activities of the Indian *intelligenzia*. There is no one in India better qualified than Mr. Booth Tucker to speak of the limitations, the failings and the aspirations—for there are aspirations—of the depressed and oppressed classes who constitute such an important fraction of the population, and the Committee can scarcely fail to have been impressed by his plea for the maintenance of the British element in the administration, the element in which these classes have found, as he said, a warm and consistent friend.

When, however, Mr. Booth Tucker condemns the Dyarchy on the specific ground that it is non-Indian, we think his argument goes a little astray. The Dyarchy is not Indian, but neither is the spirit in which the Salvation Army works. The pride of spiritual ascendancy, the rigours of social ostracism, the sterilising influence of caste, even the existence of the criminal tribes, everything in fact against which the Army fights, is distinctly Indian, the necessary product of Indian ideas and institutions carried to their logical development. The Salvation Army stands for the essentially British principle that every man should have a fair chance of "making good," and if we are to condemn Dyarchy because it is non-Indian, we must condemn Mr. Booth Tucker's work on precisely the same ground. We do not, however, condemn it, because we hold that India now needs to assimilate certain Western ideas, of which equality of opportunity is perhaps the most important; and nearly the strongest argument for the Dyarchy is that it may be regarded as the first step on the long and difficult road leading to this eventual result.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 24.

The Zaghlul Delegation.

For some time past there have been rumours of a split in the Zaghlul Delegation; but although various members had returned to Egypt, pains had been taken to explain that their return was not due to disagreement, but in order to attend to their own affairs and to carry out certain work for the Delegation. Confirmation of the rumours has, however, now been vouchsafed, in the form of a statement issued by the local Committee to the effect that two of the members, of whom Ismail Sidky Pasha, one of the "martyred four" is one, have no longer any connection with the Delegation. From inquiries made in trustworthy quarters, I gather that these two gentlemen, together with Hussein Pasha Wassef, another influential member, severed their connection with Zaghlul Pasha and his fellow-delegates because they considered that he should work through London, and not continue through the channels in which he has been engaged during the past few months. I understand that, having rightly read the times, they considered that the proper course was for them to go to London and endeavour to negotiate there, but that Zaghlul Pasha categorically refused to change his tactics.

Meanwhile the extremist section of the vernacular Press is indulging in a licence which rarely if ever has been seen in this country before; and articles attacking the British administration and tending to excite the public by innuendo and insinuation are appearing daily. It is to be hoped that some steps will be taken to stop this campaign, which can be productive of no good, and can serve only to embitter relations between the Egyptians and the British. Already action has been taken against the editor of a humorous Arabic paper for certain scurrillous articles and pictures affecting not only the British, but also some leading Mohammedan dignitaries; but the chief offenders in this anti-British campaign are more highly placed on the journalistic ladder.

The Industrial Situation.

So far there is no improvement in the strike situation. As reported in my postscript last week, the Cairo Metropolitan has resumed work, but there is talk of a cessation, as the workers affirm that the company has not carried out all the conditions of the compromise. As for the other services, there is no hint of a settlement.

As previously mentioned, there is little doubt that the *Bourse du Travail*, founded some three months ago by an ex-mechanic drawing £E9 a month, is responsible for the general discontent now prevalent in the industrial community. Its avowed aim is to improve the lot of industrial workers in this country; but its tactics have clearly proved that its object is to justify the existence of its directors, to promulgate Bolshevistic doctrine, and to bring pressure to bear on the Government and employers by reason of the syndicates which it has been so busily founding. As an illustration of this, I might cite the following two incidents. Representatives of the *Bourse* called on the proprietors of *Al Mokattam* and informed them that they must grant their printing staff an increase of 30 per cent. The proprietors replied that they had actually granted an all-round increase of 50 per cent. Thereupon their callers declared that the increase must be granted through the "Printers' Syndicate" which the *Bourse* had formed, and which the proprietors must recognise. The proprietors categorically (and quite rightly) refused, as they objected to this intervention between them and their men, with whom they had always dealt directly in the past, and who were perfectly satisfied and content. The reply of the *Bourse* was to call the men out on strike, and a portion of the staff complied, under pressure. Obviously here is a case where the welfare of the workers was not the object in view. The other instance was that of the *Egyptian Mail*, whose compositors received an order to refuse to set up any articles which reflected adversely on the *Bourse* or its directors. A plainer case of Bolshevistic methods could not be imagined.

It is satisfactory to hear that the founder and Secretary-General of the *Bourse*, "Pezzutto," has been arrested and is being deported, and that several of his colleagues are about to be similarly treated. The next step should be the suppression of the *Bourse*, which, if allowed to continue its activities, might well become a danger to society. For the legitimate claims of the industrial community to have some protection against disloyal and harsh masters no one can fail to have sympathy; and it is understood that the Government has under serious consideration a law recognising unions and fixing regulations for their operation, which should meet all reasonable requirements of the local situation. But ar attempt such as has been made by "Pezzutto" and his confederates to set up an *Imperium in Imperio*, and under the cloak of solicitude for the welfare of the workers, to create an organisation which should be able to impose its will on employers, and possibly eventually on the Government itself, no sensible minded person can tolerate for one moment; and the sooner such an attempt is stamped out the better it will be not only for the workers themselves but also for the country in general.

The War Bonuses.

The all-round increases to its personnel granted by the Government, which were generally considered to be on a generous scale, appear not to have given satisfaction in certain quarters; and a chorus of protest has gone up from the smaller officials, led by the Railways and Telegraphs, who for some time have been restless, and will, it is to be feared, yet be an element of trouble and anxiety to the authorities. It is understood that the Government is reconsidering the question with a view to seeing whether a larger proportionate increase cannot be given to the lowest grades. It is quite possible that in regard to the latter the fact that they were drawing 60 per cent. bonus already led them to be disappointed when the Government's latest decision turned out to be a further increase of only 32 per cent. for them, and there may possibly be some excuse for some further concession in their favour, but the case of higher grades is different.

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BELGRADE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, October 1.

The Cabine Deadlock

The "crisis day by day" has passed the stage when it got on everybody's nerves, and the general irritation is almost subsiding into a kind of fatalistic resignation, as though it were the normal state of affairs. The organs of each party abuse the other, and the independent papers throw the blame on all the politicians in general; for most people feel that such a crisis is quite unnecessary, and there is a good deal of resentment against the Radical Party that provoked it, whose unbending attitude prevents a solution. The line of cleavage remains the same, the Socialists and Montenegrins supporting the Democrats, while the Slovene and Croatian parties support the Radicals. The strength of each group remains about equal; it is difficult to see a way out of the impasse; for the Radicals will not consent even to Dr. Pavlovitch forming a coalition Government with a sole object of hastening the summoning of the Constituent Assembly. It is hard to foresee what will be the result of the elections when they do come off, but many think that the Radicals will lose much, and that the hands of the Socialist-Democratic *bloc* will be strengthened.

Meanwhile the Radicals are conducting a campaign against Dr. Pavlovitch, which is the more bitter because he was once a member of their party, and they refuse to recognise in him an independent personage; and the Radicals, who are weaker than the Democrats as a party, are supported by the minor groups of Dissidents, Liberals, etc., led by M. Trifkovitch, Dr. Bogdan Medakovitch, M. Ribarats, and, of course, Dr. Koroshets—whose reputation and popularity have suffered considerably owing to his enigmatical attitude during these wearisome three months. A possible explanation of the impasse is that no group cares to associate itself with the responsibilities of office at such a time, when internal affairs are in such urgent need of settlement and external affairs most grave, with the Austrian treaty awaiting signature, and a virtual (if unofficial) war with Italy menacing in the Adriatic.

The Adriatic Danger.

Trogir is now quiet, the Dalmatians forming a powerful battalion of volunteers for the protection of the country. Reports from Dakar state that the Italian 26th Army Corps is threatening to cross the demarcation line, while Rome declares that the Yugoslavs are massing troops on their side. Small blame to them if they do, for even their worst enemies can hardly claim that the behaviour of the S.H.S. is anything but correct. Belgrade looks to Paris to see that justice is done, but every day wasted aggravates the danger, and makes it harder to control popular feeling. And the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, in spite of their union, in spite of their victories, in spite of their population of some 13 millions, still remain without a port, while the Italians hold up large quantities of British merchandise destined for Belgrade and Zagreb, which had been unloaded at Fiume before d'Annunzio's adventure; and British ships, shut out of that port, are depositing at Trieste and Venice cargoes for Serbia and Croatia, which the Italians refuse to let through.

Sir Charles Des Graz.

The British Minister, Sir Charles des Graz, left Belgrade on September 29. He had made himself very popular with the Serbs.

October 7.

On September 30, at a conference of the Democratic ..nion, it was unanimously decided to give a negative reply .. M. Protitch's invitation to delegate representatives to the Cabinet which he was attempting to form; the reasons for the rejection were that a Government under the leadership of M. Protitch was likely to be reactionary in social policy and particularly in national questions, and that M. Protitch was an impossible person to collaborate with. The Radical leader has completely alienated not only the Democrats, but the Socialists and the Montenegrins, both of whom declined to enter a coalition with him, the latter, led by M. Dakovich and M. Yoyich, politely declining to take any side in purely party questions. M. Protitch, irritated by his failure, gave vent to an outburst of anger against M. Pribitchevitch. When the Democratic Club called upon him to apologise, he defended himself on the grounds that it was purely a personal matter between him and the Minister of the Interior. It will doubtless be remembered that it was personal animosity against this gentleman that was one of the ostensible reasons of M. Protitch's original resignation, which brought on the crisis.

As it appeared to be the personality of M. Protitch that was the obstacle, it was suggested that another member of the party be put forward as leader, and to the surprise of the public, M. Marko Trifkovitch, leader of the Dissident Radicals, came forward. But the democratic *bloc* maintained its refusal, encouraged perhaps by the appearance of a rift in the Radical group, for both M. Trifkovitch and M. Protitch want the portfolio of the Interior. As M. Protitch declined the responsibility, on Friday, October 3, the Prince Regent entrusted M. Trifkovitch with the task of forming a Coalition Cabinet. At the same time, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Ante Trumbitch, issued a public appeal to all parties to sink their differences and form at least a provisional Government that would allow the delegates to return to Paris, where the fate of Yugoslavia was being decided in their absence.

M. Trifkovitch at once met with a categorical refusal on the part of the Democrats and their associates, who refused to recognise in him a suitable leader; for he had only half a dozen dissidents in his "party," and was, in fact, merely the mouthpiece of M. Protitch. He succeeded, however, in forming a Cabinet, and a remarkable one it was, under the circumstances, for it consisted practically entirely of Radicals with Dr. Politch and Dr. Kernits, members of the Croat Nationalist Party. On Monday, October 6, he drove to Topchider to report to the Prince, and submit his list for the royal assent. It was accounted an omen that his car broke down on the way, and he finished his journey in a cab. The Prince remarked that the Cabinet was not a Coalition one, but a purely partisan selection, and withdrew the mandate. The same evening he once more sent for the Speaker, Dr. Dragi Pavlovitch, for consultation.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Smallpox Epidemic.

The smallpox epidemic is unfortunately spreading, there being over fifty cases in the isolation hospital at Platres. There are cases in the Papho and Larnaca districts, and at Limasol one case out of several has ended fatally—that of a woman from Egypt. The Commissioner of Limasol has issued notices that none of the fairs can be held. At Nicosia the Commissioner, through the Greek Resident Archdeacon, has requested the Archbishop to take steps to prevent the holding of the Festival at the Máchaera Monastery. The great festival of the Cross at Omodhos, one of the principal fairs in Cyprus, will not be held. As might be expected, some of the papers blame the Government, without any reason, for the outbreak, and complain that the supply of vaccine is insufficient.

Wheat Cornering.

The scarcity of wheat is causing many complaints, and some papers take a gloomy view, anticipating trouble in the winter. They accuse the Government of want of foresight, and state that the steps against profiteering are "a parody," being quite insufficient to prevent unbridled abuses and sordid gains, which should be more severely dealt with. There have been a number of convictions already.

Greek National Meeting.

Arrangements have been made to hold a Pan-Cypriot national gathering at Nicosia on September 29, at which representatives of all towns and villages are to attend. The election of these persons was held on Sunday, September 7. Under the circumstances the police were naturally directed to keep an eye on proceedings, to make inquiries, and ascertain the names of the representatives chosen. The newspapers, however, express surprise that the Government should have deemed this necessary. The meeting is convened in order to express the feelings of the Greek Cypriots with regard to the petition for union with Greece. The name-day of the King of Greece was observed on September 12. The Bishop of Papho despatched a telegram to Athens conveying felicitations from the Church and Greek Orthodox people of Cyprus.

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PALESTINE NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Welcome Changes.

The growing sense of security, and of relief from an oppressive Government, is being fortified by clear evidence of the zeal with which the O.E.T.A. (South) administration is taking in hand the work of restoration and encouraging the resumption of business throughout the country. Firm government, combined with justice for all, is as necessary as it is novel. In Jerusalem the signs of progress are very manifest, and amongst the welcome innovations already in hand is the scheme, initiated under the Royal Engineers, of sewerage for the very insanitary Jewish quarter. The work of the Military Governors throughout the territory is admirable, and a gradual transformation is apparent in all directions. At Haifa—*e.g.*, to mention only one locality—Colonel E. Stanton, C.M.G. (who is going on leave), has done excellent work. The sanitary condition of the native quarters has been vastly improved, and energetic steps are being taken to help farmers. The port is growing rapidly in importance, and presents a busy scene.

Agriculture and Zionism.

In the sphere of agriculture improvements must, of course, be gradual. The industry is deplorably handicapped by the many evils due to the war, by shortage of labour, a great increase in wages, and the ever-pressing lack of capital, which new banking facilities may, it is hoped, gradually tend to relieve. But already the work of the Military Governors is bearing fruit. Although a lingering sense of uncertainty as to the outlook is natural, here and there, and people ask whether the new order is to be permanent or only a transitory phase, confidence will soon be generally established and will stimulate production. But sanguine supporters of Zionist immigration schemes must not imagine that a land flowing with milk and honey will emerge, as by magic, from the chaos. The wholesome warnings given by Dr. Weizmann and others are opportune, and it must be clearly understood that here, as in most parts of our own Empire, it is only those who possess knowledge and capital, as well as patience, that can hope to find suitable homes. On all accounts the process of settlement in the "Jewish National Home" must be very gradual, and the aspirations of those who do not know the country can only fall into practical shape on further acquaintance with the views and feelings of the inhabitants, Moslem and Christian.

Jaffa oranges are world-famed, and their export important. Owing to the existence of scale in citrus trees in Egypt, the importation of any kind of citrus trees from that country is prohibited under severe penalties. Breaches of the order can be dealt with by military magistrates.

Helping the Trader.

The Government *Gazette*, in its Commercial Section, gives valuable advice, which it may be hoped will be continued. It offers, for instance, information—based on home intelligence—as to the conditions and requirements of the English market in the matter of olive oil and raisins. Edible oil, which Liverpool imports chiefly from Spain and Sicily, fetches 15s. to 16s. c.i.f. the gallon; while commercial or "technical" oil is required in London, Liverpool, and other ports for soap manufacture. With regard to raisins, directions are given regarding the methods of preparation, now far too primitive, and the packing of both stalked and loose raisins. In both these branches of industry Palestine can advance, to a very great extent, to the benefit of export trade, once a stable Government is established. It is to be hoped that a wise dissemination of such commercial advice may be adopted. This section of the *Gazette* might in time become the nucleus of an agricultural journal. Leaflets in Arabic on some subjects, distributed to and through Mukhtars, might do good. At first they might have but little effect, as was found to be the case amongst the Russian peasantry, under very similar circumstances; but in time they might justify trouble and some small expense.

A Palestine Directory is being prepared in Cairo by the "Société Orientale de Publicité," and should be a useful work.

The Roumanian Legation in London issued a statement on October 8 informing the Jews born in the territory of the old Kingdom of Roumania that they will become Roumanian citizens by making a declaration that they were born in Roumania and have never had foreign protection. Those who have complied with the laws of recruiting, those who have been mobilised in any of the campaigns from 1913 to the present time, even if they are actually under age, as well as the widows and legitimate children under age of men who died in those campaigns, have only to declare that they wish to obtain the rights of citizenship. That will be enough. There are penalties for false declarations.

MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, September 27.

The Riot Commission.

From the verbatim reports which are issued daily by the local Press much information is being gleamed regarding the Riot Commission, and it appears that the present Commission will not follow the ineffectual line characteristic of so many Commissions which have been held in the past. The thoroughness of the evidence given and elicited may be gauged from the following facts which have come to light, and the narration of the most salient of these will give the readers of The Near East a good idea as to the state of the island and the cause of its embroilments. Monsignor Panzavecchia openly stated that he did not sympathise with the way the English behave in Malta; he also made impolite remarks in the presence of the French Consul. Blame is also attached by some to the local Government for taking no heed of the middle class; whilst one witness openly stated that the Government in Malta "never cared a fig for the workmen." The world discontent has been also brought forward as a cause of the unrest, and Malta is charged with following in the wake of Ireland, India, and Egypt; while the difference of treatment to the local troops on demobilisation as compared with the British troops has come in for much comment.

The whole matter in a nutshell is that the labouring classes of Malta are just beginning to feel their feet, and also that there is a strong anti-Government feeling encouraged by a few fanatical would-be leaders, with supposed Italian leanings. It does not appear to have been fully recognised what state the island would be reduced to if the dockyard, fleet, and army were cut down; but this is not impossible.

"Olla Podrida."

The British troops have arrived here from Fiume, and it is stated that not a single British soldier remains now in that theatre of warfare. The arrival of the troops has forced the hands of the authorities as far as the Russian refugees are concerned, and these are being sent out of the island in batches. They express regret at their departure, but their exit is welcomed by many locally.

Profiteering is still rampant, and there is a generally expressed wish that the Government should control all supplies, and that co-operative societies should be encouraged.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PALESTINE AND SYRIA.

Lecturing at the School of Oriental Studies in London last Friday, Mr. A. Sefi described the physical characteristics of Palestine and Syria. He said the country stretched from El Arish on the borders of Egypt to the Euphrates. Passing northward from El Arish, the first town met with was Gaza. Sand dunes lay between Gaza and the sea, which was four miles away; but Gaza carried on a considerable trade in the export of barley. The barley was malting barley of very high quality, with plenty of sugar in it. The Arabs brought it into the town in sacks carried on the backs of camels. It began to arrive in June, a time of the year when rain was unknown there, and was emptied out in the market place, piled into pyramids ten or twelve feet high, and left in the open air until sold. Then it was again put into sacks and carried on the backs of donkeys or camels to the seashore, to be again emptied out into the open air to await the arrival of the steamer. When this event took place the barley was once more put into sacks, which were put into boats and barges and rowed out to where the steamer lay in the open roadstead. Then the barley was lifted by a crane on to the steamer and stowed in the hold. The embarcation of three or four thousand tons of barley would be accomplished in fine weather in two or three days, but in bad weather the operation might take a fortnight

Palestine, said the lecturer, had great need of harbours. At Jaffa, in fine weather, one would arrive in the morning and find the sea like lead; but there was always a north wind in the afternoon, and then the water became very rough; so that it was difficult to board the steamer from a boat. Jaffa was the port of Jerusalem, thirty miles away; but, owing to the badness of the harbour, was likely to be superseded by Haifa. It would be very difficult to build a good harbour at Jaffa on account of the great depth of the sea. Haifa had the safest harbour in that part of the world. It was the port of the Hauran, where enormous quanities of grain were grown, and was a starting point for the Hejaz Railway.

Among other places mentioned by the lecturer was Tiberias, where, he said, there were still thermal baths good for rheumatism, but now so filthy that they could not be used.

The people of Palestine and Syria, said Mr. Sefi, had not always been inhospitable to Christian pilgrims. A traveller in 1483 reported passing many cisterns from which the Saracens drew water with great exertion and offered it to the pilgrims for the love of God; and at Hebron he found a hospital which they maintained, and where they supplied all who asked with bread, oil, and broth. That the charity was largely availed of was shown by the fact that the hospital baked twelve hundred loaves a day, and spent twenty-four thousand ducats annually.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

Turks of the "Young" persuasion are not wanted in Switzerland, I observe. At any rate, the Geneva correspondent of the *Daily Express* reports that: "The Swiss Federal authorities have refused to permit Turkish ex-Ministers to make Lausanne their centre of propaganda and agitation. Talaat Pasha and Djemal Pasha have been refused admission to Switzerland, while Djavid Bey and Hakki Pasha, who have been residing in this country since the Armistice, have been notified that they must leave within a fortnight." It is not at all surprising to be told, by the same correspondent, that all these undesirables "have chosen to go to Germany," or that the Swiss are delighted to be rid from them. But what I should like to know is this: if Talaat and Jemal (or "Djemal," as the *Express* calls him) have made application for leave to settle in Switzerland, why were they not instantly arrested? They are surely badly "wanted," nominally by the Turkish Government, really by the Allied Powers; and presumably they must have made their whereabouts known when they asked leave to inflict themselves on Switzerland. But, I suppose, the lawyers will look after them—as long as they have any funds left!

***

I hope our railwaymen will take note of the fact that the Russian Bolshevists "heard the news" of their general strike "with joy and enthusiasm"—and that they will think out quietly for themselves just what that means. They should note also that the "Bolshis" congratulate them on having "broken the chains of civil peace," and on having "declared war on the Government." If these phrases mean anything at all, they mean that the strikers ought to be proud of going against all law and order, and of defying the rulers elected by the votes of their countrymen. I decline to believe that any decent English (and I mean *English*) workman would find any cause for self-congratulation in that fact. Happily, the British railwaymen, as a body, want no truck with the Russian Reds; though they may sing "The Red Flag" now and then, as a puppy will chew soap!

***

Dates—the fruit, not the "1066-1087" kind of thing—are a subject of interest to me, as some of my readers probably remember. My eye was, therefore, very quickly caught by the line "Dates for Pigs," which appeared over a letter to *The Times* the other day. The writer, a Mr. Russell-Smith, described how he had been allowed by our wonderful Government officials to purchase a couple of tons of dates as food for his pigs, on giving a guarantee that they should not be allowed to "reach the public in the shape of food." Needless to say, the fruit was bad, so bad that it had been condemned as unfit for human consumption; and, of course, I am not suggesting that the authorities were not doing right in keeping it from being so used. But the scandalous thing is that, according to Mr. Russell-Smith, these dates were part of 1,500 tons . . . landed early in the year, *warehoused until they became unfit for human food*, and then condemned." The italics are mine. Mr. Russell-Smith estimates that had the authorities let the public get the dates in sound condition, "the country would have saved, perhaps, £40,000." I have heard some extraordinary—and very scandalous—stories about date shipments and sales, but this would take same beating. How would it be to make the guilty parties feed on the condemned dates until ——!

***

I fancy that a competition to decide where the boundaries of Syria lie would produce some very wild guesses. Personally I am open to admit that it was rather a shock to me to find that Mosul should be regarded (by the French, at any rate) as Syrian; and I suspect that most people would place the eastern boundary somewhere between Damascus and the Euphrates. Be that as it may, very few competitors would go so far in the other direction as to make the Meander a Syrian river. But I notice that one of the big London dailies did so the other day, when it headed a paragraph about the delimitation of the Greek and Italian zones "Future of Syria." And by the same token it referred in the same paragraph to the much-respected British General at Smyrna as General "Milner"!

CORSAIR.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Would your correspondent, "A Cypriot" (THE NEAR EAST, September 30), state what are "the vested interests of some Englishmen in Cyprus"? I am not clear as to what these are, and should be glad to know.

I am, etc.,

October 11, 1919. A READER.

As the direct result of the disturbances which took place in Egypt last spring, revenue during April fell off by over half as ocmpared with April, 1918, the principal decreases being in land tax, Customs and tobacco dues, judicial fees, railways, etc. The month's account balances with a deficit of £E714,000, against a surplus of £E393,000 in April, 1918.

The *Busrch Times* (September 7) announces:—His Highness Sheikh Faisal (the son of H.H. Sheikh Abd el Aziz es Saud, Ruler of Nejd), Sheikh Ahmad ibn Abdulla (the cousin of the same ruler), and Sheikh Abdulla al Khassib, a minister of Nejd, last month left Riyadh, the capital of Nejd, en route to England on the invitation of the British Government. In their journey through the desert from Nejd they were accompanied by an escort of 300 camel riders, and it was after an eight days' journey that they reached Hassa, the sheikh of which province ceremoniously and cordially received the visitors. The party rested for eight days at Hassa before proceeding to Bandar al Ajier, on the Persian Gulf, where, by the courtesy of the Sheikh of Bahrein, a ship was awaiting to take them to Bahrein. They were welcomed at Bahrein both by the Sheikh of Bahrein and the British Agent, who at a reception referred to the good relations existing between His Britannic Majesty's Government and the Arab princes. The sheikhs subsequently took ship for Bombay.

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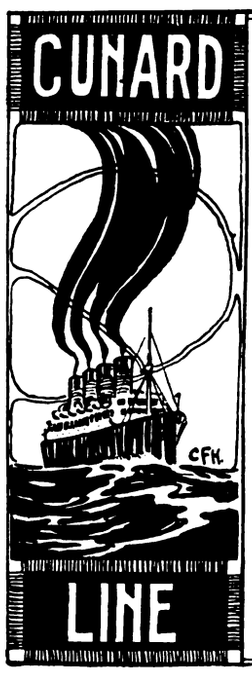

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Balkans.

The *New Statesman* (September 27) in commenting upon the recent treaty with Bulgaria, sums up the whole problem of peace in the Balkans thus:—

What is the way out of this tangle? We do not presume to offer a perfect and easy plan. But it is obvious that the League will have to find one, and it is obvious that a part of it must consist in satisfying the more legitimate aspirations of the Bulgars. "Shut Bulgarian ambitions up in a fortress," says an old proverb, "and they will blow it up." The Comitaji movement of fifteen years ago is an illustration of the truth of the proverb; and we do not want a new "Comitajism" in Macedonia. Whether it will be possible in the near future to make an autonomous Macedonia we do not know. In the past, it was a promising plan, but the obstacles on the part of Serbia and Greece are evidently greater now, and, moreover, there will be a general reluctance to create yet another State: there are too many already. But it is certainly towards the idea of federation that the League of Nations will have to direct its efforts. Such a federation was within an ace of accomplishment in 1912-13, when the mad treachery of Bulgaria upset it. There are still, however, enough wise counsellors in the Balkans, as well as in America and Western Europe, to make it a practicable aim once more. Meantime, the League will have the immediate duty of tempering the wind to the shorn lamb. Bulgaria's rights in her "corridor" and her Ægean port must be vigilantly guarded. The Greeks have strongly opposed this concession (on the rather extravagant plea, amongst others, that it provides the Bulgarians with a submarine base against Greece), and they are not likely at the outset to do anything to make the scheme work smoothly. The freedom of religious and cultural minorities must be rigorously upheld throughout the Peninsula. Pascal observed that men never do evil so cheerfully and so thoroughly as when they are acting in the name of religion. To call the bloody ecclesiastical warfare which has disgraced the Balkans for the past generation "religious" is perhaps a mockery. But it has been instigated by the rival professors of Christianity of the Exarchist and Patriarchist Churches, and carried out very "cheerfully and thoroughly" by their disciples—real and pretended—in a constant reign of terror and persecution and massacre to the utter demoralisation of all the peoples of Macedonia. Finally, if we may mingle small things with great, we venture to hope that the new era will see a diminution of that fatuous propaganda, which has contributed much to the general harm in the Balkans, and which consists in appealing to the glories of the great Tsar Stephen Dushan, the Byzantine Emperors, and other irrelevant national heroes of a dim past.

Distracted Egypt.

In an article headed "Lord Milner and Egypt," a Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that the followers of Saad Pasha Zaghlul are working desperately hard to secure a boycott of the Milner Commission. After quoting some of their arguments, he continues:—

How far the extremists will succeed in their attempt to frighten their fellow-countrymen into silence remains to be seen. But Nationalist methods of terrorism have not been unsuccessful as regards those who gave evidence against the murderers of March last, and a great many moderate men who value their skins at a higher rate than free speech will probably prefer not to give evidence. The boldness of the "Left" is indeed surprising. Yesterday the students of the School of Law, who are returning to their studies on Saturday next after a vacation of nearly seven months, issued a manifesto that they were ready at any time to strike again on behalf of the "beloved fatherland," and proceeded to lecture the Prime Minister on his duties, which being administrative rather than political, imposed on him the necessity of following the orders of Zaghlul, the political leader of the country, and ignoring the Commission. This amazing production shows the spirit animating the student and lawyer class, and it seems that the Ministry itself, which consists almost entirely of ex-judges and lawyers, is wobbling. Sir Mohamed Pasha Said has been trying hard to make a party. But there are indications that he doubts whether he will be able to hold his Ministry together in the face of the passions that will be unchained when the Commission arrives.

The article concludes with a truly remarkable illustration of the manner in which the Nationalists are exploiting the workman:—

The hands at the Army workshops are paid on piece rates, which have remained the same since the days of Mohamed Aly, when they were fixed extremely high in order to induce Egyptians to become artisans. Lately the inevitable lawyer appeared on the scene, talked to the men, and formed a syndicate, of which he became the president and treasurer. Then to justify his existence he brought forward the claim that the men henceforth should be paid by the day. The director of the shops pointed out to the men that if this were done their pay would be diminished by nearly 50 per cent., and advised them in their own interest to continue as they were. But the workers, while admitting the truth of what their director said, stuck to it that they must follow the advice of their "avocato." Truly, Egypt is a strange country!

"The Moslem World."

"If I had a million dollars," writes Rev. James P. McNaughton, now of Constantinople, in the October number of the *Moslem World*, "I would first of all pay my debts. This is what any honest man would do." He then goes on to show the immense debt we owe the Near East, and how we may now pay it by the work of reconstruction after the war. Dr. Donald B. Macdonald, of Hartford Theological Seminary, contributes a scholarly article on the "Arabian Nights," showing that this classic is not a mere story-book, but the best mirror of Moslem thought and ideas. The early efforts made by the pioneers of the United Presbyterian Church in Egypt is sketched by Miss Lydia S. McCague. Those interested in the preparation of Christian literature and its dissemination in Moslem lands will read with interest the articles by Dr. Herrick on Christian literature in Turkey, and by Dr. Shellabear on special literature for Moslems in Malaysia.

NEW BULGARIAN CABINET.

Reuter's Paris Correspondent reports, under date of October 14, that a telegram from Sofia gives the constitution of the new Bulgarian Cabinet which has been formed to sign the Peace Treaty as follows:—

Premier and Minister for War	M. STAMBOULINSKI.
Public Instruction	M. KAALOFF. (?)
Railways	M. TORLAKOFF.
Interior	M. DIMITROFF.
Agriculture.....	M. DASKALOFF.
Foreign Affairs	M. MAGGIAROFF.
Commerce	M. BUROFF.

The portfolios of Justice and Public Works will be given to Democrats, and that of Finance to a Progressive. A telegram from Sofia states that M. Theodoroff, although not belonging to M. Stamboulinski's Cabinet, will remain President of the Bulgarian Delegation at the Peace Conference.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE PROMISED LAND.*

It is difficult to criticise this book for two reasons. In the first place, the author is so entirely and admirably devoted to his subject that his enthusiasm of itself carries one along; and in the second place, because it is really not a book at all, but a collection of papers, extracts, appendices, and quotations that are extraordinarily comprehensive, but often unnecessary. In the third place, we may add that the author quotes most of the views in favour of Zionism, which is natural enough, but he says little of the opposition, either within the ranks of the Chosen People, or without. That is a mistake; it throws the achievement out of perspective, and we could have spared some of the pages which are occupied by leaders from the *Dundee Advertiser* and the Aberdeen papers, and even, perhaps, our own comments on the movement (which we acknowledge with blushing modesty) for a considered analysis of the relation of Zionism to Judaism this last fifteen years, and of the relation of the rest of the world to both Judaism and Zionism. Had this been done, the book would have been less of an industrious compilation, and altogether more informative. The author, for instance, in touching on the hardships suffered by the Jews in Russia during the German invasion of Poland, does not allude to the very prevalent belief on both sides that a large number of Polish Jews made money out of the war by buying and selling for the German Government. Nor does he discuss the belief, also very prevalent among British Jews, that anti-Semitism has grown in this country during the last twenty years from nothing to a not altogether negligible factor, and that this unfortunate spirit will have to be fought, since it is capable of doing considerable harm to those intimate relations between England and Palestine which will, we believe, be advantageous to both countries. The almost verbatim report of the great demonstration at the London Opera House—which only omits the very long but nevertheless extremely interesting speech which Mr. Zangwill made on that occasion—frankly does not compensate for these omissions to discuss the atmosphere in which Zionism has recently lived and grown.

These defects, on the other hand, are atoned for by a very charming and intimate sketch of Sir Mark Sykes, whose premature death last February was a heavy blow not only to Zionism, but to England. Sykes, as we knew him before the war, might have sat for a picture of the happy warrior—one felt that life had given him everything, health, wealth, brains, oratory, a happy knack of occasional journalism, a love of music, an innate knowledge of men and statecraft, and one felt that life had been right in endowing him so generously, for he gave out in his boyish enthusiasm more than he took. Who could dream that fate, in giving him everything at thirty, was to dash the brimming cup away at thirty-nine? The tragedy of the thing, not less than the help he gave to Zionism, has moved the not too fluent pen of the compiler of the "History of Zionism" to real eloquence, and we have rarely read a more touching obituary notice.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Way of Healing: A Little Book for Those Who Know Suffering." By Estelle Blyth. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons. 2s. 6d. net.)

"Prayer in the Light of the Fatherhood of God." By Conrad A. Skinner, M.A. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons. 2s. 6d. net.)

"Peace Terms Map of Europe, Showing New States and Boundaries and the League of Nations." (George Philip and Son, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

The Cambridge University Press announce "Macedonian Measures, and Others," by John Macleod; and "A Brief Description of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem, and Other Christian Churches in the Holy City," by George Jeffery.

* "History of Zionism." By Nahum Sokolow. Vol. 2. (Longmans and Co. 21s. net.)

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AN INTERESTING VISITOR.

An interesting visitor has lately arrived in this country from Mesopotamia, viz., Lady Surma d'Mar Shimun, sister of the Patriarch of the little Assyrian or Nestorian "millet" which existed before the war in the rugged mountain district of Hakkiari, Kurdistan. This small body of Christian mountaineers threw in their lot with the Entente in the early days of the war on the faith of Russian promises of support. This help not being forthcoming, they found themselves exposed to the attacks of their old Kurdish enemies and to those of Turkish regular troops. For some months they maintained their resistance, but at the last were driven to evacuate their mountains and retire, under the leadership of their Patriarch, to Urmi, in Persian territory, where the Christian population was of the same stock as themselves. Here they continued under arms, and were definitely recognized as allies of the Entente by General Offley Shore, who was then occupied in the work of reorganizing the Russian force in the Caucasus.

The complete breakdown of Russia left this little nation exposed once more to the attacks of Turks, Persians, and Kurds, but they still proved able to defend themselves, though they lost their Patriarch and leader. This man (known officially by the title of Mar Shimun) was treacherously murdered by the Agha of the Shekak Kurds (Simko) at a peace conference to which the Bishop had been invited under safe conduct.

Ultimately, Assyrian powers of defence broke down, and though prospects of assistance were open to them from the British army in Baghdad, the nation was forced to evacuate Urmi and undertake a national "trek" to the south to avoid destruction. Though they suffered horribly en route, this great migration was carried out, with British assistance, and the whole nation (or it should rather be said the remains of it) was received to the hospitality of the British Government and settled in a large refugee camp at Bakoubah, near Baghdad.

The question of the future of this "millet" of Christian mountaineers is one that is now engaging the attention of the British authorities in Mesopotamia, and is an important factor in the settlement of the whole province of Mosul. Lady Surma is now visiting England (with the full approval of both the civil and military authorities in the province) in order to put the case and desires of her people before the British Government. She comes as their authorised representative, and the only one recognized by either the "millet" itself or by the British Government.

Lady Surma, who is a professed nun of her own communion, is at present the guest of an Anglican Sisterhood, viz., the "Sisters of Bethany," Lloyd Square, W.C.

MEDIÆVAL AND MODERN GREECE.

The Koraes chair at King's College, London, was occupied for the first time on October 7, when Professor Arnold J. Toynbee delivered an address on the place in history of Mediæval and Modern Greece.

The lecturer said that according to the traditional presentation a great contrast was made between the history of Western and Eastern Europe. Behind both lay the shadowy figure of the Roman Empire, but, whereas we saw in the West a valley of the shadow of death leading out into the light by the beginning of the eighth century, in the East we were shown instead the life in death of the old Roman Empire, which was supposed to expire in 1453. Then came a belated dark age until the eighteenth century.

This view, Professor Toynbee said, he did not accept. The seventh century and onwards was as truly a dark age in Eastern Europe as in the West. So also the setting up of Ottoman dominion was less of a break than was commonly supposed. At the time of the French Revolution there was going on a revival of the Greeks in the Ottoman Empire, so that when the war of independence came it seemed more like a struggle to inherit the Turks ascendancy than to escape from it.

The Steppes, from which had come hordes of barbarians, and the Middle East, which had threatened Greece with the even greater danger of an incompatible civilisation, were, said the lecturer, two great factors that differentiated Mediæval Greece from Western Europe; the psychological attitude of Greece at that time towards Orientalism was a curious blend of repugnance and imitation. To-day the influence of the Middle East no longer differentiated Greece from the West, for all Europe was now concerned in the Middle Eastern question. The greater part of the vast territories which Alexander had sought to bring under the influence of European civilisation were passing under various European peoples. Greece was stepping into the place of the Ottoman Empire as the land bridge between the Middle East and Europe, and Greek statesmen would be exercised upon the problem of enabling Moslems and Europeans to live together.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. October	1919. October		1338. Moharram.	5680. Tishri
17	4	Friday	22	23
18	5	Saturday.....	23	24
19	6	Sunday	24	25
20	7	Monday	25	26
21	8	Tuesday	26	27
22	9	Wednesday	27	28
23	10	Thursday	28	29

The Maharaja of Kapurthala has arrived in Paris.

The Gaekwar of Baroda arrived in Paris on October 10.

Count Léon Ostroróg has arrived in London from Warsaw.

M. Venizelos spent the week-end with Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield.

Earl Curzon has lately become a vice-president of the League of Nations Union.

Prince and Princess Alexis Kara Georgevitch have arrived in London from Paris.

Lady Stradbroke has left England for Egypt, where she will join her husband.

Sir Charles des Graz, formerly British Minister in Serbia, has returned to London.

The Shah of Persia will, Reuter's Agency learns, be the guest of the King from the 31st inst. to November 4.

Miss A. J. Dickinson has returned from Serbia for the Ridley Art Club exhibition at the Grafton Galleries, opening October 18.

The Aga Khan had the honour of being invited to luncheon with the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on October 10.

It is now definitely announced that M. Nicolas Misu, the Roumanian Minister in London, has accepted the post of Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mrs. Arthur Pery-Knox-Gore and Agnes Lady Hughes have left London to join Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Pery-Knox-Gore, D.S.O., A.Q.M.G., at Constantinople.

Professor Voronoff, the Russian doctor who claims to have discovered how to effect the restoration of youth, was for some time physician to the former Khedive of Egypt.

M. Venizelos on Tuesday called upon M. Demetrius Caclamanos, the Greek Minister, at the Legation. M. Venizelos has cancelled his visits to Manchester, Cardiff, and Liverpool.

Sir Rennell and Lady Rodd gave a farewell reception at the Italo-Britannic Institute in Rome before leaving for the Mission to which Sir Rennell has been appointed in Egypt.

The engagement is announced between Cuthbert Glennie, of Doom Dooma, Assam, and Marjorie Joyce, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Warren, of Essendene, Caterham, Surrey.

At a meeting of the Central Asian Society to be held at 22, Albemarle Street on October 22, at 4.30 p.m., Mr. Ikbal Ali Shah will give a lecture on "Afghanistan." Lord Carnock will preside.

The marriage arranged between Mr. J. R. R. Fullerton, 19th Royal Hussars, and the Hon. Moira de Yarburgh-Bateson will take place immediately owing to the regiment being ordered to India.

The Shah has notified his willingness to visit the Guildhall on Saturday, November 1. He will be presented by the Corporation with an address of welcome and entertained at a déjeuner.

The King of the Hellenes has appointed Colonel Ritchie, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, a Commander of the Order of George I., and has conferred a similar honour upon Dr. Utting, the ex-Lord Mayor.

The engagement is announced of Major J. L. Forbes, D.S.O., M.C., R.G.A., youngest son of the late Major L. Forbes, H.E.I.C., 2nd Bengal Grenadiers and H.M. 31st Regiment, and of Mrs. Forbes, of Shillingstone, Dorset, to Eleanor Valentine, second daughter of the late Canon Glyn, of Brancepeth, Durham, and of Mrs. Glyn, of Netley Court, Netley.

Sir Alban Young had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on October 10, and kissed hands upon his appointment as His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Belgrade.

Sir Ronald Graham had an audience of the King on Monday morning at Buckingham Palace and kissed hands upon his appointment as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at The Hague.

The King has granted to Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Henry Ross, Leicestershire Regiment, his Majesty's licence and authority to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile conferred upon him by the Sultan of Egypt.

Dr. F. J. Scrimgeour, O.B.E., is at present in this country on furlough from Palestine. He returns to Nazareth as Director of the British Hospital there; and has been appointed the Honorary Consulting Surgeon to Occupied Enemy Territory Administration (South).

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly, between William Day, Egyptian P.W.D., eldest son of Donald D. Day, F.R.C.S., and Mrs. Day, of Norwich, and Olive, second daughter of the late H. L. Mellersh and Mrs. Mellersh, Sydney, Australia.

Lady Boyle entertained at dinner at Queen's Gate on Monday the British Minister to the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, Sir Charles des Graz, formerly British Minister at Belgrade, Dr. Dragoutine Koyitch, the Serbian Chargé d'Affaires, Madame Koyitch, and Lady Grogan.

A marriage is arranged to take place on October 22 between Herbert Ernest, second son of the late Malcolm Fulcher Beamish, District Superintendent, Imperial Indian Police, and Violet Amy, younger daughter of the late I. J. Mann, M.Inst.C.E., and Mrs. Mann, of Iken Rectory, Tunstall, Suffolk.

The engagement is announced of Harold Arthur, only surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brocklebank, of Grizedale Hall, Lancashire, and Morwenna, only daughter of Mr. Athelstan Riley, Seigneur de la Trinité, Jersey, of 2, Kensington Court, W., and the late Hon. Mrs. Athelstan Riley.

The marriage arranged between Pamela, daughter of Mr. John and Lady Evelyn Cobbold, of Holywells, Ipswich, and Mr. Charles Hambro, son of Sir Eric and Lady Hambro, of Pickhurst Mead, Hayes, Kent, will take place at St. Clement's Church, Ipswich, on October 22 at 2.30 p.m.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Capt. Aubrey Martin Clarke, 7th Gloucestershire Regt., of Hewaheta, Ceylon, son of the late John Henry Clarke and Mrs. Clarke, of Amherst House, Clifton Park, Bristol, and Evelyn, eldest daughter of Gladstone Robinson, of Timaru, New Zealand.

The engagement is announced between Captain Julian G. B. de Wilton, 8th Cavalry, Indian Army, younger son of Major A. W. de Wilton, Inspector-General of Prisons, Ceylon, and of Mrs. de Wilton, and Marjorie, younger daughter of J. G. Chapman and Mrs. Chapman, of The Oaks, Beech Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire.

It is announced that the marriage took place on September 8, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta, between Capt. H. Cecil Stork, I.C.S. and I.A.R.O., son of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Stork, of Bridlington, and Marjorie, daughter of Lieut.-Col. F. R. S. Cosens, 1/4th Devon Regiment, and the late Mrs. Cosens, of Oakham, Rutland.

On October 8, at St. Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, the marriage took place of Lieut.-Colonel Herbert G. A. Garsia, D.S.O., Egyptian Army, son of the late Lieut.-Colonel M. C. Garsia, C.B., to Myra, widow of Frederick Mooney, Barrister-at-Law, and daughter of Sir George Fottrell, K.C.B., Dunmara, Ballybrack, Co. Dublin.

In connection with the approaching visit of the Shah to the Guildhall, the *Morning Post* recalls that in 1873 a similar address was presented to the then occupant of the Persian throne, and a ball was given, which is still regarded as one of the most brilliant functions ever held at the Guildhall, the guests exceeding 10,000, and the choicest plate of the Mansion House and the Guilds being displayed. The Lord Mayor, who then acted as the City's spokesman, was the late Sir Sydney Waterlow.

Our Port Said Correspondent writes:—The Rev. E. W. Hamond, M.A., who has been English Chaplain in Port Said for the last two years, has just left, having been released by the local Church Committee. Mr. Hamond is going to take up duties as Vice-Principal of the English College in Jerusalem, where his scholastic attainments will no doubt find fuller scope and encouragement than in Port Said. The Church services will be carried on by the available military chaplains till more permanent arrangements can be made. Mr. Hamond carries with him the best wishes of the community, where his unfailing suavity and courtesy made him many friends.

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It is announced that on July 23, at Tiflis, Caucasus, Captain C. Basil Harness was married to Mlle. Rita N. Kalianski, daughter of the late M. Nicholai Kalianski, Doctor of Law, Warsaw, and niece of Prince Lvoft.

It is officially announced that the departure of Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby, who was to have left London for Egypt on Tuesday, has been postponed for a week. It is stated there is nothing significant in his departure; his leave having expired, he is going back to G.H.Q. On his journey out the Field-Marshal will, it is understood, make a tour of the battlefields of France.

The engagement is announced between Captain (temp. major) Wilmot Smyth Caulfeild, M.C., the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment, D.A.Q.M.G., Highland Division, younger surviving son of Brigadier-General J. E. Caulfeild, C.M.G., and Mrs. Caulfeild, late of Corozal, Jersey, and Meredith De Lisle (Merry), younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald John, of Colombo, Ceylon, and 4, Durward House, Kensington Court, W.

Reuter's Agency has received from Colonel Arion, of the staff of Prince Nicholas of Roumania, who is now at Eton, the following:—Statements have been published in the foreign Press that Prince Carol, the Crown Prince of Roumania, had tendered his abdication, which the King and Council of Ministers had considered and accepted. It was further reported that at the same Council Prince Nicholas, younger brother of Prince Carol, had been declared Crown Prince of Roumania. These statements are not in accordance with the facts, for no such Council was held and no action taken either by the King or the Government of Roumania in any way affecting the position of Prince Carol as the Crown Prince.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

It is announced that M. Robert de Caix is to be general secretary to the High Commissioner of the French Republic in Syria.

Mr. I. D. Elliott, Judicial Secretary to the United Provinces' Government, is appointed a member of the provincial Legislative Council.

Mr. Walton, Joint Secretary of the Board of Revenue, United Provinces, is taking long leave, and will be succeeded by Mr. Bomford, Collector of Basti.

Dr. Edward Hindle, Kingsley Lecturer and Bye Fellow of Magdalene College, Cambridge, Assistant to the Quick Professor of Biology, has been elected to the Chair of Biology in the School of Medicine, Cairo.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Leonard Christian Adami, of the Indian Civil Service, to be a Judge of the Patna High Court, in succession to Mr. Justice Roe, who is retiring from the Bench in November.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed Mr. R. G. Jaquet, C.I.E., Joint Accountant-General, India Office, to be Accountant-General on the retirement of Mr. W. Badock, C.S.I. Mr. W. S. Durrant, Assistant Accountant-General, is promoted to be Deputy Accountant-General.

OBITUARY.

Inspector-General Adam Brunton Messer, whose death is announced, entered the Navy in 1859 and served in it till 1896. From May, 1888, until April, 1892, he was in charge of Malta Hospital.

Major-General George Upton Prior died last Sunday at his residence, Ethorpe, Gerrards Cross. He served in the Afghan War, 1878-9, and was a Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Col. R. C. Hadow, late Indian Staff Corps, and Commandant of the 15th Sikhs, of The Ferns, Eastbourne, died suddenly at Teddington last Friday, in his 69th year. He served in the Afghan War, 1878-1880, and was in the march from Kabul to Kandahar and the battle of Kandahar, receiving the medal with two clasps and bronze star. He also took part in the Sudan Expedition of 1885 and in the Miranzi Expedition, 1891, and served with the Chitral relief force, 1895. He took part in the operations on the North-West frontier of India in 1897-1898 and the Tirah Expedition.

We regret to announce that the Countess of Bessborough died on Saturday at Bessborough, after a short illness. She was the fifth daughter of the late Sir Josiah Guest, and married the Earl of Bessborough in 1875. There were six children of the marriage, of whom the eldest is Lady Oranmore and Browne. The other surviving sons and daughters are Lady Irene Congreve; Lord Duncannon, M.P. for Dover; Lieut. the Hon. Bertie Ponsonby, Grenadier Guards; and Lady Gweneth Baring. The other son, Major the Hon. Cyril Miles Ponsonby, was killed in action in 1915. Lady Bessborough took an active interest in war work, and was hon. secretary to the Y.M.C.A. Auxiliary Committee for France. She was appointed C.B.E. last year.

Major-Gen. Sir Charles Henry Scott, K.C.B., Colonel Commandant of the Royal Artillery, has died at Cousley Wood, Wadhurst, Sussex. In 1892 he was appointed ordnance consulting officer for India; in April, 1895, deputy director-general of ordnance; and in the following June inspector-general of ordnance. He served in 1897-8 with the Tirah Expedition, receiving the medal with two clasps, and the Companionship of the Bath. General Scott had been secretary to the Government of India, in charge of the military supply department, and was a member of the Governor-General's Council from November, 1905, till April, 1909.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes (September 24):—Anglo-Egypt received a great shock this week through the death of Lieut.-Col. B. F. E. Keeling, which occurred suddenly on the night of Saturday, the 20th. Col. Keeling had but recently been appointed Surveyor-General of Egypt, in succession to Mr. E. M. Dowson, who had been promoted Under Secretary of State for Finance, and he was also chairman of the newly-formed Cotton Research Board. Before the war he had done good work as Director of the Physical Survey, and he was amongst the first to join up when hostilities began. He served in the Army with great credit, gaining the M.C. and O.B.E., and retiring in the end with the rank of lieut.-colonel. He had been somewhat severely wounded in the hand, and it is understood that his wound still gave him a great deal of trouble. In the short time Col. Keeling had held his new post in Egypt he had already done very good work, and shown promise of greater things, for he combined scientific knowledge with keen judgment and administrative ability. It is generally felt that his death will be a great loss to Egypt. Certainly at the present moment we can ill spare men of this calibre. In view of his military rank and services, he was accorded a military funeral, a gun carriage and firing party of 300 men being provided. A large number of British officials and friends walked in the procession from the Anglo-American Hospital to Old Cairo, and there was a very representative gathering at the graveside, the Commander-in-Chief being represented by Col. French, C.P.O., and the Ministers of Finance and Agriculture by Messrs. F. T. Dallin and A. T. McKillop, their respective Under Secretaries of State. A large number of Egyptians, mostly members of the Survey Staff, were also present, and one of them delivered an eloquent panegyric after the funeral service.

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THE AFGHANISTAN TREATY.

At no time in the world's history is it difficult for anyone who is definitely in search of trouble to achieve the object in view. In existing circumstances the quest is peculiarly facile, as the new Ameer of Afghanistan is bent upon proving. He inaugurated his reign with a wanton invasion of India, apparently undertaken under the grandiose impression that the population of the country would welcome him as a heaven-sent deliverer. The expedition from a military point of view was a fiasco, and it would have been a comparatively simple matter for the India Government to have administered to the Afghans a lesson that would have effectually checked for a long time to come Ameer Aman Ullah's imperialistic aims. But for some reason not yet established—for the breakdown in the transport and medical arrangements of the campaign could only have been a temporary inconvenience—the Imperial Government accepted the first overtures for peace made in a far from correct manner by theAmeer. Even the negotiations were protracted by the truculence of the Afghan envoy. In the end, however, he appeared to have made a virtue of necessity, and a peace agreement was duly signed. From the official summary of the document issued by the Government it was to be inferred that from the British point of view a satisfactory ending of the Ameer's crazy venture had been reached. The new ruler of Afghanistan forfeited his subsidy from Great Britain, as well as the privilege of importing arms and munitions of war through India, and had to agree to a rectification of the Indo-Afghan frontier. Only subsequently was it disclosed that Aman Ullah had received a *quid pro quo* in gaining control of Afghanistan's external relations. This important concession might have escaped notice altogether if the Ameer, still in quest of trouble, had not chosen to make immediate use of it in a peculiarly aggressive way. Within two months an Afghan Legation which was to establish itself in Soviet Russia made its way to Moscow, where it has been received with and has given expression to grandiloquent denunciation of Great Britain, while Afghan troops are at Merv, which is in Soviet hands. Even more mischievous still, Afghan officials have given out misleading accounts of the Peace Treaty, and have affirmed that various humiliating conditions have to be carried out by the British within six months. The effect of these reports, which had been spread, particularly along the Turkestan frontier, the semi-official statement continues, is said to have been bad.

From such an announcement the British public not unnaturally infers that further complications with Afghanistan are to be expected, and it is inclined to cavil at the handling of the Afghan situation as well as to resent the misplaced satisfaction that it expressed over the terms of the Peace Treaty on the strength of an incomplete summary. The restoration to Afghanistan of control over its external relations was not, it is true, embodied in the actual Treaty, but formed the subject of a letter subsequently handed to the Afghan Envoy by the British plenipotentiary. To this extent there was no actual suppression of the terms of the Treaty in the official summary; but the concession clearly had such an essential bearing on the agreement arrived at between the two countries that the omission to mention it simultaneously with the Treaty must inevitably expose both the Government of India and the Home Government to the charge of being anxious to gloss over a surrender of which they had no reason to be proud. Such action, though typical of much that the British public has experienced during the war, is as unfortunate in its effect as it is derogatory to the intelligence of those responsible. Any explanation that may now be given of the concession will have been wrung as an excuse from a reluctant Government. There must, however, have been some reason for relinquishing Great Britain's control over the foreign relations of Afghanistan. This restriction on Afghanistan's independence was first imposed by the Treaty of Gandamak, May, 1879, by which the Ameer undertook to conduct his relations with foreign States in accordance with the advice and wishes of the British Government. It was re-enacted the following year, on the accession of Ameer Abdur Rahman Khan, by an exchange of letters, in which it was stipulated that the Ameer could "have no political relations with any foreign Power except with the British Government." So long as the ruler of Afghanistan kept faith, the stipulation regarding the control of external affairs was valuable, but it was evident that as soon as he elected to kick over the traces no machinery existed for the effective control of Afghan relations with neighbours to the north and west. It might, therefore, be argued that it was better to surrender a prerogative that had no practical significance, but which tended to run counter to the spirit of the new relationship between Great Powers and their *protégés*. Any explanation at the time would have been more felicitous than the attempt to keep the concession from the knowledge of the public, which can but prejudice further action on the part of the Government in the settlement of the Afghan problem.

Ameer Aman Ullah clearly entertains ambitious designs, and it may not be unprofitable to allow him to burn his fingers in the Bolshevist cauldron. His Legation to the Soviet Government will not have been able to enjoy the latter's hospitality for many days before the Reds prepared to evacuate Moscow. Whether the members return converted to Bolshevism or strongly hostile to it the results for the Ameer are likely to be equally untoward. As far as Great Britain is concerned it is better to have a ruler in Afghanistan openly hostile than one who carries on intrigues under the cloak of friendly relations. The frontier tribes will not be slow to take their cue from Kabul, and a recrudescence of the recent trouble may be looked for. This time, it is to be hoped, the military authorities will be able to avoid the shortcomings that paralysed the last campaign, and they will not be likely to repeat the mistake of stopping short in their advance, before the completeness of the Afghan defeat has been brought home to the people. At the same time some heed must be given to the new spirit animating even the most backward constitutionally of the peoples, and it may be advantageous to be rid of the control of Afghanistan's external relations, which was never easy to carry out, unless more effective representation could be secured at Kabul. The danger that it was sought to guard against by imposing the restriction, however, must be met by other means.

TO AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS.

The Editor will be glad to consider photographs of Near Eastern scenery, types, places of interest, etc., etc., suitable for reproduction in THE NEAR EAST. *When desired, payment will be made for the right of producing such photographs. Readers should state, when forwarding pictures, whether payment is desired or not.*

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MANDATES AND HISTORY.

By JANUS.

Now that the Allied Orientalists have finished their deliberations, and concerted measures for the extension of those branches of knowledge with which they are concerned, I want to appeal to them to come out of their libraries for a little and tell us what light their studies throw on the political problems of to-day and to-morrow. These problems need all the daylight that can be got. Mandates are in the air, and, mandates or no mandates, the democracies of the West are coming into closer and closer touch with Eastern countries; they need to understand the conditions with which their statesmen have to deal, and if they are left to act without understanding they are sure to make a terrible mess. Now to the ordinary democrat the East, as it stands, is incomprehensible. If he happens to be a very wise man he will be content to leave its problems to experts, but that chance seldom comes off in practice, and the best way of avoiding disastrous blunders is to make it possible for him to understand. This is work for historians more than anybody else. As Dr. Marshall writes in "Industry and Trade," "present structures are, for the greater part, direct and almost necessary consequences of conditions which have developed almost continuously from the Middle Ages to the present time," and if the democracies are told how the East of to-day has come into existence the incomprehensible will become the inevitable, and they will be able to see what their statesmen and administrators are about.

Now the scholars may reply that all their knowledge is already in print. That is more or less true, but the present sources will not meet the need. To learn what is known on any single point of Eastern history you must as a rule go through a few monographs and a long series of Journals or Transactions, probably in three or four languages, and certainly assuming a width of knowledge which the general reader does not possess. The ordinary intelligent working man has neither the gifts nor the inclination to pursue this process: tired with his day's work, he does not want to go a marketing, but expects to find his meal ready cooked. A few countries such as India can, it is true, offer general text-books of their history, but these meritorious works are in the strictest sense unreadable. The old books were not so bad, for formerly knowledge was scanty, and there was room for human interest, but now so much is known that text-books are mere frameworks, indispensable to students who mean to fit fresh knowledge into the frame, but useless to men who intend to go no farther. What I want the scholars to do is this: First, forget all about the Pyramids, the Hittites, the Vedas, and such absorbing topics; second, discard from their hand frontiers, wars, and dynasties, manuscripts, coins, and inscriptions, in fact nearly everything they hold; then, taking a convenient starting point, trace in plain English the growth of those indigenous institutions under which the East has groaned, and the working of the formative ideas (not very numerous) which have rendered those institutions possible, or have occasionally contributed to their modifications. Tell us, in a word, how the East which we know has come into existence, and what results have followed from contact with the West. With that knowledge on hand the democracies will be able to shape their own course; without it they must either drift or remain at the mercy of any crank or charlatan who happens to get hold of the rudder.

That is my appeal; but example is better than precept, and to show more clearly what I want, I will glance at the great idea of administrative exploitation, which the West has had time to forget, but which is still painfully familiar in the East. Almost wherever you look under Eastern rule you find an established governing class, bound by little in the way of law, and employed chiefly in extracting the last obtainable penny from the productive members of the population, and in keeping for themselves as much as possible of the spoil, subject to the claims of their superiors in the official hierarchy. This type of administration is no novelty, and in the East it knows no frontiers; dynasties may change, but the system is maintained; and the Temple of Solomon rested, as the Taj still rests, on the sweat and groans of the men who paid for its erection. Most visitors to the East have described the system in operation, but none of them more effectively than Sir Thomas Roe, who wrote from the Court of the Emperor Jahangir, three centuries ago, that his neighbours "live as fishes do in the sea—the great ones eat up the little. For first the farmer robs the peasant, the gentleman robs the farmer, the greater robs the lesser, and the King robs all." That is the great idea: the people toil for the personal benefit of the ruling classes; and if you watch its operation over a few centuries you find that certain results follow with a high degree of uniformity. The country is impoverished; there is no accumulation of capital, though there may be large hoards of the precious metals; a very low standard of life is established; the ruling class forms the habit of exploiting, and, what is far worse, the masses get used to being exploited, as, it is said, eels get used to being skinned. Everyone learns the terrible lesson that it is better to exploit than to produce, and all productive energy is sterilised, because any man who is worth his salt sets to work as a parasite and preys upon his neighbours.

Now let us see what has happened when Englishmen have stumbled into such an environment. Starting as traders, we have usually found ourselves compelled to take charge of the administration, and we have fought gallantly, though not with entire success, against the tendency to exploit the masses. In this struggle we have got no help from producers, because the old habit of being exploited is extraordinarily persistent; and new parasitic classes—landlords, lawyers, and the like—spring up almost as quickly as you tie the hands of the old. Then we have, of course, introduced education, and while the masses have ignored it, the parasites have been quick to take advantage of the new learning, and so we come to one of the outstanding features of the modern East. The exploiting class of yesterday has become the *Intelligenzia* of to-day, and while the ideal of conscious exploitation may have been abandoned, the underlying habit of mind continues to exercise a preponderating influence on Oriental politics. The Indian *Intelligenzia*, for instance, do not, as a body, desire to exploit the peasants, but they still regard themselves as "the country," which the peasants have to feed and clothe. The peasants, on the other hand, are just beginning to shake off the habit of being exploited, and to realise, however imperfectly, that their needs and wishes ought to count. Here we have the initial stage of one of those conflicts which are apt to split a country to pieces: in the end the peasant has got to come out master, and what Lord Selborne's Joint Committee is really trying to do—if the members only knew it—is to devise a scheme to effect the change by gradual and peaceful means.

This sketch of the working of one idea is, of course, not put forward as a complete account of Oriental politics and economics, but as an illustration of how those subjects must be treated if they are to be made intelligible to ordinary men. I have followed only a single thread; the historian who takes up my challenge will have to bring various other ideas and institutions into the picture—fatalism, slavery, the seclusion of women, and so on, and show how their interactions have contributed to build up the East we know, marked as it is by a strong underlying unity with many characteristic divergences in

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detail. The work is worth doing, and I think it could be done by anyone possessed of the requisite knowledge, if only he will keep his knowledge under control, and exhibit just so much of it as is needed to bring out clearly the main currents in the turbid and impetuous stream, a stream which, as far as I can see, must either fertilise or devastate the world.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A movement in on foot among some native students to organise an Egyptian Boy Scouts Brigade.

The Bulgarian State Press will shortly begin the printing of postcards of the value of 15c. and 10c.

The sale and purchase of plums for use in the manufacture of brandy has been forbidden in Bulgaria.

A report from Athens states that the meeting of Parliament, which had been fixed for October 13, has been postponed for a month.

The Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture is engaged on a project for placing the exploitation of forests belonging to monasteries under State control.

According to a Zara dispatch, the battleship Franz Joseph, allotted to the Yugoslav Navy, which sank during a hurricane, now lies at a depth of 100 ft.

The *Morgenpost* announces that the ex-King Ferdinand of Bulgaria has bought an estate in Mergentheim (Würtemberg), and intends taking up his permanent residence there.

The *Lokalanzeiger* says that 1,800 British troops have arrived in Budapest, and that 2,000 Italians are expected. Both forces are destined for policing work after the departure of the Roumanians.

In its report on the disturbances which occurred in Malta in June, the Inquiry Commission lays stress on the dockyard and general labour unrest that prevailed, and on constitutional and religious questions and police inaction.

Ferik Ghalib Pasha, the former Governor of the Hejaz, Ferik Said Pasha, former Governor of the Yemen, and Muhi el-Din Pasha, former Governor of the Irak, who were interned in Cairo, have been released, and have returned to Constantinople.

Information dated October 4 has been received from Col. Jacob, the head of the British Mission captured by the tribes in the Yemen. At that time communications were passing between the Imam of the Yemen and the Mission with a view to its release.

Rats have become such a pest everywhere in Beyrout and are causing so much havoc that the authorities have taken the matter in hand. The Military Governor of Beyrout has announced that a reward will be given for every rat handed into the police post, whether alive or dead.

The Government of India are making an enquiry into the causes of the perishing of paper in India which involves the premature destruction of old books and records, and in this connection Mr. Chapman, Librarian of the Imperial Library, will be visiting all important libraries in India containing a collection of old books with the object of finding out their condition.

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(ESTABLISHED 1867.)

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CHESS.

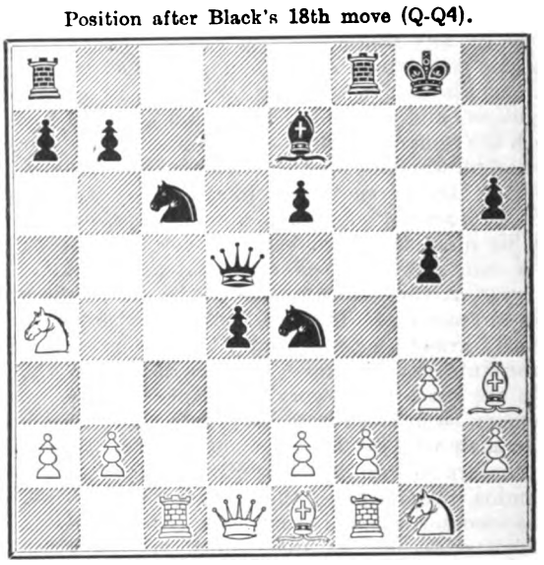
Señor Capablanca returned to London this week on the conclusion of his northern tour. Besides the simultaneous exhibitions at Newcastle and Glasgow, to which reference has already been made in these columns, he gave two exhibitions at Liverpool, on one occasion meeting thirty-four players and winning thirty, losing three, and drawing one of the games, and on the other, meeting forty players, winning all but four of the games, again having three losses and a draw. At Manchester, where he encountered the strongest team he has met since he played at the City of London Chess Club, he had one draw out of thirty games, while at Stoke-on-Trent and at Leeds he won all his games, in both cases having forty opponents. This week his engagements included exhibitions at Norwich, the National Liberal Club, and Hampstead, while on Saturday he will play at Thornton Heath.

The winter season of the City of London Chess Club began on October 11 with a rapid transit tournament, which was won by Sir G. A. Thomas. The usual tournaments of the club commence next week. Remarkable entries have been received, plainly indicating the great enthusiasm at present prevailing for the game.

The Kent County Chess Association is holding a congress at Bromley from April 5 to April 10, when the chief event will be an open tournament limited to thirty-six first-class players.

The following game was played between Señor Capablanca and Dr. A. G. Olland in the Victory Tournament at Hastings:—Queen's Gambit declined; Rubinstein's variation. White, Capablanca. Black, Olland. 1. P—Q4, P—Q4; 2. P—QB4, P—K3; 3. Kt—KB3, P—QB4; 4. P x QP, KP x P; 5 Kt—B3, Kt—KB3; 6. P—KKt3, B—K3; 7. B—Kt2, Kt—B3; 8. 0—0; B—K2; 9. P x P, B x P; 10. B—Kt5, B—K2; 11. Kt—Q4, 0—0; 12. QR—B, P—KR3; 13. B—B4, Q—Q2; 14. Kt x B, P x Kt; 15. B—R3, P—KKt4(a); 16. B—Q2, P—Q5; 17. Kt—R4, Kt—K5;

Position after Black's 18th move (Q-Q4).



18. B—K, Q—Q4; 19. B—Kt2, Q—K4; 20. Q—Q3(b), Kt—Q3; 21. Q—Kt6 (ch), Q—Kt2; 22. Q x P (ch), K—R; 23. B x Kt. P x B; 24. R x P, Kt—B4; 25. P—KKt4 (!), R—B3; 26. Q—K4, R x R; 27. Q x R, R—Q; 28. P x Kt, B—Q3; 29. Q—K4, B—Kt; 30. B—R5 resigns.

(*a*) B—Q3 should have been played. The text move only weakens an already indifferent position. (*b*) The decisive move. There is no satisfactory reply.

CAPO-KANN.

It has been decided to nominate five Indian gentlemen to enter Sandhurst next February, with a view to obtaining permanent commissions in the Army.

A British aeroplane, flying from London to Cairo, landed on Sunday at the Centocelle Aerodrome, Rome, owing to engine trouble.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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The announcement is made that the Greek Government has decided upon the issue of a new internal loan up to the amount of some £12,000,000 in Treasury bonds at six per cent., redeemable in three years. Greece's last domestic loan, in May, was for £3,000,000. With the help of the banks it was over-subscribed to the extent of nine or ten million drachmæ; but it was felt at the time that the national response, although satisfactory, was not in proportion to the wealth of the country. By asking for a considerably larger sum this time the Government will be giving the investing public wider scope. If in the meantime M. Venizelos should have returned to Greece and succeeded in restoring confidence over the labour situation, there should be little doubt as to the success of the loan, which might well be vested with all the glamour of a "Victory Loan" for the Hellenic race.

***

Each week brings news of fresh industrial issues in India, either for additional capital for existing companies or for new enterprises. A notable feature of the latter is the tendency towards increasing Indian representation on the boards of management. This is undoubtedly a step in the right direction, as it must make for a growing sense of responsibility among the Indian population as a whole, a useful concomitant to wider political responsibilities. The principle is worthy of extension in the countries now coming under the mandatory system. I have great hopes that the solution of the Syrian problem will be found in the co-operation of Arabs with British and French capitalists in commercial and industrial enterprises. The Emir Faisal, from all reports, is shrewd enough to recognise the advantages of the scheme.

***

October 11 saw the issue of the prospectus of the long-expected Sudan Loan, subscriptions being invited for an amount of £3,500,000 in 5½ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds at 95½ per cent. The interest on the bonds is guaranteed by the Imperial Government. The bonds are redeemable at 105 per cent. by a cumulative sinking fund, annual drawings commencing on November 1, 1929, and terminating not later than November 1, 1959. The Sudan Government may, on or after November 1, 1939, redeem the outstanding portion of the issue at 105 per cent. on giving three months' notice. Of the present loan, which forms part of the £6,000,000 authorised by Parliament for meeting expenditure on irrigation and railways, £1,000,000 had already been taken up, and it throws an interesting light on the present tendency of investors that the demand for the balance was such that the lists were closed early this week.

***

A marked expansion is to be noted in Greek revenues for the first seven months of the present year. The receipts from monopolies amounted to 26,431,573 drachmæ as against the estimate of 16,858,333 drachmæ, an increase on the 1918 figures of 3,863,935 drachmæ. The increase has been much more marked in the case of the Piræus Customs receipts. The estimate was 6,241,656 drachmæ, while the actual receipts were 26,668,803 drachmæ, as against 17,771,000 drachmæ for the corresponding period last year. In July the rate of advance was much less than in June, actually about 32 per cent., compared with 51 per cent., the reason being in July last year conditions were beginning to approach the normal.

***

At this time of the year the average housewife is beginning to consider the question of buying dried fruit in advance for the Christmas season. I am afraid that there will not be much buying this year, for the simple reason that the fruit is extremely unlikely to be available. The reports of the Smyrna sultana crop have been increasingly unfavourable, and according to the annual report on Greek currants of Messrs. Burlumi, this year's crop of Greek currants is now estimated at no more than 120,000 tons. Given good yields, then there would have been a fair prospect that this country would have been well supplied with both these fruits. But the position, briefly, is that the prices of sultanas and currants are extremely high, and are going up; that other countries are willing to pay these prices; and that unless this country follows suit the sultanas and currants will simply go elsewhere.

***

At the statutory meeting of Morum's Oriental Stores, the chairman, Mr. F. Young, briefly reviewed the present position of the business. He emphasised the fact that there was not a great deal of competition, and that if any competition did come they stood in a splendid position to meet it. Before the war the trade of the stores went to Germany and Austria, but since the business had been taken over the greater part of 1½ million pounds' worth of goods had gone there from this country. Their object was, he pointed out, as far as they could to bring all the trade to this country and to make the stores an outlet for a large amount of British manufactured goods.

***

The unrest and strikes in Egypt have naturally restricted the development of the stores; but, despite these difficulties, the turnover for the four months ended July increased by 25 per cent. Mr. Young pointed out that that period did not cover the best months for trading stores, and said that they looked forward to being able in the next eight months quite to maintain the increase. He did not want to be too optimistic, but he thought it would improve even on the ratio of increase that they showed for the last few months; and, given settled conditions, the prospects were promising for the stores in Egypt and Palestine. Mr. Young referred to the opening of the branch in Jerusalem, and also stated that the question of opening a branch in Constantinople was under consideration.

***

Complaints are still being received with regard to postal and cable delays between this country and the East, and it is evident that the need for improvement in these services is still very great. In a further letter to the Postmaster-General in regard to cable delays, the president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce cites cases of a cable taking four days from Egypt, and one from China which took six days to come, and points out that the delay of eight to twelve days necessary on this basis before the answer to the message can be received is placing British trade under a grave handicap at a time when the maximum overseas trade is vitally necessary in the national interest. "During the period of the war," he continues, "merchants accepted the fact that the number of cables usable for business purposes had to be strictly limited, owing mainly to the censorship and the abnormal pressure of Government messages; but both these causes of delay have now been removed, and there seems no adequate reason to account for long periods of transmission. Owing to repeated representations, the position was considerably improved, but it is now becoming worse, and it is imperative that if our foreign trade is to be restored and developed, the cable service should immediately be raised to the pre-war standard."

***

The position with regard to postal communications may be better than it was, but there is unquestionably vast scope for improvement. And while any uncertainty exists it follows that business must be carried on at a serious disadvantage. If there ever was a time when British commerce required every facility, it is now, when attempts are being made to establish a footing in markets like those of the Near East before our competitors have obtained a monopoly of the trades. I would therefore once again urge upon the authorities the necessity of doing everything possible to remove the present grounds of complaint in regard to these services. As I have pointed out before, they must be clearly aware of the reasons for the present position, and it should not be difficult to find a remedy.

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THE CYCLONE IN EASTERN BENGAL.

Particulars of Damage.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Government of India dated October 4:—

Following are particulars of cyclone on the night of September 24, 25 in Eastern Bengal which caused considerable damage to property and loss of life, but full information not available yet. Many buildings at Khulna were destroyed and persons injured rendered homeless accomdated in Government buildings. Many boats lost, and one passenger steamer believed lost. One corpse recovered from river. Considerable damage also caused at Dacca, where many houses destroyed and river boats reported lost. Impossible to estimate at present number of men killed or drowned, but twelve cases reported on September 25 last. Owing to interruption of railway and telegraphic communication no news from Mymensingh available.

A later telegram from the Government of India, dated October 7, states:—

Cyclone caused greatest damage along Padma and Dhalleswari Rivers in Dacca district, particularly Munshiganj sub-division, where many villages were destroyed and large numbers of people drowned. Standing paddy crops slightly damaged, but great loss of stored grain and jute. Sugar-cane crop largely destroyed. Fatalities Indians not numerous. Impossible to estimate at present loss of life by sinking of river-craft. Inland steamer companies have lost heavily. Considerable damage to property in Kishoreganj and Natrokona sub-division of Mymensingh, but only one death so far reported. Bakarganj less seriously affected, but a few deaths from sinking of boats reported. Local authorities have been authorised to incur expenditure in anticipation of sanction to relieve immediate distress and preparations for distribution of agricultural loans in train. Fifty thousand maunds of Burma rice sent to Lohanganj in Dacca to replace destroyed stock. Steps are being taken to open relief fund. It is feared that heavy expenditure necessary on Government buildings damaged or destroyed. Hon. Mr. Cumming has proceeded to affected area.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated October 1:—

Rainfall nearly general in Peninsula and North Eastern India. Severe cyclone greatly damaged crops and live stock Dacca division and Khulna, September 24.

Agricultural outlook generally hopeful, though much will depend on rain during next fortnight in the Punjab, United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa and Bengal where rain essential for sowing wheat and maturing rice. There has recently been frequent and excellent rain throughout Peninsula which has completely saved situation in Bombay and Madras, Deccan and Hyderabad, which otherwise would have been serious. This rain has now reached Central India and United Provinces and it appears to be extending northward. Good harvests seem assured in Bombay and Central Provinces and fair harvests elsewhere. Economic conditions greatly improved. Price of food grains tending to fall in all provinces except Madras. Prices still excessively high in Bengal, but owing to measures taken to restrict exports and import Burma rice there was pronounced fall in prices during last week.

Bombay cotton market steady. Fully good Broach April-May quoted Rs.483. Piece goods market depressed owing to unstable exchange.

Calcutta jute sackings markets steady but little doing. Hessians steadier.

Dated October 8.

General rain, except in North-Western India. More required high lands, west Bengal. Damage done by cyclone to standing crops not so serious as anticipated.

Bombay cotton market steady. Fully good broach April-May, quoted Rs. 487. Piecegoods market is depressed, with poor demand but light stocks. Calcutta Gunny and Hessians markets steady.

COAL SHORTAGE AT PORT SAID.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, October 3.

The chief topic of conversation in business circles, which here are practically synonymous with shipping, is now coal. For some time past supplies from England have been very short, and stocks have run low. In fact, for two days last week there were no colliers at all in the port, which is an almost unheard of thing. The last shipmaster to leave attributed the shortage partly, if not wholly, to the dilatory tactics of labour at the ports. He told your correspondent that he was nine days under the coal-tips in Cardiff. He had in pre-war days loaded there in twenty-four hours, and in the U.S.A. had had his ship loaded in eighteen hours. There appeared to be no shortage of coal ready to ship, but it was simply the passive resistance to anything in the nature of real work of the so-called workmen. One of the officers of the ship had occasion to speak to the foreman of the gang, and eventually found him with two others playing cards in a shed on shore. He told the officer that he would come when he had finished his game, and not before. This was at eleven in the morning. Comment is superfluous.

Owing to the uncertainty of future supplies of coal in Port Said the British authorities have shut down on all coal stocks, and have ordered agents to supply no coal to merchant shipping (other than transports) going west, and only to British merchant vessels going east. It is hoped that the stringency of this order will be modified in a few days' time when there is a better idea of possible future supplies, but that is how matters stand at present.

German Trade Expected.

Trade in the country has hardly found itself yet, and is in a state of what might be called suspended animation. This is partly due to manufacturers at home not being able to guarantee delivery either early or in the middle-future, if one may coin such an expression. Another contributing cause is the difficulty of freights, space being extremely difficult to get, and very expensive when obtained. There is also a feeling amongst the native buyers that in a few weeks' time the German and Austrian travellers will be coming along and will be offering goods for nothing, only making a slight profit on the wrappings. They do not seem to realise that even a hungry German will not be able to make and sell things at the same price at which he dumped them before the war. The disaffected part of the population are jubilant over the troubles at home, and believe it will hasten the time when the country will be over-run with German drummers giving any credit and doing anything to get orders, profitable or otherwise.

DISTRESS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agricultural Department, dated October 10:—

Our telegram dated October 3.—Relief operations in the United Provinces and in Amraoti district of Central Provinces, and gratuitous relief in Jubbulpore, Damoh and Mandla districts of the latter province, have been closed. In Hyderabad prospects are now hopeful, and the number of persons on relief works is decreasing. Numbers received:—Bengal (incomplete figures), gratuitous, 6,155. Bihar and Orissa: works, 3,796; gratuitous, 52,695. Feudatory States of Orissa: works, 6,806; gratuitous, 2,37(J)1. Central India: works, 3,300; gratuitous, 8,000. Central Provinces: works, 19,343; gratuitous, 5,444. Bombay: works, 3,550; gratuitous, 20,658. Hyderabad: works, 19,000; gratuitous, 32,000. Madras: works, 59,088; gratuitous (incomplete figures), 70,625.

The death occurred at Wallasey, Cheshire, on October 8, in his sixty-eighth year, of Mr. Marshall Little, one of the most prominent men in the Black Sea shipping trade. He was the founder of the firm of Marshall Little and Sons, Liverpool. The funeral took place at Flaybrick Hill Cemetery, Birkenhead, on October 11.

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THE BRITISH EXHIBITION AT ATHENS.

INFLUENCE ON TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST.

The Exhibition of British Manufactures at Athens, which has been organised by the Federation of British Industries, was opened last Monday, October 13, and its formal opening by the King of the Hellenes will take place on October 19. The idea of the exhibition originated during the visit to this country last year of the Greek Industrial and Commercial Mission, when it was suggested that it would be an excellent thing to give commercial circles in Greece an opportunity of seeing the industrial potentialities of this country. It was obvious that if the exhibition was to be of the fullest utility in furthering the growth of British commercial relations with the Near East, it would have to be held at an early date, and the choice of October left the bare minimum of time for the vast work of organisation entailed. In the circumstances, the completeness of the exhibition speaks volumes for the energy and enterprise of the Federation and for the enthusiasm of the manufacturers who have readily availed themselves of the opportunity to introduce their commodities to the Near Eastern markets. The exhibits comprise the manufactures of over 300 of the leading firms, and the exhibition is a wonderfully complete reflex of the industrial resources of the United Kingdom. It would not, indeed, be far short of the mark to describe it as the England of industry and commerce in miniature, and it is admirably calculated to fulfil its purpose of showing Greece and the Near East generally the innumerable ways in which this country can be of assistance in reconstruction and afterwards when the conditions of world commerce are once again normal.

Machinery.

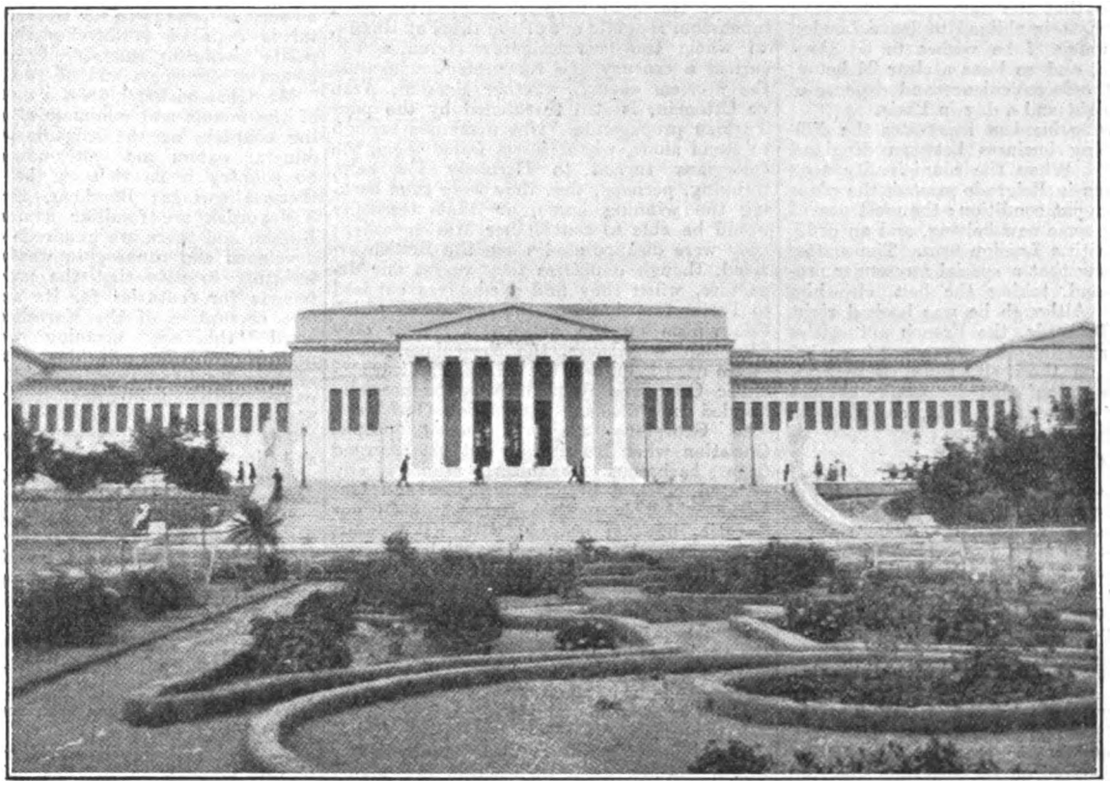
The exhibition, which is being held in the beautiful Zappeion building—than which it would be difficult to imagine a more suitable structure for the purpose—consists of four sections—machinery, textiles and clothing, furniture and decorations, and chemicals and miscellaneous—and each section is of the most comprehensive character. The Machinery section, which is naturally the largest in the exhibition, includes such exhibits as gas engines, motor cars, tractors, electric fittings, and building equipment. One-third of the space in the Zappeion is given over to this section, but all the exhibits are not being shown there An annexe to the main exhibition is given up to motors; tractors are being exhibited where it is possible to see them in operation, and aeroplanes where flights can be made. Arrangements were made for a large Handley-Page machine to fly to Athens in time for the opening of the exhibition; and there will be daily flights for the benefit of exhibitors.

Other Exhibits.

The Textile section contains a notable selection of the famous products of Lancashire. The exhibits include every variety of cotton and woollen piece goods, and such commodities as ready-made clothing and hosiery. The exhibits in the Furniture section include everything that is in use in the ordinary household. Bedsteads, chests of drawers, and similar staple articles of the home are, of course, being shown, and also kitchen ware, cutlery, table linen, and other things required by the housewife. The Chemicals and Miscellaneous section is one of the most interesting in the exhibition. The exhibits in the Chemicals section are of an extremely varied character, and will, no doubt, surprise visitors who have not hitherto realised the capacity of British manufacturing chemists. A notable feature of the exhibition is the food products section, which contains examples of most of the articles of food manufactured in this country, many of them, no doubt, new to Greece.

It is interesting to note that the cinematograph has been enlisted to show visitors how some of the manufactures exhibited were made. This is the first time, presumably, that such a use has been made of this agency at an exhibition, and the innovation is particularly happy, because nothing could be better calculated to emphasise the value of British manufactures than a glimpse of the thorough workmanship that obtains in our factories and workshops. Another valuable feature is the presence at the exhibition of skilled mechanics, who have been sent to Athens by some of the firms represented in the machinery section. Greece is seriously handicapped by a shortage of expert mechanics, and the presence of these skilled engineers means that those who purchase machinery will be able to have it properly erected, while they will be able to have existing machinery renewed or repaired. In this connection it is understood that efforts will be made to arrange for British mechanics to be available permanently in Greece. If this can be done, it would undoubtedly prove an invaluable factor in the commercial relations between the two countries.

There is not a shadow of doubt as to the success of the exhibition, for not only in Greece but throughout the Levant the undertaking has excited the keenest interest in business circles, and expectations that the Zappeion will be thronged with visitors will undoubtedly be realised. In short, British manufactures, through the agency of the Federation, will have been brought before buyers in the Near East in a way which would not have been possible otherwise, and it may be assumed that the immediate result will be a great number of orders for goods of all kinds. The exhibition will, in short, provide the entrée to the Near Eastern market, and for what happens afterwards manufacturers and labour will be jointly responsible. Without initiative on the part of manufacturers it will be impossible to retain the advantage that will accrue from the exhibition, or to make further progress, but with the best will in the world manufacturers cannot cater properly for markets without the willing co-operation of labour. There is now no doubt of the desire of manufacturers to establish relations with the Near East, and it can only be hoped that labour will realise that the achievement of its desires depends on rapid production for consumers abroad. Given that is the case, then the great opening presented in the Near East will not pass to other countries, for it must be remembered that the almost universal desire in the Near East is for commercial relations with the United Kingdom, and buyers will not go elsewhere, be competitors never so persistent, unless it is clear that we are unable to supply the goods that are required.



THE ZAPPEION.

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GREAT BRITAIN AND YUGOSLAVIA.

Handicaps to Trade Development

(From Our Belgrade Correspondent.)

October 1.

One of the chief inconveniences of life for the British colony in Serbia is the absence of a parcels post. Communications with London are very difficult, though they are easy enough with Paris. A Frenchman in Belgrade cabled home for some articles, which were delivered within ten days; and there is a through truck from Paris to Belgrade three times a month. Yet the British colony is without telegrams, for a cable that takes over fifteen days is useless; postage is slow, though it has been improved recently; but parcels post is non-existent; it is urgently and insistently wanted, and nobody can understand why we have not got it. The commercial community require it for the despatch of catalogues, samples, and commodities, and the whole of the colony require it for purposes of ordinary convenience.

Another complaint is the difficulty of through communication. The London-Paris train frequently misses connection with the Simplon-Orient express, which leaves Paris at 9 p.m., so that the unfortunate traveller to the Near East is obliged to leave London the previous day if he wishes to be absolutely certain, and so loses a clear 24 hours, apart from the inconvenience and expense of spending a night and a day in Paris.

The following incident illustrates the difficulties of doing business between England and Serbia. When the municipality took over the trams in Belgrade most of the plant was in a worn-out condition; the most urgent need was for some new belting, and an order was placed with a London firm. The matter was so pressing that a special messenger proceeded overland, taking the belt with him as luggage. Although he was booked right through to Belgrade, the French autnorities insisted on charging the messenger over 100 francs duty on the belt, since, they said, there was no proof that he would in fact continue his journey to Serbia, and that he might sell the belt in France.

Lack of Banking Facilities.

One of the obstacles to the development of British export trade to Yugoslavia is the absence of banking facilities. There are a number of small local banks, but of foreign banks the only one operating is the Franco-Serb, which is reputed to have done very good business during the current year. There have been many rumours of the impending arrival of a British bank, or of the formation of an Anglo-Serbian bank, but nothing has materialised so far. One rumour was very persistent and precise; it was traced to the arrival of a Serbian financier from London, reputedly merely to secure the formal signatures required on the Belgrade side, but nothing more has been heard of it. One can hardly believe the report that the failure of negotiations was due to a misunderstanding between the contracting parties owing to the mutual ignorance of each other's language.

That there is scope for a British bank in Yugoslavia hardly requires proof. That it is wanted, and wanted badly, can be testified by any member of the growing British colony in Belgrade, who are anxiously waiting for banking facilities.

GEORGIA'S MINERAL RESOURCES.

Undeveloped Oilfields.

"Mineral Resources of Georgia and Caucasia; with a chapter on the Manganese Industry of Georgia." By D. Ghambashidze, F.R.G.S. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Limited. 8s. 6d. net.)

This work of reference is a welcome addition to the scanty literature in English dealing with any aspect of the Caucasus, a country as little known to the British, indeed, to the European public, as it is deserving of attention in view of its immense and varied interests. The problematic future, the important strategic position, commanding a gateway from Europe to Asia, and the great resources of this fascinating country, make it well worth the careful study of statesmen and men of commerce and industry. The ancient Georgian Empire, reappearing as a mushroom republic out of the ruins of Russia, to whom the last Emperor Hercules VI. turned a century ago for protection against the Moslem enemy, whether Persian, Arab or Ottoman, is still threatened by the pan-Turkish propaganda. Not numerous enough to stand alone, when Russia failed them, the Georgians turned to Germany for help, thinking, perhaps, that they were thus backing the winning horse, or that Germany would be able to control her Moslem allies; they were disappointed when the British arrived, though doubtless they regret our departure, when they find themselves exposed to Tartar fanaticism on the east and Turkish Chauvinism on the south-west. Their only Christian neighbours, the Armenians, themselves need help, and the military and aristocratic Georgians despise their commercially minded neighbouring and fellow-Christians The Georgians are an ancient people, Christian when Russia had not yet emerged from barbarous paganism, ethnologically isolated, with a peculiar alphabet and language which is neither Indo-European nor Semitic, but *sui generis*, with its Hevsur, Mingrelian, Laz and other dialects. Yet they insist that Russian savants left stranded in the fine Caucasian Museum at Tiflis shall write their scientific works in Georgian, defeating thus their own ends and condemning the work to oblivion.

Their country is one of great beauty and infinite natural resource; the land is extremely fertile, but the people are lazy. Only one important mineral is lacking—coal, but this is amply compensated by the presence of oil. Many parts of Georgia are highly petroliferous, but oil is exploited so far outside their frontiers, for neither Baku, Grozny, nor Maikop are in Georgia. A British syndicate has made a plucky attempt to develop a new oilfield in Guria, and it is to be hoped that a period of peace will enable them to continue their work (interrupted and almost destroyed by the war) and crown their efforts with success.

The dominant mineral is manganese, the fields of the Kutais Government having produced almost half the world's output; British capital was confined to a single company, and Greek, Armenian and Georgian capital were overshadowed by German; quite the biggest unit was the Schalken Gruben and Hüttenverein of Gelsenkirchen, which in the first half of 1914 so greatly intensified its output that though operations were guillotined by the war, the statistics of that year show no reduction. Their property was sequestered by the Russian Government, and negotiations for its acquisiton by a British group were in progress in 1915, when our representative at Kutais learned that a peremptory order from Petrograd forbade transactions. It is, perhaps, not fanciful to see in this the dark hand of Rasputin, whose intrigues were always busy when big money was in the air.

Another source of potential wealth is the immense deposits of copper which extend practically from the Black Sea to the Caspian. The Caucasus Copper Company is the only British interest in this field. The works fell into the hands of the Turks in 1915, when the manager was wounded, but the enemy did no serious damage to the works. Large capital is required to develop these great deposits owing to the scarcity of roads and means of transport and of fuel.

Mr. Ghambashidze gives a detailed account of the metals and non-metals, with interesting chapters on the subsidiary question of mineral waters and water-power. Probably no country is so rich as the Caucasus in thermal springs; Borzhom, Essentuki, and Kislovordsk are familiar names throughout Russia, and there are hundreds of others undeveloped and running to waste. It is interesting to note that the name of Tiflis, famous for centuries for its sulphur baths, is a corruption of the Kartelian (Georgian) word "thbilissi," meaning warm. It is probably only a coincidence that this resembles Teplitz, Toplitsa and other place-names with an identical meaning in the Slavonic languages.

The book is richly supplied with statistics and illustrated by a fine series of photographs of some of the most famous bits of Caucasian scenery.

It is certainly to be hoped that British enterprise will turn its attention to the great resources of the Caucasus, but the Georgians must drop an Anglophobe policy if they are looking to London for capital.

Information has been received by the Board of Trade from his Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Bucharest to the effect that the registration of trade marks has been resumed by the Roumanian Government.

A circular to the shareholders of the New Grosny Oilfields states that, with regard to the petroleum industry in Algeria, a good deal of prospecting work has been done in the neighbourhood of the oil deposits, several wells having been drilled successfully into the oil-bearing strata.

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For further particulars apply to
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Engineering Notes.

Results of Tractor's Trials.

It is very satisfactory to hear that the successes of a British agricultural tractor on its trials recently in Egypt influenced a large landowner so effectively that, according to reports, some large orders for agricultural machinery which he was preparing for America are now to be sent to this country. Whatever may be the value of this report, it is well known that the display of machinery at work is more inviting and effective in sales than catalogues and "chats." Egypt is still adhering to many of the primitive tools, implements, and methods of cultivation, but recently the better classes seem anxious to introduce a thoroughly modern agricultural system.

The trials of the tractor, referred to above, have taken place at the experimental farm at Ghizeh. Under the direction of Abdul Hamid Fathi Bey, Assistant Director of the School of Agriculture, a tract of land was selected and marked out for the trials. This tract consisted of berseem stubble that had not been irrigated for several weeks, intersected by ridges and water channels, and made a rather severe test for the tractor. Under these conditions the tractor, with one of three ploughs, averaged about five feddans per day of ten hours, ploughing to an average depth of 17 centimetres. The tractor's capabilities were also demonstrated in crossing channels, turning on banks, etc., these tests showing that it is practically impossible to overturn the machine.

In the actual ploughing test, the land was steadiiy ploughed in a very practical and thorough fashion, the furrows showing evenness and depth that convinced the onlookers of the advantages of tractors for this work. Ridges, valleys, and a footpath were taken in turn without difficulty. A further demonstration was given on a tract of land irrigated ten days before. Under such conditions this was turned over with the greatest ease, and to a greater width and depth, whilst the acreage covered was considerably increased. After only a week's tuition, two natives successfully manipulated the outfit, and general satisfaction was expressed with the result of the demonstrations and with the suitability of the tractor for work under the conditions prevailing in Egypt.

Efficiency of Tractors.

Yet as another instance of what a British-made tractor can accomplish, we may refer to a demonstration which the makers of the machine recently held, by submitting their machine to a thirty-days' non-stop test, when it cut 315 acres of wheat, 71 acres of oats, ploughed 157 acres, disced 9¾ acres, and hauled a load for a distance of sixty-one miles. Such tests, even though presumably carried out under favourable conditions, with the machine in the hands of experts, are useful for propaganda work, and it would be interesting to see similar attempts made by other tractors. This would effectually remove the doubts sometimes expressed as to whether the agricultural tractor can stand up to the heavy duty imposed upon it.

Shipbuilding in India.

The demand for small cargo boats for service in the Eastern Mediterranean coast and the islands has apparently been extended to India, where, according to authentic reports, there is also an increasing demand for similar boats, especially in the vicinity of ports and rivers. Judging from the drawings published by a shipping contemporary of a type of vessel which has been designed for service on the river Hooghly, and evidently representing the type mostly favoured for such purpose in India—since three other similar vessels are being built there—it seems that there will soon be a good number of well-designed, strong, and serviceable small cargo boats on the Indian rivers, which, in spite of their size, will lack neither modern loading and unloading equipments, nor good accommodations for the crew, nor even want in smartness of appearance. They will probably give the death-blow to the picturesque native boats, like the modern motor boat has done to the gondoliers of Venice. The vessel referred to above for service on the Hooghly is 65 ft. in length, with a beam of 14 ft. from the outside of the planking, whilst the draught is limited to 5 ft. when fully loaded. The propelling machinery, which consists of a 100 h.p. oil engine, is installed amidships, and there are two cargo holds, one forward and one aft, each served by a derrick. A funnel is fitted to the vessel, up which the exhaust is taken, and forward of this is the pilot house. The crew is accommodated right forward under the fore deck. The engine is controlled from the pilot house, whilst there is an oil-driven winch located on the main deck with a barrel for handling the hoisting gear on both masts.

As mentioned above, three vessels of this type are now being built for use in India, mainly by Indian labour, the construction throughout being of Indian teak with copper fastenings. Engines of British manufacture are being fitted.

A Japanese Boat.

In view of the apparent "rush" of Eastern Mediterranean shipowners and others to buy Japanese steamers, it may be of interest to such buyers to hear that, according to influential British shipping journals, the recently reported stranding and subsequent breaking amidships of the new Japanese steamer "Yoten Maru" on her voyage to New York was a serious piece of news to British underwriters. It was evident, they add, that the casualty was serious even on first reports, for her engine-room was said to be flooded and the prospect of salvage difficult, but it was not thought at first that a new steel vessel of 7,149 gross tons would become a total loss in so short a time. The vessel was built of steel at the Osaka Iron Works in Japan, and had quadruple expansion engines; and her insured value is £296,000.

MALTA TRADE NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, October 3.

In view of the financial straits in which the island finds itself, it is gratifying to be able to record signs of an increasing readiness to invest local capital in local concerns. The formation of the Malta Fishing Company, Ltd., is a welcome indication of this change. The capital has been increased to £25,000, to be issued in 340 nominative shares of £50 each and 1,600 ordinary shares of £5. These shares are offered to the public for subscription at par, and the £5 shares are redeemable at £6. A successful future should be before this company, and the public should reap a great advantage therefrom, for it has been common knowledge for a long time past that there has been much profiteering in the fish supply and that middlemen have been reaping exorbitant gains; so much so that the local government has had to control the prices. Despite this action, the prices are still inflated, and in some cases stand at as high a figure as 4s. per rotolo; that is, for 28 oz. The new fishing company has the good wishes of all sections of the community.

Irrigation.

With the rains late and water scarce there is the usual outcry for schemes of irrigation. The Royal Commission of some years ago laid great emphasis on the need for irrigation, but nothing has been done, but now that affairs have become so serious that a committee of officers have met at the office of the Chief Engineer of the Dockyard to consider the possible economies which may be effected in the consumption of water by the War Department in the Malta Command, perhaps the local authorities will rise to the occasion. The dilatoriness of the local government in looking after the real and vital interests of the people has been on several occasions given as one of the chief causes of the recent riots.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. Luigi Antonio Camilleri, LL.D., has been appointed officer in charge of the French Consular Agency at Victoria Gozo.

With a view of avoiding economic difficulties, the Control Board is requiring a return of the amount of foodstuffs on hand, on order, or en route to be handed in on the 15th and at the end of each month.

A strong Committee has been appointed by the Government of India to investigate the condition of the sugar industry and its further development.

The Foreign Office announces that the Black Lists, the withdrawal of which was announced in the *Board of Trade Journal* of May 1 last, have now, according to a decision of the Supreme Economic Council, been definitely abolished.

The South Indian Railway Co. invites tenders for the supply of E class double bogie tank engines and D class engines with tenders. (Spec., £2 each, Secretary, Finsbury Pavement House. Drawings from Mr. Robert White, 3, Victoria Street. S.W.1.). Tenders close November 11.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.

Supplies on hand are now very small, and such transactions as have taken place have been at advanced prices. The outlook in general is most unpromising, as will be seen from Messrs. Burlumi's report. The estimate for the new Greek crop is now reduced to 120,000 tons, and other countries are willing to buy currants at increasing prices. It seems only too probable, therefore, that this market will go short.

Sultanas.

There is nothing new to record. Stocks are scanty and prices are now being paid by manufacturers in excess of the maximum retail values.

Coffee.

While the home trade has been brisker, the demand for export has temporarily fallen off. Offerings at auction this week totalled 5,010 packages. Costa Rica good bold and bold grey greenish brought 151s. 6d. to 153s. for export, while fine bold and bold greenish brought 142s. 6d. to 147s. for the home trade. East India realised 143s. 6d. to 146s. for extra bold fair greenish, and 142s. for bold. The futures market has been quiet. Quotations:—December, 119s. 9d.; March, 113s.; May, 108s. 7½d.; July, 106s. 7½d.

Sugar.

The market has been steady, with a firm demand. Prices of raw sugar show an upward trend.

Oilseeds.

Linseed has advanced in price, and is quoted, Calcutta to London, October-November, 44s. per cwt.; ditto, Bombay, 45s. According to the International Institute of Agriculture this year's linseed crop is the smallest on record. The market in rapeseed is quiet. Bold Ferozepore is quoted at 38s. and Toria at 40s.

Oil cake, etc.

Linseed oil is firm at 94s. for spot and at 93½ for November-December. Soya bean oil has been offered at 80s. Coconut cake has been in good request at 420s. per ton. Supplies of soya bean cake are short.

OPIUM MARKETS.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended September 19:—Owing to heavy purchases last week and to a dearth of available stock our market early this week opened at 30 piastres per oke higher. A few cases changed hands at the higher demands of our dealers, but buying soon stopped owing to a sudden material drop in the exchange from Ps.360 per pound sterling to Ps.335, and with very little demand at this low figure. Nevertheless some Continental orders had to be executed, followed by speculative purchases bringing up the sales of the week to 66 cases at 15s. to 20s. per lb. c.i.f. U.K. ports. Slightly selected druggists' is now at 17s. per lb., bases 11 per cent. Manufacturing material is now at 16s. 6d. per lb., bases 11 per cent. Yerli fine elastic paste is now at 19s. to 20s. as to quality. Common low grades from 10s. to 15s. The arrivals from the interior since last June to date amount to 650 cases, against 9 at the same period last year.

GREEK CURRANTS.

Continuous Rise in Prices.

The following extracts are from Messrs. Burlumi's annual report on currants, dated September 30:—

We refer to our last report, dated October 10, 1918, in which we estimated the crop of currants at about 140,000 to 145,000 tons. The shipments to the United Kingdom during the current year opening on August 23, 1918, and closing on August 22, 1919, reached 86,000 tons, a weight exceeding considerably the importation of the year before and, in fact, of any other year's importation. The danger of the enemy sinking the steamers bringing goods to her opponents, reduced their number considerably and increased the freight for currants to the United Kingdom to 350s., and even to 400s., per ton during the first four months of the 1918-19 season. The freight of the British steamers was reduced by the British Government to 200s. per ton in December, after the conclusion of the armistice. After the month of March, the British Government permitting the shipment of currants to the U.K. on Greek steamers, the freight dropped down to 60s., and even to 50s., per ton for London, and to 70s. to 80s. for Liverpool. The home consumption of the season from September 1, 1918, to August 31, 1919, attained 76,531 tons and this weight exceeds that of any previous season. The importation during the time previous to Christmas was inadequate for the usually large consumption during that part of the currant season, but the consumption in the spring and summer of 1919, has been much larger than the usual weight, which proved the necessity of the article to its consumers.

The crop of 1918 is believed to have rendered 125,000 tons, and the addition of the 33,000 tons of the 1917 crop brought over to the crop of 1918, increased the supplies of 1918-19 to 158,000 tons. Of these supplies, 100,000 were exported to foreign countries, and the balance of 58,000 tons were used in Greece in many ways, but principally in the production of wine and spirits. The Privileged Company have sold to wine and spirit producers all the retained currants at considerably higher prices than they could get during the previous season. The certificates for the retention of currants remaining in circulation on August 22 last were 6,500 tons. The Privileged Company has declared a dividend of 10 per cent. on its Ordinary shares, with a corresponding distribution on the Founders' shares. The wine and spirits companies that use the retained and other currants have paid higher dividends than in any other season.

The stock in London at the end of August, 1918, was 187 tons, according to the reports of the "Grocer," and currants were not allowed to be sold by retailers unless they were cleaned in the United Kingdom. The obligation to clean almost all dried fruits rested on the retailer or the wholesailer at a cost of 3s. 9d. per cwt. This condition, imposed on July, 1918, remained in force up to the middle of February last, and the price had been fixed by the Food Controller at 108s. 3d. per cwt. duty paid. This price lasted from July, 1918, until February 17 last, when the highest for the wholesale price was reduced to 71s. per cwt. and the highest retail for the lowest as well as for the finest currants was reduced to 10d. per pound. On April 14 the Ministry of Food declared that all restrictions as to the importation of currants would be withdrawn, but that the highest retail price could not be increased over the 10d. per pound. These conditions for the sale of currants were to remain in force until September 1. There was practically little importation of 1918 currants until April, and sales were made to dealers early in May at the following prices:—60s. per cwt. for Pyrgos currants, duty paid; 62s. per cwt. for Amalias currants, duty paid; 64s. per cwt. for Patras currants, duty paid; and 66s. per cwt. for Gulf currants, duty paid.

The prices of currants were raised in Greece from May to the end of the 1918—1919 season, and the whole of the fruit was disposed of at prices increasing continuously up to the end of the season in all the consuming countries. Pyrgos fruit was paid in June at 75s. per cwt., duty paid, in London. Amalias at 76s., Patras at 77s., and Vostizza at 80s. The stock in London at the end of May was 2,000 tons, against 500 tons on the same date in 1916, and 1,800 tons at the end of May, 1917. The prices of currants rose continuously, and in spite of the considerable importations in the last three months of the season they closed at the end of August at the highest. Nothing could be got under 82s., duty paid, while Vostizza went up to 90s. At the present moment the currants on offer are very few, and the lowest prices to-day in London are 85s. to 90s. per cwt., duty paid. There is really no stock of currants in Liverpool and Bristol, and the prices quoted in these two markets are really nominal. Of the currants grown in 1918, as well as of the stocks of the 1917 in August of last year, 100,000 tons have been exported and the balance of 58,000 tons was used in Greece, as already stated. The new season has opened there at high prices.

The new crop was expected two months ago to give us about 140,000 tons, and even 150,000; but the present estimates, in consequence of heavy rains during August and this month, have reduced the estimates down to 120,000 tons. The retention in kind which was up to August 22 ten per cent. on the 1918 crop has been reduced to 7½ per cent. on the present crop. The shipments so far have been very small, and the weight afloat for the ports of the United Kingdom does not exceed 6,000 tons. The prices demanded by shippers for the qualities offered to the United Kingdom buyers to day vary from 75s. to 80s. per cwt., cost, freight, and insurance to London, and these prices are higher than those expected by the Food Ministry that has undertaken the purchase and supply to the British consumers. Sales have been made in London for September shipment at lower than the above prices; but the shipment of these sales appears to be put off to October, in the hope of the holders in Greece reducing their prices. The United States and Canada have already bought considerable quantities of the new currants, and the Continent is willing to pay the present prices. These sales have encouraged the growers to maintain the prices and refuse lower offers, because the costs of producing currants now are treble and in many provinces still higher than they were before the war. The higher prices of wines and spirits have increased the use both of fresh and dried currants in their production, and this use during last season has absorbed over 50,000 tons in spite of the high price of the fruit.

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(PALIOS LINE.)
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REGULAR MAIL, PASSENGER, and FREIGHT SERVICES from PIRÆUS to MEDITERRANEAN PORTS, GREECE, SEA OF MARMORA, BLACK SEA, SEA OF AZOF, ASIA MINOR, SYRIA, and EGYPT.
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85 AGENCIES in Greece, Sea of Marmora, Black Sea, Sea of Azof, Asia Minor, Egypt, Mediterranean and principal Ports of the World.
Coaling Yards and Repair Shops.
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Codes used—Scott's (1905) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.

MARITIME BANK of GREECE
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Head Office: PIRÆUS, GREECE.
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The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business, and by reason of its connections, throughout Greece and the Levant is in a position to offer to the trade exceptional facilities.
Advances and Collections of B/Ls., Shipowners' Remittances and Disbursements to and from all parts of the World, by cable or mail. Loans on Vessels and other hulk. Bills of Exchange Negotiated. Letters of Credit and Drafts issued on the Principal Cities of Greece and Foreign Countries. Confirmed Credits at Home and Abroad. Loans on Government and other Securities. Loans on Goods and Warrants of Bonded Stores.
AGENTS AND CORRESPONDENTS:—
For the U.K -LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK, London.
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COMPANY MEETING.

MORUMS ORIENTAL STORES, LIMITED.

Increased Turnover.

The statutory meeting of Morums Oriental Stores, Limited, was held on October 10 at Winchester House, Mr. Frank Young presiding.

The secretary (Mr. Geo. Frampton), having read the notice convening the meeting, the chairman said:—Gentlemen, a report has been sent to all the shareholders, and I think we can take it as read. This is the statutory meeting of the company, which we have to hold in order to comply with the Companies Acts. There is no business to be transacted, and the short time which has elapsed since the incorporation of the company precludes the possibility of a general discussion of its business. The necessary steps are being taken to procure the registration of the company in both Egypt and Palestine, and formally to transfer to the company the property taken over from the vendor.

The Branches of the Company.

Now, you would like to hear something about the property that we have acquired. The property consists of general stores, principally dealing with soft goods, and we have branches in Cairo (3), Alexandria, Tanta, Mansoura, Jaffa, and Jerusalem. This is an old-established business. It has been established about fifty years, and when war broke out—it was owned by Austrian capitalists—of course the Egyptian Government took these stores. There were three really large stores in Cairo. Two of these, our competitors, were closed down; the third one, formerly owned by Steins, was taken by the Egyptian Government, and the vendors bought this store from the Controller. Now, in this business we have 32 departments, and the business is a great asset to the country. We have not a great deal of competition at present, and, if any competition did come, we stand in a splendid position to meet it. The business has been called "the Harrods of Egypt," the developments are very good and the prospects most excellent. Before the war all the trade of these stores used to go to Germany and Austria, and you will be glad to hear that since we took them over about 1½ million pounds' worth of goods have gone there, principally from this country. That, I think, is a good thing from every point of view; and, of course, our object is, as far as we can, to bring all the trade to this country and make it an outlet for a large amount of British manufactured goods.

Unrest in Egypt.

Now just a word about the unrest which has prevailed in Egypt during the last few months. You will remember all about it, the riots which happened and the aftermath of those riots, creating a period of unrest in the country. This naturally had the effect of restricting the progressive course of our business; and just recently we have had the tramway strike in Cairo, which has caused a certain amount of inconvenience. Well, you will be pleased to hear that, notwithstanding all these difficulties, our turnover during the four months since we took over the business—that is, April, May, June, and July of this year—has increased 25 per cent. And those four months are not the best months of the year. The best months for trading stores of our kind in Egypt are from October to the end of March, so that we have the best eight months yet to come. In connection with that we have just received a letter from our manager, dated September 18, in which he says:—"As a matter of fact our daily takings, compared with those of last year's corresponding period, show an increase, which has continued to the present day." I think that is a most satisfactory statement to give you, considering the unrest that has taken place there. Our turnover has actually increased, so that if the unrest had not taken place we should, no doubt, have increased the turnover still further, and we look forward to being able in the next eight months quite to maintain that increase. I do not want to be too optimistic, but I think it will improve even on the ratio of increase that we show for the last few months. I myself am quite optimistic about the unrest in Egypt. We have Lord Milner's Commission going out to look into this matter, and Lord Allenby, in his speech the other day, referring to Egypt and the unrest there, said that "as far as he could see the troubles in Egypt had subsided and Egypt would remain quiet." So that, given settled times in Egypt, your directors feel very optimistic about the future of this business there, and also in Palestine

In connection with that, I might tell you that when Jerusalem was taken over we were not exactly asked by the Government, but we were advised that the utmost support would be given to us if we went to Jerusalem and opened a store there. We did so, and for the goods we sent up to Jerusalem we charged exactly the same price as we charged in Cairo, Alexandria, and our other branches. Without question, it stopped a lot of profiteering that was going on up there, and it was a great help to the troops and also to the people. The directors had under consideration the possibility of opening a branch in Constantinople, and should the negotiations come to a successful conclusion we have no doubt that it will be an important branch, and one which will show very good results.

With regard to the management in Egypt and Palestine, we suffered a loss by the death of Mr. Syson, our manager, who had been managing the business for about two years, but we were fortunate in having with us Mr. Goldstein, who is of Spanish nationality, and has been connected with the business for nearly thirty years. We have appointed him manager in Egypt and Palestine. Mr. Goldstein has recently been on a visit to England, and we discussed with him at great length the present position and general policy to be pursued, and he has returned fully conversant with our wishes regarding the general conduct of the business.

Directors to Visit Egypt.

I may say that one of our directors is going to Egypt within the next week or two, and the other directors have it in their mind to go there in the near future, so that we may be kept in close touch with the business and with its needs and requirements. You will no doubt agree with me that it is a very great thing for a company of this kind to have Messrs. Erlanger connected with us. Their advice is of great importance to us. The directors have decided to close the accounts of the company at June 30 in each year. We hope, therefore, to be in a position to submit the annual accounts to the shareholders during the month of October or November in each year. I do not think there is anything else that I can tell you. There being no resolution to put before the meeting, this really terminates the proceedings, but I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions that shareholders may wish to address to me. You will gather from what I have said that we have a most optimistic opinion about the future, and certainly the developments since your company took over the business have been most satisfactory—indeed, considering everything better than we could have anticipated.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Barsi Light Railway.

The report of the Barsi Light Railway for the year to March 31 states that the net earnings for the year, less Indian income-tax, amounted to £33,365 17s. 1d., or, adding the exchange adjustment of £4,403 2s. 2d., £37,768 19s. 3d. After providing the interest on the debenture stock, £5,600, and the interest and sinking fund instalment, etc., on the "Latur Extension" debentures, £5,649, there is left £26,519 19s. 3d., which, with the balance of £11,002 brought forward from the previous year, makes £37,521 19s. 3d. at credit of net revenue account. The directors have transferred £4,153 5s. 1d. to credit of reserve account for the equalisation of dividends, etc., which account now stands at £82,000, and have reserved £1,358 10s. as a provision for income-tax on undistributed profits. An interim dividend of 3 per cent. (or 6s. per share) was paid on April 25 last, and the directors now recommend that a final dividend of 3 per cent., with a bonus of 2 per cent. (10s. per share in all) be paid. This will make a total distribution of 8 per cent. for the year, and leave £11,210 4s. 2d. to be carried forward. As against the previous year there is an increase of 118,656 passengers and Rs.84,544 in coaching traffic and sundry receipts, and of 12,867 tons and Rs.65,377 in goods traffic, making a total increase of Rs.1,49,921; on the other hand, working expenses show an increase of Rs.42,119, so that the increase in net earnings as compared with last year is reduced to Rs.1,07,802. War conditions may be said to have prevailed throughout the past year, as, owing to the trouble on the North-West Frontier, the restrictions on the movements of pilgrims and on the through booking of goods had to be maintained by the main line railway. These restrictions, though somewhat modified, are still in force, and apart from being a direct handicap on this railway operate in restraint of trade in the district it serves. Business generally was also much affected by the epidemic of influenza last autumn and by the regulations necessary for controlling the movement of food grains, etc., consequent on the existence of a state of famine in other parts of the country. The percentage of working expenses to gross earnings works out at 48.24, as compared with 51.75 in the previous year. The approximate traffic receipts from April 1 to August 30, 1919, amount to Rs.6,77,600, equal to Rs.264.45 per mile per week, as compared with Rs.3,72,100 (Rs.144.27 per mile per week) during the corresponding period of last year. The restrictions on railway traffic—both passenger and goods—have been considerably modified, and both classes of traffic show a steady improvement, while the attendance of pilgrims at the Ashadi Fair at Pandharpur in July was a record one, and accounts for much of the above increase to date. The directors have elected Mr. Frederick Schooling, F.I.A., to fill the vacancy on the board due to the death last year of Mr. F. M. Halliday.

Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways.

The report of H.H. the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company for the year ended March 31 last states that on the broad gauge system expenditure on capital account was £22,312, bringing the total to £3,979,788. The net earnings, after deducting £21,538 payable to the Government of India on account of the Bezwada extension, amount to £212,491. The sum required to meet the charges in respect of debentures and income tax adjustments, together with 5 per cent. on the capital stock, amounts to £212,447, leaving a surplus of £44 divisible between the Government of H.H. the Nizam and the company. In respect of the Hyderabad Godavery Valley Line (metre gauge), expenditure on capital account was £20,330, bringing the total to £2,108,116. Net earnings amount to £216,191. The sum required to meet the charges in respect of the debentures and income tax adjustments amounts to £104,973, leaving a surplus of £111,218 divisible between the Government of H.H. the Nizam and the company. The directors recommend a final dividend on the capital stock for the year at the rate of 2½ per cent., plus a bonus of 1½ per cent., less income tax, making a total distribution at the rate of 6 per cent. for the year. Warrants will be issued on October 23. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., October 21, 3 p.m.

STRANGERS' HOME FOR ASIATICS,

WEST INDIA DOCK ROAD, LIMEHOUSE, LONDON, E.

"I was a stranger and ye took me in."

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China, and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD., 4, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, September 27.

The following extracts are taken from a recent report received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

The prices keep up in Europe, in England as well as in Italy, on account of continuous buying, but the local trade in manufactured goods has suffered this week a temporary set back owing to the persistent decline in the rate of exchange and in the price of roubles, in addition to the troubled situation in Anatolia. The business of the week is considerably less than that of the previous week.

Produce.

Sugar.—The market is weak. There have been new offers from producing centres. The arrivals of the week amount to 300 wagons. Quotations are :—Java, £57-£58 per ton, and £59-£60 per ton afloat.

Coffee.—No arrivals. Quiet market. Prices Ps.70/75 per oke.

Rice.—Arrivals five wagons. No business. Stocks about 100 wagons.

Tea.—Market strong, with tendency to rise.

Exports.

Opium.—Sales of the week, 70 cases Druggist Kara Hissar, Ps.740 per oke. Prices unchanged. The stock here amounts to about 2,000 cases.

Mohair.—Arrivals, 330 bales. Sales, 200 bales Angora at Ps.80; 140 bales Konia (Malikeuy) at Ps.70 per oke. The market is firm.

Wool.—Arrivals 160 bales. No transactions. The tendency is to fall.

Silk (Raw).—Fifteen bales of Broussa have been sold at £T12.75 per kilo. Syrian has been ignored at £T10-£T10.50 per kilo nominal.

Cereals.—Prices, which had fallen at the commencement of the week, rose from 2 to 5 piastres the oke on account of the stoppage of arrivals.

PORT DEVELOPMENTS AT CASABLANCA AND SAFFI.

H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier reports that a loan of 40,000,000 fr., for the purpose of developing the ports of Casablanca and Saffi, has been adopted in principle, the interest and sinking fund being secured on the receipts of the Caisse Spéciale. Mooring buoys are to be placed at Casablanca in positions under the shelter of the large mole. The question of increasing shipping facilities at the ports of the French Protectorate is under consideration, and more especially the establishment of a regular service between Cadiz and Casablanca, which would be of great utility from the point of view of mail and passenger services. Work in connection with port development at Casablanca, while hindered by the war, was nevertheless carried on and is now being completed with all possible speed. The large mole had attained a length of 1,030 metres in August, and it is hoped to complete the bend of 200 metres additional by the end of the year. A landing-stage of 275 metres has also to be finished, which is expected within about eighteen months, when the largest vessels will be able to land their passengers. The Shereefian Government invite tenders for the construction of a port for lighters here. Persons who wish to tender should give information concerning important marine works already carried out by them and stating the names of the engineer in charge, and should present certificates or other papers in proof of their competence before November 1 to La Direction Generale des Travaux Public at Rabat. Those admitted to tender will receive notice thereof and will be able to obtain particulars of the works to be executed.

The directors of the Indo-European Telegraph Company have declared an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of tax, payable on and after November 1 to holders registered October 31.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
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GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER: 25, Pall Mall.
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CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Beyrout. Hamah. Saida.
Alexandretta. Damascus. Homs. Tripoli.
Caiffa.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.
(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Trade Improving.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

A very large turnover has transpired in the market during the past week, and spinners and manufacturers have extended their engagements. Prices all round have been advanced to a considerable extent, and numerous producers have been very independent when business has been offering. Information with reference to the Egyptian crop has been scarce during the week, but the growth is understood to be doing well. Spinners of yarn made from Egyptian cotton are in a very strong position, and in most quarters producers have sufficient contracts on hand to keep them fully employed for a long time to come. In spite of the long delivery often required and the higher prices demanded, an encouraging trade has been put through. In American cotton circles sentiment has been very bullish, and values have appreciated. Demand in piece goods for Egypt and the Near East generally has again been very extensive, and some large orders have been placed with makers. Inquiry in cloth for India has been on broader lines, and sales of fair weight have been put through for Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, and Karachi. Buyers for China have again given useful support in a variety of styles. Java, Singapore, and South America have operated freely, and in home trade fabrics increased activity has been met with. Home American yarns have been purchased with freedom at hardening rates, and descriptions suitable for shipment abroad have been in better request. For the Levant a healthy business has been offering, but producers are deeply sold, and delivery difficulties have been experienced.

Liverpool Cotton Association.

The Liverpool Cotton Association has published its annual report for the season 1918-19. The average price of middling American cotton during the year was 19.73d. per lb., against 21.68d. per lb, in 1917-18. The average price of fully good fair Sakellarios Egyptian cotton was 27.85d. per lb., against 30.97d. per lb. in the previous season. The highest price of American cotton during the year was on August 30, 1918, when middling qualities were quoted at 24.77d. per lb. The lowest point was reached on March 7, 1919, when 15.24d. per lb. was quoted for middling. The American cotton crop amounted to 11,603,000 bales, against 11,912,000 bales in 1917-18. The Egyptian crop totalled to 4,820,660 cantars, as compared with 6,307,618 cantars in the previous year. The total imported into Great Britain compared with the preceding year shows an increase of 214,753 bales American, 17,015 bales Peruvian, 3,201 bales West Indian, 1,872 bales African, and a decrease of 12,213 bales Brazilian, 70,813 bales Egyptian, and 126,798 bales East Indian, the total increase being 27,027 bales. The average weekly consumption of Great Britain during the year was 55,270 bales, consisting of 41,020 bales American, 9,920 bales Egyptian, 2,310 bales Peruvian, 1,420 bales East Indian, 290 bales African, 220 bales Brazilian, and 90 bales West Indian, being a decrease of 1,660 bales. The total weight of cotton consumed in Great Britain during the year was 1,526,218,182 lbs., against 1,498,875,677 lbs. in 1917-18. The figures given relating to the distribution of the American crop are very interesting. Of the total supplies during the four years ending 1919 the proportion sent to Great Britain was 20.87 per cent., against 25.45 per cent. in the five years ending 1915. On the other hand, the takings of spinners in the United States during the last four years amount to 57.61 per cent. of the total supplies, against only 39.63 per cent. in the five years ended 1915.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The directors of the Ceylon Tea Plantations Company have declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares on account of 1919, payable on and after October 31.

The numbers are announced of 107 debentures amounting to £10,700 of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt four and a-half per cent. debentures (series B), which have been drawn for repayment at par on November 11.

The transfer books of the second Mortgage Debenture stock of the British Burmah Petroleum Company Limited, have been closed until November 1 for the preparation of the warrants for interest payable on that day.

It is announced that coupons for accumulated arrears of dividend on the five and a-half per cent cumulative preference shares of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Limited, for the years ended March 31, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, and 1918 are now ready for issue. Share warrants to bearer and registered certificates must be lodged either at the offices of the company, 210-216, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2, or with the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo or Alexandria, for endorsement. Preference shares Nos. 1 to 104,078 are entitled to the following coupons:—For 1914 coupon, "Q" representing 1½ per cent., equal to 1s. per share, less income tax; for 1915 coupon, "R" representing 3 per cent., equal to 6s. per share, less income tax; for 1916 coupon, "S" representing 5½ per cent., equal to 11s. per share, less income tax; for 1917 coupon, "T" representing 5½ per cent., equal to 11s. per share, less income tax; for 1918 coupon, "U" representing 2 per cent., equal to 4s. per share, less income tax.

The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due November 1 on Egyptian Unified Bonds; the necessary lists can be procured on application at the Dividend Pay Office, 5-6, Lombard Street, E.C.

The directors of the Guardian Eastern Insurance Company met informally in Manchester on October 7, a large number of the shareholders resident in Lancashire, and, in his address the chairman stated that the support already accorded to the company gave promise of a very active future.

The World Cotton Conference was opened at New Orleans on October 13.

Mr. H. Beacon has resigned the position of manager of the British Bank for Foreign Trade, and will proceed to Paris at the end of the present month to take up an appointment on the management of Messrs. Cox and Co. (France).

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Shipping at Malta.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, October 3.

Most of the steamship lines are now running normally, to the advantage of the whole community and of the merchants in particular. During the past few days the P. and O. company have been represented by the "Khyber," outward bound. Other arrivals have been British s.s. "Sitra" from Liverpool, "Adra" from Barry, the "Andalusian," and the transport "Himalaya" for Marseilles. There has been fair activity amongst the naval craft, nearly all bound for "home," whilst the representative nature of these ships can be judged from the latest list:—H.M.T.B.D. "Swallow," the sloop "Honeysuckle," the hospital ship "St. Margaret of Scotland," the trawler "Moonshine," and submarines L.1, L.3, L.4, L.9, and L.15.

New Shipping Services.

The Cunard Steamship Company announce the opening up of new services. Sailings between Antwerp, Rotterdam, and ports in the Mediterranean, the Levant, and the Black Sea will be conducted in conjunction with the present services from London. With a view to the development of the Smyrna and United Kingdom East Coast trade, a working arrangement has been entered into with Messrs. T. Bowen, Rees, and Company, of Smyrna.

The fleet of thirteen steamers of A. Laird and Co., Londonderry, Dublin, and Glasgow, has been sold to an English company. The purchase price is stated to be a million pounds.

A new company has been registered under the title, "Egyptian Transport Service, Ltd.," with a capital of £5,000, to carry on the business of carriers, forwarding agents, wharfingers, shipowners, charterers, ship and insurance brokers, etc.

The ss. Antonia (ex Lundy), 2,857 tons gross, 1,799 net, has been sold by the Egypt and Levant Steam Shipping Co., London, to buyers not stated.

The ss. Caliros (ex Riplingham), 2,570 tons gross, 1,649 net, has been sold by Mr. Jean Sapariz of Piræus, to buyers not stated.

The ss. Emmanuel, 2,490 tons, owned by A. A. Capparis, of Piræus, had her tail shaft broken, on September 24 at Barry for Hampton Roads.

An urgent problem before the new Financial Adviser to Egypt will be to devise means whereby new sources of revenue may be created.

Owing to the disturbances in Egypt last spring, the revenue during April declined by over half as compared with April, 1918.

The Oilfields Finance Corporation, Limited, announces that the guaranteed issue of £468,442 "A" shares of £1 each of the Baku Consolidated Oilfields, Limited, credited with 2s. 6d. paid, has been oversubscribed, and that consequently the underwriters will not be called upon.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has been a good deal of activity this week, with irregular movements in prices. The rise in the French exchange has again been a depressing influence in those securities in which the Continent is interested. On the other hand, there has been some good local buying in certain directions, and Egypt has been sending buying orders for various securities. The tone, therefore, on the whole, has been a fairly cheerful one.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds have been in strong demand throughout the week, and close 1¼ up at 78½, but there are only buyers at the moment. In Egypt 3½ per cent. pref. the price remains firm at 65½, after dropping to 64½.

In Bank shares National Banks, on local purchases, jumped up to 20, but on some small sales there has been a reaction to 19⅝—a rise of one-eighth. Agriculturals, also, on local buying, went up to 6, but finish only one-eighth higher at 5⅞. Agricultural prefs. have been dealt in to a fair extent in the neighbourhood of 7⅛, but are closing unaltered at 7¼, as there are no sellers at the moment, and buyers are bid 7⅛. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have improved ½ to 18. Bank of Abyssinias are 1s. up at 35s.

In Railways, Delta Lights have advanced one-eighth to 6½.

Amongst Land shares there has been a movement in Aboukirs, which have been steadily bought, and which finish 1s. 9d. up at 29s. 6d., after having touched 30s. In Allotments there has been some business at the current price, and there are further buyers. As regards Béhéras, after some weakness they have firmed up again and close unaltered. The preference shares are one-eighth down at 4⅜. Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 4½d. easier at 2s. 4½d., but there has been some quiet buying at the lower level. Delta Lands dropped 1s. to 12s. 9d., but close only 6d. down at 13s. 3d. Gharbieh Lands are one-eighth easier at 2 3-16, and Sidi Salems have shed a similar fraction, and are 2 3-16 also. New Egyptians have receded 6d. to 22s. 6d., and Sudan Plantations, after rising to 8½, are closing only one-eighth up at 8 1-16. There has been some renewal of demand for Union Foncières, which close one-eighth higher at 3½.

In Miscellaneous shares the feature has been a demand for Salts and Sodas, which are closing ¼ higher at 3 3-16. Khedivial Prefs. have dropped ¼ to 3⅞.

In Oil shares there was at one time a rather severe reaction, but the market is again closing with a firm tendency. Anglo-Egyptians, after dropping to 5, finish 5-32 down at 5½. Roumanians close 9d. up at 24s. 9d., and Traians have improved 1s. 6d. to 13s.

In Greek securities, on sales from Paris, the 1881 and 1884 Loans have dropped to 65½, a decline of 4½ and 2½ respectively. Monopolies, Rentes, and the 1902 Loan have remained firm spots with only buyers about. The 1890 Loan has suffered in sympathy with the 1881 and 1884 Loans, and is quoted 4 down at 66. The 5 per cent. "Currant" bonds have been in constant demand at the existing quotation of 94. The 1914 Loan has also been affected by sales from Paris, and is closing a point down at 73½.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Oct. 9	Price Oct. 15
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	50⅜	50⅛
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	80	80
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	77½	78⅛
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	65⅜	65⅜
Greek 5%, 1881	70	65⅜
Do. 5%, 1884	68	65
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	56	56
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	54	54
Do. 5% 1890	70	66
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	65	65
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	66	66
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	60	60
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	74⅜	73½
Do. 5% Currant	94	94
Montenegro 5% Loan	72½	70½
Persia 5% 1911	83	82
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	64	64
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	76⅛	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	63	63⅜
Do. 4% Unified	50½	49
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅜	5⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¼	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17⅞	18⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	34/-	35/-
Bank of Athens	65/-	70/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	8	8
British Trade Corporation	10⅜	10½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	10⅜	10⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	10⅜	10⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅜	6⅞
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅜	6⅜
London County and Westminster	16⅛	16⅛
National Bank of Egypt	19⅜	19⅜
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅜	6½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	13	13½
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	65½	65½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	65⅜	65⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	68	68
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	55	55
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	27/9	29/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	13⅜	13⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	4/4⅜	4/4⅜
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	2/9	2/4⅜
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	13/9	13/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	13/6	13/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	2 5/16	2 3/16
New Egyptian Co.	23/-	22/6
Sidi Salem Co.	2 5/16	2 3/16
Sudan Plantations	7 15/16	8 1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	3⅜	3⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	11⅜	11⅜
Egyptian Market Ord.	1⅛	1⅛
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	2 13/16	3 3/16
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5½	5⅜
Do. Do. Prefs.	4⅛	3⅞
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	98⅜	99
Chinese 4½% 1898	78	78
Do. 5% 1896	88xd	88
Argentine 5% 1890	83½	86½
Do. 5% 1907	87	87
OIL.		
Anglo-Egyptian B	5 3/16	5⅛
Anglo-Persian	26/9	26/9
Anglo-Roumanian	10/6	12/-
Roumanian	24/-	24/9
Traian (Roumanian)	11/6	13/-

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Oct. 9	Oct 15
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	63⅜	64⅛
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	64	64⅛
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		80	82
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		73½	73½
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		75½	75⅜
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		80	80
Eastern		9½	9 1/16xd
Mercantile of India A		38	38½
National of India		55xd	55
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		4/6	5/6
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		3/8	7/8
Burma Corp.		11 7/32	11 5/16
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		14/6	14/6
Champion Reef Gold		4/3	4/3
Mysore Gold Mining		1⅜	1⅜
Nundydroog		14/- xd	14/6
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		14/9	8/-
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		1⅛	1⅛
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		⅜	⅜
OIL.			
Assam Oil		2 5/16	2 5/16
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		1¼	1 1/16xd
Brit. Burmah		2 3/32	2½
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		14 7/16	14⅜
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		1⅜	1⅜
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		10⅜	10⅜

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES

Continued—

RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	54½	53
Benga and N.-Western Ord.	135⅜	136
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	60	60
Bengal-Nagpur	116	117
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	105	106
Burma Railways	112	112
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13	13
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	12⅜	12⅜
Gt. Indian Pen Ann. "A," 1948	13⅛	13
Madras and S. Mahratta	103⅛	103⅛
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	129⅛	129⅛
Nizam's Guaranteed State	76	76
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	11xd	11
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	9½	9½
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	92⅛	92⅛
Do. Deferred	620	665
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	70	70
Bengal United Tea Ord.	16⅛	16½
British Indian Tea Ord.	9½	9½
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17	17
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	11/3	11/3xd
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	6⅛	6⅛
Consolidated Estates	6⅜	6⅜
Darjeeling Co.	19/3	19/3
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	60/-	58/9xd
Dooars Tea Ord.	3 1/16	3 1/16
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	⅜	⅜
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	3	3xd
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	30/3	31/- xd
Hewagam Rubber Co.	1	1
Jhanzie Tea Association	10½	10
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	22⅛	22⅛
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	20/-	18
Lanka Plantations Ord.	19/3	19/3
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	54/6	54/6
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	2 7/32	44/4½
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14½	14
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	1⅛	1⅛

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Sept. 5. Rs.	Sept. 12. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	68	67
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	292xd	292
Bank of Bengal	1965	1975
Bank of Bombay	2350	2325
Bank of Madras	1500	1500
Bank of India	187	178
Tata Industrial Bank	82½	88½
COAL.		
Baraboni	19	19
Bengal	935	935
Burrakur	50⅛	51
East Indian	39	39
Equitable	50½	47
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	72	72
Standard	68	68
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	280	280
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	1880	1872½
Bowreah	430	430
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	700	700
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	575	612½
Central India	2735 / 1367½	2800 / 1400
Elgin	125	125
Gold Mohur	1500	1500
Khatau Makanji	4200	4400
Muir	120	120
New Ring	180	180
Phœnix	660	655
Svadeshi	2800	2880
JUTE.		
Alliance	94	822
Barnagore	200	220
Budge Budge	610	685
Clive	320	320
Dalhousie	543	568
Delta	642	686
Fort Gloster	910	1000
Gourepore	1181	1215
Howrah	49⅛	53
Kamarhatty	87	905
Kanknarrah	720	720
Khardah	460	480
Kinnison	930	990
National	400	400
Standard	662	706
Union	840	840
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	102	102
Bengal Timber Trading	433	460
Burn and Co.	350	340
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	226½	226½
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	207½xd	226½
Howrah Oil Mills	44½	44
India General St'm	180½	180
Indian Iron and Steel	110 / 103	110 / 101
Marshall Sons and Co.	18	18½
Titaghur Paper	400	362

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 442.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The prospect of the United States accepting a mandate for Armenia is becoming steadily smaller and smaller. The Washington correspondent of the *Morning Post* quotes an agency despatch from Constantinople to the effect that the American Commission which has been investigating the situation in the Near East is opposed to the States accepting a mandate for Turkey. But, the report adds, the Commission advises that should a mandate be accepted the American control should extend to the Caucasus, thus taking in the Baku, Batoum, and other oilfields. This is a very different attitude from that of the Americans who desire their country to take up the burden from purely altruistic motives; but it is by no means unnatural that America should desire a *quid pro quo;* and though the question of frontiers would almost certainly give rise to serious difficulties, the proposal would be well worth considering carefully, and would be likely to meet with strong support in this country. Unfortunately the comparatively few Americans who are really anxious to see their country intervene in Turkish affairs for the sake of the peoples of the Turkish Empire are reported to be making practically no headway in converting their countrymen to their views.

Meanwhile Turkey is muddling along as best she may, and appears to be no more ready now than she ever has been to play her part in the new world which the politicians have been promising to us for some time. Indeed, with the exit of Damad Ferid Pasha's Cabinet she seems to have drifted back almost into her old course. The Committee of Union and Progress is making its influence felt very strongly once more, and will probably score a victory at the elections; while its opponents are reported to have made up their minds to refrain from taking any part in the proceedings. Unless the Powers take some step quickly to stop the dry rot that is setting in, they must eventually be held responsible for whatever consequences may follow. And it is at least possible that these consequences may be extremely unpleasant for Europe.

The most interesting development in connection with the Syrian question is a proposal put forward by the Emir Faisal for the appointment of a Military Commission, to sit in London, to discuss the situation in view of the imminent withdrawal of British troops from Syria. Particulars of the proposal will be found on another page. It is understood that the British Government considers that, subject to existing agreements, the matter is one for settlement between the Emir and France. The Prince, who is now in Paris, has already had personal conversations with M. Clemenceau; and it is to be hoped that, with a little readiness to give and take on both sides, the difficulties and dangers—for dangers there are—of the present situation will be removed. Attacks upon the Emir Faisal, which continue to be numerous in the French Press, are unlikely to conduce to this end.

The outlook with regard to the Fiume and Adriatic problems has distinctly improved during the past week. Signor d'Annunzio is reported to be in a less unyielding mood; he has addressed a memorial to M. Clemenceau on Fiume, containing proposals for making the port absolutely free; and he has issued a manifesto to the Serbs, addressing them as heroes, and advocating the burying of differences due to the Adriatic question. Incidentally it is reported that signs of dissatisfaction have appeared amongst his followers. Far more important than these things, however, is the announcement that Signor Tittoni has forwarded to the Paris Conference suggestions for a solution of the whole Adriatic problem, which are stated to be in effect an acceptance of President Wilson's proposals. According to this plan, an independent State of Fiume would be set up, under the protection of the League of Nations. It would include the districts of Idria and Adelberg, but the district of Volosca would go to Italy, ensuring communication between that country and Fiume. Signor Tittoni also asks that Lagosta, the southernmost of the Dalmatian islands, should be given to Italy, and that Zara should be a free city, diplomatically represented by Italy. These concessions he regards as the utmost that can be offered, and if Washington rejects the proposal, he will decline responsibility for any evils that may follow. In the meantime it may be noted that M. Pashitch and the Yugoslav delegation, who arrived in Paris on Tuesday, are reported to have taken with them their Government's final instructions on the Fiume question.

The Ministerial crisis in Bulgaria caused the Sofia Government to apply to the Paris Conference for ten days' extension of the period within which they were required to sign the Treaty of Peace; but the delega-

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tion, at the head of which M. Theodoroff, the late Prime Minister, remains, lost no time in returning to France, and this week should see the treaty duly signed. Peace in the Balkans is the greatest possible asset to all the countries of the Peninsula, and it is of considerable interest, therefore, to watch how the conditions imposed on Bulgaria are received in the country. Reports of a threatened upheaval entirely lack confirmation. They have been circulated at various intervals since the Armistice, but in every instance have been proved to be untrue. No doubt there is inflammable material in Bulgaria, as in most countries at this time, but a firm hand was kept upon it under the late regime, and there is no reason to doubt that M. Stambolisky's Government will prove equally capable of maintaining tranquillity. His Foreign Minister is M. Madjaroff, formerly Bulgarian Minister in London, who latterly held the portfolio of War in M. Theodoroff's Cabinet, and was responsible for peace and order in the country under the eyes of the heads of the Allied Mission. This duty now devolves upon the Prime Minister himself. His task will be simplified in some measure by the circumstance that Bulgaria has had an abundant harvest, which has secured her adequate supplies for some time to come.

Last week, as already recorded, the Prince Regent of Serbia made the fifth attempt to find a way out of the political crisis by entrusting M. Drashkovitch with the task of forming a Cabinet. M. Drashkovitch was Minister of Communications under M. Davidovitch, and it was expected that he would try to associate with him in office as many as possible of the members of the Davidovitch Ministry. So far there has been no news of the success of his efforts to form a Government; but in view of the general impatience felt at the prolongation of the crisis, a further failure seems unlikely. At best the new Cabinet would be a temporary expedient to enable the elections to be held. With so many politicians inclined to play for their own hand, it is essential that the nation as a whole should be allowed to decide the lines on which it wishes to be governed in the future. According to one report the Davidovitch Ministry is to "carry on," reinforced by M. Bianchini, without portfolio.

No further developments in the political situation in Roumania have so far been announced. As the *raison d'être* of the new Ministry is to carry through the elections, the chief interest in the near future would ordinarily centre in the electoral campaign. According to the latest reports, however, the Opposition leaders persist in their refusal to acquiesce in the holding of elections while a form of martial law exists in the country and a rigorous censorship is enforced. If a large section of the electorate abstains from going to the poll, it is obvious that the results of the election cannot have that settling effect on the country that the interests of Roumania render essential at this time. It is to be hoped, therefore, that before the elections are held an understanding will have been reached between the Government and the Opposition. The presence of M. Misu in the Cabinet offered some hope of a satisfactory settlement. He has kept himself aloof in the past from party politics, but his personal friendship with M. Take Jonescu, the chief leader of the Opposition, promised to provide a golden bridge for all concerned. It is now reported that he is to return to Paris as chief of the Roumanian delegation, and it is to be feared that his influence on home politics will have been removed at a critical stage.

The absence of M Misu from Bucharest, however, may be compensated for by the new step which the Allies are now reported to have taken. A fresh Note, it is announced, has been addressed to Roumania, as a result of Sir George Clerk's mission. In it the Supreme Council state that taking into account the desire of the Roumanian Government to preserve for the future the alliance with the Entente Powers, it is ready to discuss modifications of the clauses of the Treaty relating to Roumania's internal affairs as soon as it learns that the Roumanian Government is ready to sign the Treaty of St. Germain. The Allies express the hope that Roumania will accept this offer of collaboration. It is a matter for regret that the Supreme Council has not shown a more generous spirit in reopening the subject of the Peace Treaty with Roumania. To take any step at all is an admission that the Council has been in the wrong. Why not go the whole length, and not make the promise to revise the objectionable clauses, which alone were responsible for Roumania's refusal to sign, conditional upon her readiness to sign? The original attitude of the Supreme Council had no slight bearing on the political complications which have ensued in Roumania.

Very little news of Montenegro reaches the outside world. Count de Salis, who recently undertook on behalf of the British Government a mission of inquiry into the conditions in the country, has returned to England, and his report, it is understood, has been in the hands of the Government for a fortnight or longer. Parliament will, no doubt, be informed whether it is proposed to make known the results of the investigations. In the meantime a mission of relief under Colonel Cheke has paid a brief visit to Cettinje and has returned to Trieste, where it is proposed to collect the stores most needed in Montenegro with a view to their distribution at the earliest possible date. American relief has already reached the country, but it is an open question whether the methods of distribution adopted, owing to no fault of the Red Cross officials, did not result in political discrimination being made in regard to the recipients. When British relief is given to the Montenegrins, care should be taken that it reaches the people according to their need, and without regard to their political leanings.

It was announced last Saturday that the King had been pleased to approve the appointment of Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby as High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan, in succession to General Sir Reginald Wingate. The announcement can have been a surprise to very few people. General Allenby has come to fill in the public eye and the public affections the place formerly occupied by Lord Kitchener, and he was obviously marked out as successor to Sir Reginald Wingate, who, it was generally understood, would not return to Cairo. The new High Commissioner has a heavy task before him, and if he is to carry it through he will require all the help that the Home Government can give him; though such help may probably best take the form of leaving him a free hand and sparing him futile advice. The record of his achievements, especially in Palestine, proves that he is a fine administrator as well as a brilliant soldier, and the combination is just what is required in Egypt at the present time. It is possible that, in view of the change, the Government may think it wise to delay the despatch of the Milner Commission. The chief objection to such a step would lie in the probability that it would be misinterpreted in Egypt, and proclaimed by the Extremists as another "victory."

Sir Reginald Wingate, the retiring High Commissioner, deserves the nation's gratitude for all the good work he has done in the long period—over thirty years—that he has served his country on the Nile. It would be difficult to praise too highly his services in the Sudan, with which his name will always be associated. He played one of the chief parts, if not the chief part, in bringing that country from a state of savagery and anarchy to a state of rapidly spreading civilization and prosperity, and the great influence he exerted over the natives is bound to have a lasting effect. It is generally believed that he had no desire to exchange Khartoum for Cairo, and only did so in response to the urgent request of Downing Street. In any case, he moved north at a time of quite exceptional difficulty, and his record at Cairo is one of tireless work and self-sacrifice. In Egypt, as in the Sudan, he made a host of friends for himself, and General Allenby has more than once testified to the loyal way in which Sir Reginald Wingate constantly assisted him.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 2.

The Political Situation.

Neither the industrial nor the political situation has undergone any improvement. In fact, while the former has remained stationary, the political situation has, in my opinion, become aggravated. This aggravation is due to many causes, but chiefly to three factors which have intervened during the past week.

The first is the publication of a letter addressed from Paris by Saad Pasha Zaghlul to Mahmud Soliman Pasha, President of the Cairo Committee of the Egyptian Delegation. In this letter, or rather in the portion to which publicity has been given, he writes that he and his colleagues bless the men and young men of Egypt for the wise spirit which has determined them to have nothing to do with the Milner Commission when it comes to Egypt. He declares that this Commission, since it is to carry out its labours under the British Protectorate, will be working contrary to the national aspirations of the Egyptians, and if it is allowed to be successful, can but conduce to the continuation of the condition of servitude under which the Egyptians exist. He concludes by calling upon the Egyptians to persevere in their determination to boycott the Milner Commission, and blesses their work in this connection.

The second factor has been the publication of a telegraphic summary of the interview which Lord Milner granted to the *Pall Mall Gazette*. The fact that Lord Milner declared that the question of the Protectorate did not come within the scope of his Commission, which in carrying out its mandate to inquire into the causes of the recent disorders and present proposals for constitutional reforms must assume the existence of the British Protectorate, has been sufficient to confirm the Extremists in their determination to adopt a hostile attitude towards him and his colleagues, and to encourage the mass of their compatriots to follow their example. Apart from the fact that this attitude is due to Zaghlul's characteristic obstinacy and his well-known hatred of all things British, there is little doubt that it is prompted by the fear that if their compatriots in Egypt make contact with the Commission and discuss the situation with it, the position of the Paris Delegation will become stultified and its influence will be gone.

The third factor is the apparent intention of H.B.M.'s Government to send the Commission to Egypt before the Turkish peace conditions have been settled. As explained three weeks ago, the more instructed members of the Egyptian Community do not consider themselves free to enter upon a discussion with the Commission until Turkey has by treaty accepted the removal of her suzerainty. It was hoped that the British Government would wait until matters had been settled with Turkey, and the possibility that the Commission may after all come to Egypt before this is an accomplished fact is disquieting the more instructed leading Egyptians; and there are, indeed, rumours of a Ministerial crisis.

Audacious Press Attacks.

While the publication of Zaghlul's letter has given an impetus to the boycott movement, Lord Milner's declaration has served as an admirable text for the Extremists and their organs to base further attacks on the British administration and to encourage hostility to the Commission. The tone and the audacity of the vernacular Press—I refer to the larger portion thereof, which at the present moment is playing the Extremists' game—are beyond all conception. Articles and letters, which in their virulence and thinly veiled innuendo exceed anything which saw light in the worst days of the Sheikh Shawish period of Egyptian Nationalist activity, appear day after day, accompanied by letters from all sorts and conditions of people, many of whom are unknown and hail from distant parts of the country, but whose entrance into the fray clearly indicates how far the effects of the present campaign are reaching. In addition, circulars, similar to those which made their appearance during the troubles last spring, and issued by the same secret Committee which was then responsible for their publication, are being distributed broadcast, attacking Lord Milner and his Commission in most disgraceful language, and openly inciting Egyptians to show their hostility to them and the British Government and their refusal to accept the British Protectorate by every means in their power.

Without wishing to appear to be an alarmist, I must say that this campaign seems to me to be assuming very serious proportions. In a country like this, where the "Kilma Maktuba" ("written word") is all-convincing to a credulous and illiterate population, the persistent appearance in print of such attacks on the British Government and their representatives, couched in such inflammatory and suggestive language, cannot fail to have the worst effect on the population; and by reason of the influence which these continuous attacks are bound to have on the minds of *exaltés*, they might quite possibly lead to unfortunate personal incidents, of which we have lately had an example. It is these personal attacks as a result of the present unrestrained campaign, both in and outside the Press, that are to be feared far more than any general combination of the Egyptian public against the Milner Commission. Indeed, I am convinced that the Commission, once it is here, will find any number of Egyptians of every shade of opinion, even from among those who are loudly advocating a boycott, ready to come before it and give it the information of which it is in need, though the question of the Peace Treaty with Turkey may make some hesitate.

There is, indeed, in this country a large body of Moderates no less patriotic than the Extremists, who are fully alive to the real motives of the latter and the dangerous road along which they are leading the country; who recognise that they must submit to the inevitable, as represented by the British Protectorate; and who realise that it is only by collaborating with the British Government that they can hope to secure a beginning of the political liberty which they, like their Extremist compatriots, desire for their country. These Moderates would long ago have come forward and voiced their opinion of the methods and tactics of the Extremists in public, had they been assured of some support from the British Government. Unfortunately, our policy—and whilst we have had no fixed political policy for the past fifteen years we have certainly adhered stedfastly to this line of action—our policy has in the past been to leave those who would be our friends out in the cold and give our consideration to the relatively small minority of agitators who by their vociferation have attracted our attention. And this has been carried to the point that we have often shaped our decisions or, indeed, reversed them in order, as we thought to win them over to our side. We have not, I regret to say, considered it worth while to support those representing the large majority of the population who are at

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heart friendly inclined towards us; and in the circumstances it is not surprising that the spectacle of the small body of agitators receiving attention and, from time to time, satisfaction from us, should on the one hand create the impression that we are weak and afraid; and should, on the other hand, have disheartened and discouraged those who wished us well to the point of forcing them either to side with the Extremist minority or to hold aloof from all participation in the struggle.

A Weak Point.

During the political crisis which has sapped the energies of the country since the Armistice the one factor that has failed us has been the existence of a Moderate party, capable by its personality of resisting the insidious intrigues and machinations of the Extremist minority; of bringing home to the people in a manner which no body of Englishmen could achieve the harm which this minority is doing the country and the self-interested motives actuating it; and of assisting us to work out the constitutional reforms and outline the measure of self-government which, long before either Rushdi Pasha or Zaghlul Pasha voiced their feelings on the matter, we had decided to grant Egypt.

No matter what political concessions the Milner Commission may recommend, no matter how the present crisis is overcome, two essential factors must be recognised and must characterise our future administration of Egypt. In the first place, we must have a policy. And not only must we have a policy, but we must make it clear to the people of Egypt beyond all possibility of misunderstanding, what that policy is; and having announced it we must adhere to it. Secondly, we must find out who are our friends, and, wherever possible, we must support and protect them, so that not only may they stand by us in a time of stress, but they may be an example to the other elements of the country and attract adherents from their ranks instead of, as at present, the ranks of the Extremists being swelled by the weaker of the Moderates. Only by such means can we hope successfully to resist the elements of reaction which will always be active in their hostility to any régime which does not give Egypt complete independence.

MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, October 3.

The Riots.

Perhaps the most striking piece of evidence which has transpired in the riots inquiry is the statement made by the Rev. Monsignor Panzavecchia relative to the attitude of the Church in opposing compulsory education. Naturally, he has been taken to task by all sections of the community. Various charges have been made in the Press as to the attitude he took up, and the reverend gentleman has laid himself open to being taxed "with a biassed judgment or attempting a subtle manœuvre to excite the prejudice of the mob against education." It will be interesting to note what reply Monsignor will offer. His statements certainly require explanation and modification.

The Lieutenant-Governor.

Leave of absence has been granted to his Honour W. C. F. Robertson, C.M.G., the Lieutenant-Governor.

Miscellaneous.

A great outcry has been raised against the wholesale destruction of fish by the use of explosives, chiefly cordite. The local authorities are very generally and widely blamed for their leniency in this matter. The seriousness of the affair is self-evident, and if steps are not soon taken to combat the evil, Malta will in the near future be crippled in another of her industries. The island has lost far too many already. It certainly seems odd that no attempt has been made to establish hatcheries in connection with this important industry.

Holders of stocks of coal can only deal or transfer with the permission of the Collector of Customs.

The Reverend Canon A. H. C. Fargus, the new chaplain of St. Paul's Cathedral (Anglican), Valletta, has arrived and taken up duties.

Major Victor Freudo Azopardi, LL.D., has been appointed Assistant Crown Advocate. The appointment appears a popular one.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Greek Demonstrations.

The election of representatives for the great Greek meeting of September 29 has been carried out in almost all the villages of Cyprus, and the Greek papers claim that a clear "verdict," which should settle all doubts, has been given by the people, "at the bidding of their ecclesiastical and political leaders." Among the latter are the "*ex officio* representatives," including a member and ex-members of the Legislative Council, and mayors of towns, who are apparently self-elected, and whose influence no doubt will be a controlling element at the meeting. The Limassol paper *Alethia* ("Truth") states that the Government has, through its organs, witnessed all that took place; and if the object was to ascertain the truth, Greeks would welcome the "unusual" step taken by the Government. But, whatever this or that zaptieh may report to his superiors, no doubt whatever can exist regarding the popular feeling from one end of Cyprus to the other.

Reports from the Mission in London announce that after an intolerable heat-wave the Archbishop sought a change for three weeks at Westcliff. Some of the other members proceeded to Paris, where two of them were received by M. Venizelos. The views of the Greeks in Paris regarding the Cypriot question, and also regarding the Græco-Italian differences, were found to be favourable. The members then separated, one or two proceeding to Vichy, another to Contrexville. They pray—but hardly hope—that it may not be necessary to return to London. They await the discussion in the House of Commons. In case there should be much more delay, five or six members will probably return to Cyprus, two or three remaining in London till the Cyprus question is settled. Altogether, a favourable view of the situation is taken.

End of Summer Season.

The summer season has come to an end rather earlier than in late years. The Government offices moved down from Troodos on September 23. The smallpox epidemic has clouded the last part of the season. Over 90 cases are reported, 12 ending fatally. In spite of precautions, sporadic cases are occurring in fresh villages The Bishop of Papho, in his capacity of Acting Archbishop, besides cancelling arrangements for all fairs and festivals, has addressed a circular to all the clergy calling upon them and the laity to offer special prayers in the churches.

The Proclamation of May 29, 1917, by which the exportation of newspapers from Cyprus was forbidden, has at last been cancelled.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, October 1.

The New Government.

After a crisis lasting seventeen days, a new Government has at length been formed, under the presidency of General Vaitoianu.

Contrary to general expectations, the efforts of M. Manolescu-Ramniceanu to form a Cabinet came to an abrupt and unsuccessful end, mainly on account of the Transylvanian political chiefs having refused to take part in a Government which they regarded as threatening their political liberty. The failure of M. Ramniceanu, following on the abortive attempts of M. Maniu to constitute a concentrated national Government, and the apparent inability of either of the recognised political parties to prepare a definite and practical programme, left but one alternative—the formation of a military Cabinet. This task was entrusted to General Vaitoianu, who was the Commander of the second Roumanian Army during the war and Minister of War in the late Government under M. Bratianu; so that in him the new Government has a leader of considerable political experience, as well as of the highest military standing.

By a decree issued by the King on September 27, General Vaitoianu was appointed President of the Council, Secretary of State for Internal Affairs, and Minister *ad interim* for External Affairs, the remaining portfolios being held by the following: General Roscanu, Minister of War; General Popovici, Minister of Lands; General Popescu, Ministry of Industry and Commerce and *ad interim* Minister of Finance; M. Miclescu, Minister of Justice; General Lupescu, Minister of Education; and General Mihail, Minister of Public Works. The following, representative of Greater Roumania, have been appointed to the Cabinet as Ministers without portfolio: MM. Stefan Pop and V. Goldish, from Transylvania; M. I. Inculetz and Dr. Ciugureanu, from Bessarabia; and Dr. Nistor, from Bukovina.

This newly constituted council of ministers has issued a declaration stating that they are desirous of maintaining the strongest ties with the Allies, while at the same time preserving the rights and dignity of the State. This statement is, of course, almost meaningless; and it is impossible to gather therefrom what their attitude will be in face of the questions which are so urgently pressing for settlement at the present moment. However, it is certain that the new Government will settle definitely in some way or other these questions, probably by signing the Austrian Treaty after obtaining any possible modifications of the terms of the Special Convention.

The Opposition View.

The Opposition Press does not look upon the new Government with favour, and resents what amounts almost to a military dictatorship, especially in view of an announcement by General Vaitoianu that the censorship—which he terms at present preventive—will be replaced by what he calls a repressive censorship. He has promised that in view of the forthcoming elections, the present stringent restrictions relating to public meetings will be modified, and the official "state of siege" ameliorated.

As one of the functions of the new Government will be to preside over the forthcoming general elections, these elections are being postponed from the date originally fixed, in the early part of this month, for three or four weeks.

Sir George Clerk's Impression.

The reply to the Note handed to M. Bratianu by Sir George Clerk was given to the latter last Sunday, and he at once left Bucharest for Paris. The impressions which Sir George Clerk gathered as a result of his visit are said to be favourable to Roumania's representations.

SCATTERED SOUTH SLAVS.

(From Our Belgrade Correspondent.)

The military prowess of the Yugoslav divisions on the Macedonian front has attracted attention to the large South Slav colonies abroad, who have furnished such important reinforcements to the exhausted and depleted Serbian Army. It is surprising how many settlers returned from New Zealand and the Argentine to fight for their country; for with all their prosperity in their new homes they have kept alive the love of their Motherland. But it is a noteworthy fact that scarcely any of them were from Serbia itself. The yeomen of the kingdom were far too happy and prosperous at home to wish to emigrate, and a Serb who had been abroad or seen the sea before 1915 was indeed a rarity. The repressive policy of Austria had led to emigration on a large scale from Dalmatia and Herzegovina. The natives of these regions are an exceptionally fine set of men, but the large proportion of stony wastes could hardly support the population, especially when the country was deliberately kept by Vienna in a backward state. It is commonly stated that for all good public works in Dalmatia the country was indebted to Napoleon's armies. We have no statistics of Yugoslav colonies in New Zealand and in Argentine, but figures are available for the United States. It is estimated that there are nearly 100,000 Serbs, almost all from Serbian Hungary, in the United States, where they earn good wages—from 100 to 125 dollars a week—as skilled labourers. Many work on farms and in mines. In recent years there has been a great increase in the number of Slovenes; in 1896 there were 30,000; to-day there are 250,000, who form prosperous colonies in the Pittsburg district; in Cleveland there are 30,000, and many, too, in Chicago. There are many employed as lumbermen and stave-workers in West Virginia and the South. But the Croats are the most numerous. In 1733 there arrived the pioneer Croat, Father Konsag, said to be the first man who made a map of Lower California, Another prominent Croat was the Rev. Joseph Kundek, who came in 1840; and became Vicar-General of the diocese of Vincennes, Indiana, in which State he is said to have founded a dozen cities. To-day there are nearly half-a-million Croats in the U.S.A.; there are 50,000 of them near Pittsburg, another 50,000 near Chicago, and 10,000 in the neighbourhood of Cleveland; on the Pacific Coast there are some 50,000 Dalmatian Croats engaged in the fishing and fruit industries; nearly all the staves for claret barrels are said to be made by Croats in the Southern States, and the New Orleans oyster beds are said to be entirely owned by Dalmatians. South of that city there is an area of 100 square miles of territory exclusively inhabited by Croats.

The Canadian Division contained a relatively large proportion of Croats, Serbs, and Montenegrins.

These Yugoslavs retain their national feeling; they sent at least 15,000 volunteers to Salonika, and have many well-organised and prosperous benefit societies. There is a strong tendency, now that their national dream is at last fulfilled, to return to their Motherland, on whose fortunes and politics the return of so rich, experienced, educated, and powerful a contingent is bound to have a beneficent and far-reaching effect.

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ROUMANIA AND THE POWERS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest.

Misunderstandings and Rumours.

Roumania has lately been suffering under the wisdom of the Supreme Council. That august body decided on interfering with the relations between the Roumanians and the Minorities of other races amongst them; special solicitude was shown for the Jews, the more important of whom bear German or Slav names. To this direct interference in Roumania's domestic matters was added a series of notes or ultimatums on the subject of requisitioning and similar pastimes in Bolshevist Hungary. The Roumanians considered themselves entitled to "making a bit" over settling in three days a matter which the Supreme Council had failed to regulate in five months—namely, the account with Bela Kun.

There were the usual series of misunderstandings, of telegraphic and other messages which never arrived anywhere; so the Supreme Council sent an emissary to Bucharest.

It is to be regretted that an Englishman was chosen (not necessarily with any great deliberation) to convey the Supreme Council's decision (or whatever it was), for in this country the idea is being spread assiduously that the harsh treatment meted out to Roumania is due chiefly to the Anglo-Saxons in their desire for commercial world-domination. It is said—and the rumour is certainly not denied by an eminent Ally in this city—that the original note to Roumania was drawn up in English, and that even its translation into French, the language of diplomatic amenity, failed to soften the document's severity of tone. Again, at least one of the Anglo-Saxon representatives among the Great Five is considered by racial affinity to be unduly partial to one of the "Minorities." But, even so, the tendency is to make of Great Britain the cat's paw. Rumour assigned to us the projected naval demonstration off Constanza; and, as already remarked, the Mercury of the Olympians was an Englishman. It was significant that no member of any "Allied or Associated" Legation appeared at the station to see Sir George Clerk off.

Trade Rivalry.

There is at bottom of all this a definite purpose, which the Great Five, or at least the British representative, are too great to see—namely, the quite common purpose of ousting trade rivals.

British trade, despite the ineptitude and indifference of those servants of the public who are supposed to assist its development, had begun to look up in this country, and our Allies were becoming anxious. Even the blocking of the railway lines by trains carrying French and Italian goods (not forgetting the trains from Switzerland carrying, under armed escort, chocolate, lace, silks, and such-like necessaries towards the reconstruction of a war-worn country), had failed to keep out British goods entirely.

The anti-Anglo-Saxon—or, strictly speaking, anti-British—sections of the local Press are now proposing the formation of a group—France, Italy, Roumania, the Latin Sisters, to include in course of time the Czecho-Slovak Republic, Poland, and Yugoslavs. The idea is sound—normal relations must be established among neighbours—but it seems to leave Great Britain out.

It is obvious that our Olympian is far above such matters as national trade interests, and there is as yet insufficient proof that lesser stars in the diplomatic, consular and other constellations are alive to our interests or capable of furthering them. It will probably devolve on the business man to form an organisation to insist on his affairs meeting with more than academic interest.

The Ministerial Crisis.

The wisdom of the Great Five, as expressed in its Notes to Roumania, led to the Ministerial crisis, which has at last been settled, the end of the crisis coinciding with the departure of the Supreme Council's emissary. Several attempts were made to form a Ministry, and at one time M. Maniu seemed near to arriving at that consummation. He failed, however, possibly because he may have laid too much emphasis on the rights and claims of the new territories, notably Transylvania—or Ardeal, to resume the name it was known by to Herodotus and Strabo.

The new Ministry consists chiefly of distinguished soldiers who have, however, not yet had an opportunity of proving themselves statesmen. It may be assumed that they will follow the line taken by M. Bratianu, refusing to sign the Peace Treaty on account of the "Minority" clause. In fact, everyone feels that the hand of Roumania's strong man is still guiding the affairs of the country.

The Bucharest View of Paris.

The Ministerial crisis did not appear to affect the average Roumanian much, and the fact that the new Ministry contains so many soldiers, though commented upon adversely by some of the papers, does not worry the people particularly. The Roumanian, sharp-witted and ingenious, is drawing much amusement out of the impossible position into which the course of events—but chiefly their own ignorance and ineptitude—have landed the Supreme Council, the body which represents all the experience and wisdom of the Great Powers of Western Civilization. The Roumanians point out: first, that those Olympians failed to subdue Bela Kun, and left him to a smaller Power, which settled the matter in three days, and was rewarded by an ultimatum or so, which no one took seriously. Then there is the spirit of Italian "Risorgimento" let loose in Fiume! No one here believes in the Italian Government's innocence or inclination to check d'Annunzio's exuberance. But then there are people here who read history, especially that of national strivings after freedom, and they recall the attitude taken towards Garibaldi. Such studies are no doubt beneath the consideration of the Olympians. They are much too human.

Again, people are looking forward to more entertainment when other excitable people follow d'Annunzio's lead in various corners of Europe where the settlement of vexed questions depends upon the Supreme Council's knowledge of history, geography, ethnography, and other common but useful subjects.

The functions of the Supreme Council seem to be approaching those of the "Reichsrat" of the Holy Roman Empire of unhallowed memory, that of adding to the gaiety of nations and providing shocking examples for posterity.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

According to a paragraph in the *Morning Post*, Mr. Montagu, the Secretary of State for India, said recently to an Indian gentleman: "We both belong to oppressed races, and we must therefore work together." It seems to me that this cannot be correct; but if it be so, it would be interesting to know: (1) Just what Mr. Montagu meant, and (2) what the Government thinks about it. The fact that Mr. Montagu fills such a high position is, of course, sufficient proof that *he* is not oppressed; and the fact that he is a man of some tact, and possibly more caution, suggests that he would be unlikely to say such a thing as he is supposed, or reported, to have said. It seems to me that it would be of service to the State to have this question threshed out, and I shall be disappointed if some member of Parliament does not see that it is done.

***

Sir John Bland-Sutton, in opening the Winter Session of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, recently referred to the turkey's habit of winking. The wink—Sir John explained, is an unconscious performance on the bird's part, and is performed with a third lid described as "an opaque white curtain." When I was out East I heard a story, which is quite unprintable, about an unhappy curate who was afflicted with an uncontrollable wink. But *he* had no third lid on which to cast the blame for the painful experiences through which he passed. That, however, is not what I set out to remark. When I saw the heading of the report of the lecture, "Why the Turkey Winks," I was at once reminded of the remark of a friend, long resident in Turkey, who declared that he had never seen a Turk wink. Others have told me the same thing, and I am unable to recall a single instance of the kind myself. But I have known Arabs to wink, just as and when an Englishman might do. So I conclude the Arab idea of humour is more like our own than the Turk's. Undoubtedly the latter is much slower-witted than the Arab, and his taste runs in the direction of the practical joke than of the play of wit.

***

Apropos of my remarks a few weeks ago upon the strike of the Cairo newsboys, I observe that the men who sell the Paris newspapers in the streets struck work recently "in sympathy with the booksellers' assistants who are on strike." This is really serious! If Paris does not get the very latest "news" *and views* on the Syrian Question, how is that great Question to be properly ventilated? Let M. Clemenceau persuade the newsvendors to return to their duty, placing their love of country before their love of the booksellers' assistants. I am sure that that vigorous, if not always accurately informed writer who signs himself "Un Diplomate," of the *Paris-Midi*, will gladly aid in bringing about a reconciliation!

***

The latter gentleman has attracted my notice by his extraordinary insinuations regarding the Emir Faisal. He suggested that the Emir would be better employed in fighting in the Yemen than in looking after Syrian interests in Europe, and declared that "Loutfallah, President of the Arab Nationalist Committee at Damascus," was staying at the Ritz, "carrying on a campaign against the Emir," etc. "What," asked this astute "Diplomate," "what will happen to the Emir if he is disowned by his own friends on the Damascus Committee?" What, indeed! But unfortunately for him, Loutfallah Bey has written to the Press to say that, so far as he knows, no such committee as that mentioned by "Un Diplomate" exists in Damascus; that he is "president of no committee whatever," and that he is not, and never has been carrying on a campaign against the Emir. He is, he adds, "only the delegate of the Union Syrienne, whose president is my brother, M. Loutfallah Bey, who is in complete understanding with his Highness and the Arab Party in Damascus." After this it almost looks as if "Un Diplomate" might himself be better employed in fighting his country's foes than in writing twaddle. At least, if he must write, he might make sure of his facts before he insults one who has given proofs of *his* courage!

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CORRESPONDENCE.

BULGARIA AND THE PEACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Although I am not *au courant* with recent happenings in the Bulgarian capital, the telegram which appears in to-day's *Times* announcing the formation of a new Cabinet appears to me instructive, and enables one to surmise something of what has occurred since the terms of the Peace Conference became known.

The Bulgarian peace conditions, characterised as "mild" by the British Press, must have fallen like a thunderbolt on a somewhat naif and primitive people who firmly believed, notwithstanding many disillusionments, in the realisation of President Wilson's fourteen points, in the innate honesty of the Western Powers, and in the ability of America to fulfil her engagements.

The result speaks much for the common sense and stability of the Bulgarian people. In spite of the loss of the Bulgarian portions of the Dobruja and Macedonia to their Roumanian and Serbian neighbours, and the annexation of the Ægean littoral, with its newly developed roads, railways, and harbour, to Greece, there is no sign of anarchy, and they seem to have taken their punishment like men.

As far as is known, King Boris, a young and democratic ruler, still remains as constitutional Sovereign, and order is being maintained.

The Premier is M. Stamboliski, the leader of the Agrarian Party. He was thrown into prison at the time of the entry of Bulgaria in 1915 into the war by the late King Ferdinand, and remained there for two years because he threatened the King with the loss of his head should he prove to have taken the wrong course against the advice of his Ministers. When the Bulgarian line broke in the autumn of 1918, and discontented soldiers were marching on Sofia, he was released and sent to meet the soldiers to calm them down. He went, but instead of calming them down, declared himself President of a new republic, and appointed his henchman Dashkaloff as his Commander-in-Chief, with the intention of marching on Sofia. He was met, however, and defeated, with the loss of over 1,000 men, by German troops. But the movement would have continued had not King Ferdinand taken the advice of his Cabinet and abdicated. Stamboliski remained in hiding until pardoned and made a member of the Government by M. Theodoroff.

Dashkaloff becomes Minister of Agriculture. He is an intelligent and well-educated young man, who, without being Germanophil, has studied in Berlin.

The Foreign Minister is presumably Dr. Madjaroff, who was for many years Bulgarian Minister in London. His appointment is a guarantee of the steady and Anglophil policy likely to be pursued by M. Stamboliski.

The latter, though a reformer, is no Socialist. For him the question of a republic or a constitutional monarchy is not of great importance. He is an ardent advocate for encouraging commercial relations between Bulgaria and Western Europe, especially with England, which has been neglected in the past. He will found an English bank in Sofia. Possessing, as he does, the entire confidence of the peasants, he will link it up with the agrarian banks and will encourage modern methods of agriculture.

Such, at any rate, were his views before the result of the Peace Conference became known, and the present news leads one to hope that such will be his future policy.—I am, etc.,

October 15. A FORMER CORRESPONDENT.

THE SYRIAN PROBLEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Why waste ink and time on platitudes when all that France need do to settle this Syrian problem is to accept the mandate for Syria in the most agreeable way for their future clients? The financial and economic claims of France in Syria are strong and undeniable, and she will be entitled to look after them; but the spiritual welfare of the nation must lie in the hands of the Arabs, who will require to be gently guided by unbiassed advice, especially after being for the last twelve months or more much provoked by short-sighted, prejudiced Frenchmen and Syrians of a certain denomination.

This is a solution of the highest political importance to all concerned, and it would take me too long to explain all its present and future bearings on the task of human progress, now entrusted to the League of Nations. Whereas, should France persist in her design to divide Syria between Christian and Mohammedan, and to garrison both, or even either section, I foresee nothing but unrest, trouble, and bloodshed for a generation to come in that part of the Holy Land! And France as well as the Hedjaz being the allies of Great Britain, anything that injures them will injure her

I am, etc.,

October 22. A. SEFI

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

M. Venizelos on Thrace—

On Tuesday the *Morning Post* published an article on "The Future of Thrace," by M. Venizelos. The Greek Prime Minister first deals with the question of population, urging that as the Peace Conference, in deciding similar questions elsewhere, had based its considerations on the normal pre-war status of the countries concerned, they should do so also in regard to Thrace. The Greeks, he shows, have been reduced by eviction and persecution; and he draws the obvious moral that to allow such tactics to succeed would be setting a premium on dishonesty. These arguments will not be new to our readers, but as put forward by M. Venizelos they will repay reading once more. Perhaps, however, the most interesting part of the article is that in which M. Venizelos writes of the future of Constantinople. He says:

The argument which is being brought forward to the effect that the Power which will undertake the mandate for Constantinople will be subjected to heavy expenses for the covering of which a proportionate hinterland is necessary is not an argument consistent with the principles recognised by the Conference as the guiding ones in the framing of the Peace Treaty. It has been well stated by President Wilson that the right of a people to choose their own political status and government transcends all other considerations brought to bear by the economic interest of others, and that a people are no more to be used "as pawns and tools."

Constantinople can very well meet the expenses of its administration, even without the Thracian hinterland. Moreover, it can very well—if necessary—incorporate larger territories around the Sea of Marmora and in Asia Minor, where there exists a Turkish majority—that is to say, a majority belonging to a nation characterised both by the conscience of humanity and by the Supreme Council of the Conference as altogether incapable of governing foreign races, and in the last resort the expenses of Constantinople could be borne, if necessary, by the League of Nations, for it would be unjust that Greece should be doomed to bear them by being prevented from including within her boundaries by far the most excellent part of her national inheritance.

It would be doubly unjust to Greece if, in addition to not being given Constantinople—by reason of the great international interests which centre in that city—she be deprived as well of Thrace, for the simple purpose of increasing the revenue of the State of Constantinople. The disappointment which Hellenism will feel in such a case will indeed be a most bitter one.

This injustice against Greece will be all the more severe when one takes into consideration the fact that all the other Allied nations of Eastern and Central Europe—Czecho-Slovakia, Jugo-Slavia, Poland, and Roumania—will include within their new boundaries nearly the whole of their national strength; whereas Greece, even with the incorporation of Thrace, will have 30 per cent. of her co-nationals in Europe and Asia Minor outside her boundaries. And if we take into consideration the Greeks who live outside of Europe, the Hellenic nation in such a case will but include within its frontiers 65 per cent. of its national family.

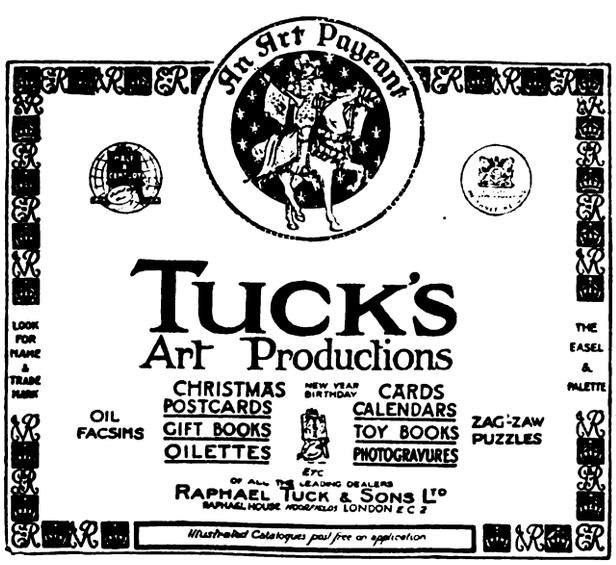
—And Bulgaria.

M. Venizelos is of opinion that Bulgaria will accept the peace only with a vindictive feeling. Therefore, he asks, "will the cause of peace be at all served if the Greek nation comes out of the Conference with a feeling that its national interests have been overlooked by the very Powers at the side of which it has fought the good fight?" And he goes on:

May I also be permitted to mention another complaint which the Greek nation will be justified in having? When, on the first week of last February, the Council of Ten referred the Greek claims to the Commission on Greek affairs, this Commission pronounced itself in favour of the Hellenic claims on Thrace almost in their entirety. And I am glad to state that the American member of this Commission was in full accord with his French and English colleagues on this subject. It was, therefore, quite natural for me to consider since then that the Thracian question would be settled in favour of Greece. Moreover, as I was aware that for the purpose of imposing this solution on the Bulgarians and the Turks the only available Allied Army would be the Greek one, not only did I not proceed to demobilise it after the signing of the Armistice, but, on the contrary, I increased its strength from ten divisions—its total on the day of the Armistice—to twelve divisions on a war footing. The upkeep of such a large force for a whole year since the Armistice has caused an extra item of 1,400,000,000 drachmæ in the Greek Budget, which is a most serious burden for a small nation to bear. Had there been no favourable report on the Thracian question Greece would at least have proceeded to partial demobilisation, keeping at most five divisions on a war footing instead of twelve.

After a glance at Bulgaria's financial position, the article concludes:

I have already had the courage of assenting to very painful national sacrifices, only for the sake of assuring the success of the higher general interests of the peoples of the Peninsular. But I am equally certain that any sacrifices of the Hellenic interests to-day will in no way serve the higher interests of mankind. For I venture to believe that my policy during the great war has been one based on a higher conception of political morality. Should this policy, therefore, be judged by the Greek people and the rest of the world as having failed to be crowned with success, in spite of the full victory of the Allied effort, such a verdict would in no way contribute towards the strengthening of the moral principles guiding the governing of peoples.



THE FUTURE OF AFGHANISTAN.

At a meeting of the Central Asian Society, held on Wednesday afternoon at the Rooms, 22, Albemarle Street, London, an interesting lecture on Afghanistan was delivered by Mr. Ikbal Ali Shah, a native of the country, who is at present studying at Edinburgh University. The chair was occupied by Sir Frederick Fryer, who in opening the proceedings expressed, on behalf of the Council and members of the Society, the deep sorrow they all experienced at the death of Sir Henry Trotter, who had for some time filled the position of chairman of the Society.

Mr. Ikbal Ali Shah, in the course of his lecture, remarked that for the people of this country to fully realise the actual attitude of the Afghans it was necessary that they should understand that it was one of distrust of foreigners. What was at the very foundation of the anti-foreign feeling was the dread of the loss of their racial independence. The Ameer Abdur Rahman Khan did everything in his power to convince his subjects that Great Britain was friendly disposed to them, and that Russia was their real enemy. He had made strenuous efforts to establish diplomatic relations with the Court of St. James, but instead of securing this representation and of having direct contact with the British Foreign Office—which was, after all, the most perfect in the world—Afghanistan was kept under the external political control of the Viceroy of India. Those who were most intimately associated with political affairs at Kabul were conscious of the fact that through an Embassy in London a new and happy era in Anglo-Afghan relations would be inaugurated. The late war the lecturer attributed to misunderstanding. The Ameer's object was to undermine the pro-British influence of his predecessor, and to attain it he was directly assisted with Bolshevist gold. Although Russia was in a state of dissolution, the Russian menace in Afghanistan was not yet dead. Its revival would best be combated by a strong Central Asian alliance, with Kabul as the centre. Against the intrigues of Russia and Germany it would be well to have India securely buffered by a group of federated Central Asian States. Mr. Ikbal Ali Shah urged the claims of his country for British investors for the extension of railways, particularly through the Khyber Pass, and for the development of her internal industry and commerce. The promise of a remunerative return was very bright, and he estimated that the country was capable of a trade amounting in value to between £7,000,000 and £8,000,000 per annum.

In the course of a short discussion which followed the lecture, the opinion was freely expressed that there was no desire on the part of this country to encroach on the independence of Afghanistan. Most of the trouble in that country was caused by restraint not being imposed upon those of Bolshevist tendencies.

An inquest was opened at Southwark on Tuesday on Lyoubicha Lyoubichitsch, a lieutenant-colonel in the Serbian Army, who fell from a train near Orpington on Saturday, and died in Guy's Hospital from injuries to the head. Evidence showed that he was suffering from nerves, and was on his way to Belgrade.

TO AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS.

The Editor will be glad to consider photographs of Near Eastern scenery, types, places of interest, etc., etc., suitable for reproduction in THE NEAR EAST. *When desired, payment will be made for the right of producing such photographs. Readers should state, when forwarding pictures, whether payment is desired or not.*

Photographs should be sent either packed between stout cards or rolled in a cardboard tube, and should on no account be folded. Titles and notes should be attached to each photo, and should be very clearly written.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE CINDERELLA OF WAR.*

The Salonika Expeditionary Force was from its very inception the least popular theatre of war. In France there was glory, in Mesopotamia adventure, in Palestine something of the old romance of the Crusades; at Salonika there was more malaria than glory or adventure, and for months at a time almost the very existence of the armies there was practically forgotten by the public at home, except when the amateur strategists quarrelled in the newspapers over the Eastern and Western theories of war. Yet altogether there were about a quarter of a million men there, according to Mr. Seligman's estimate, a by no means inconsiderable force. The figures he cites, by the way, are the first we have seen which attempt to give with any accuracy of detail the strength of the Allied establishment in Greece.

For a long time, indeed, it looked as though the critics of the force were justified. The presence of the force in Greece seemed as fatuous in a military sense as Allied diplomatic policy in Greece had been in a political sense, and that is saying a great deal. Nothing happened, or seemed to happen, while the pull-devil, pull-baker competition of Constantine and M. Venizelos proceeded; but in fact M. Venizelos would have been able to do little had it not been for the presence of the Allies at his back in Salonika, and meanwhile the Serbian Army was refitting. In the end the Allies at last found a military policy for the Balkans, which leads one to hope that, incredible though it sounds, they may one day discover a political policy for the Balkans; and after the prolonged halt which followed the capture of Monastir, the long-expected blow was at last got in against Bulgaria, with crushing effect. On this Mr. Seligman has much to say, and we make no apology for quoting some of his conclusions. He repeats the curious story that Bulgaria had contracted to fight for Germany for three years and no more, which was widely believed; and it is a fact that a Bulgarian participation lasted almost exactly three years. But we beg leave to doubt the truth of the legend. When Bulgaria came in she thought Germany was winning, and both Ferdinand and his Ministers appear to have anticipated an easy triumph; almost certainly they had no expectation whatever of a three years' war. In any event, if Germany had continued to hold the advantage in Europe, it would have been beyond the power of Bulgaria to withdraw, three years or no three years. Those who tied themselves to the chariot-wheels of Prussia could only hope to stop when the coach stopped; and so it proved. Mr. Seligman has no delusions about the Bulgarian character. They fought well, but not so well as the Serbs, for whose valour he rightly considers that no words of praise can be too high. The Bulgars fought the British and French with some regard to the rules of war, and with indications that they possessed a sense of humour—they sent a message, for instance, that we could play football in a field exposed to shell-fire, but if we continued to drill there the consequences would be unfortunate; but in their dealings with the Serbs no rules of war counted for anything. They had, in fact, two standards of behaviour for the campaign.

But it is admitted that they got tired of the business before we did. If they did not fight a losing battle well, it was because they had had more than enough, and because Prussia let them down. They appealed for help in September, 1918, and Hindenburg was unable to give it them. After that they collapsed at once, and their only anxiety was to cut their losses. If this spectacle does not exactly move our admiration, it is only fair to remember that the war shaped itself to the Bulgar mind as emphatically a political war, and that as soon as the political opportunity was seen to be hopeless, common-sense told them to wind up the affair. It was Prussian *real-politik* in a Near Eastern setting.

Mr. Seligman has given us a really good and informative book on the Salonika side-show. The least interesting and least valuable part is that of which he (or more probably his publishers) seem to be most proud—a character sketch of ex-King Constantine, based upon information supplied by M. Melas, the ex-King's secretary. It contains nothing new except the whitewash, and the whitewash does everything except wash white.

A far more valuable feature is the endless series of good stories, anecdotes, and good humour which pervades these pages. An army which did not lose its temper in Salonika was indeed unconquerable, and the author has done well to preserve this aspect of the campaign.

Among the autumn announcements of the Broadway House is "The Modern Crusaders: or, the 231st Infantry Brigade in Palestine," by Capt. R. E. C. Adams, M.C.

* "The Salonika Side-Show." By V. J. Seligman. (George Allen an Unwin. 10s. 6d. net.)

CHESS.

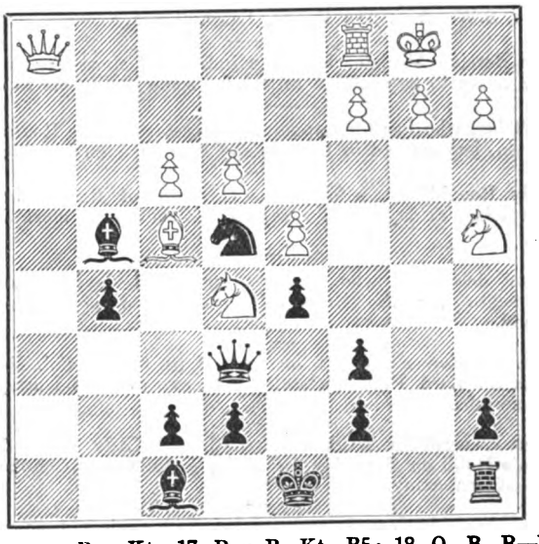
Senor Capablanca's simultaneous displays last week were quite as successful as the earlier exhibitions of his tour. At Norwich he met 41 opponents, winning 38 of the games and drawing the remaining three, while at the National Liberal Club he contested 40 games and won nearly all. The Hampstead Chess Club also brought against him a team of 40, including some very strong players, and on this occasion he won 34 of the games, drew four, and lost two. Finally, on Saturday, he was opposed by a team of 42 players of the Surrey Chess Association at Thornton Heath. The fact that he had already that week given three previous exhibitions no doubt told on him to some extent, but he nevertheless won 35 of the games, drew four, and lost the remaining three, one of the successful players being Mr. H. C. Griffiths.

October 21 saw the commencement of the City of London Chess Club's tournaments. The entries for the Gastineau Cup, the championship of the club, number thirty, and the contest is being played in three sections, the first four in each going into the final. The strength of the tournament can be gauged from the fact that the players include Sir G. A. Thomas (former champion of the club), Messrs. R. P. Michell, W. Winter, and R. H. V. Scott, all of whom played in the Victory tournament at Hastings, and E. G. Sergeant, another former champion of the club, who won the Minor Victory Tournament at Hastings, and also R. C. J. Walker, the holder, and two other former champions of the club, J. H. Blake and H. Jacobs. Entries for the other tournaments are equally numerous. Thus there are twenty-two for the Moccatta Cup and sixteen for the Russell.

It has been suggested that M. Rubinstein, the famous Russian expert, who is regarded by many as being well in the running for the world's championship, will shortly pay a visit to America. It may be hoped that if the visit takes place it will be found possible to bring about a match between him and Senor Capablanca.

Here is a short game from the Minor Victory Tournament at Hastings:—Opening, Ruy Lopez; White, M. A. Gibaud; Black, Mr. E. G. Sergeant. 1. P—K4, P—K4; 2. Kt—KB3, Kt—QB3; 3. B—Kt5, P—QR3; 4. B—R4, Kt—B3; 5. Q—K2, P—QKt4; 6. B—Kt3, B—B4(1); 7. Kt—B3, P—Q3; 8. P—QR4, B—KKt5(2); 9. P x P, Kt—Q5; 10. Q—Q3, B x Kt; 11. P x B, Kt—R4; 12. Kt—Q5, 0—0; 13. B—B4, P x P; 14. R x R, Q x R; 15. B x P, P—QB3; 16. P—Kt4.

Position after White's 16th move (P—Kt4).



16. . . . P x Kt; 17. P x B, Kt—B5; 18. Q—B, R—Kt; 19. B—Q3, R—Kt8; 20. Resigns.

1. Black has now an excellent development.

2. A move which completely cramps White's game.

The following is an even shorter game from one of the first-class tournaments at Hastings:—Opening, Queen's Gambit declined; White, Mr. W. Gooding; Black, Mr. C. Hammond. 1. P—Q4, P—Q4; 2. P—QB4, P—K3; 3. Kt—QB3, P—B4; 4. BP x P, KP x P; 5. P—K4, P x KP; 6. P—Q5, Kt—KB3; 7. B—KKt5, Q—R4; 8 Q—Q2, QKt—Q2; 9. 0—0, B—Q3; 10. P—B3, P x P; 11. R—K (ch.) K—B; 12. Kt x P, P—R3; 13. B—B4, Q—B2; 14. B x B, Q x B; 15. Kt—QKt5, Q x P; 16. R—K8 ch(1). Resigns.

1. A sacrifice which had not entered into Black's calculations. The finish is exceedingly pretty.

CARO-KANN.

THE P. E. F.

The October *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains a photograph of the late Dr. Leonard King, formerly chairman of the Executive Committee of the Fund. In the Notes and News it is announced that Mr. D. G. Hogarth, C.M.G., has consented to act as Dr. King's successor in the post. Among the papers included are "Kedesh-Naphtali and Taanach," by Stanley A. Cook; "Stone Altars and Cap-marks in South Palestine," by Captain Douglas P. Blair; another instalment of Philip Baldensperger's "Immovable East"; and Mr. Joseph Offord's "Archæological Notes on Jewish Antiquities." In view of the increased opportunities for work, it is good to see the Fund showing plenty of signs of vitality.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. October 24	1919. October 11	Friday	1338. Moharrem. 29	5680. Tishri 30
25	12	Saturday.....	Safar. 1	Mareshwan. 1
26	13	Sunday	2	2
27	14	Monday	3	3
28	15	Tuesday	4	4
29	16	Wednesday	5	5
30	17	Thursday	6	6

Prince Nosrat ed Dowleh left London for Paris last Friday.

Prince and Princess Alexis Kara-Georgevitch left London on Sunday for Paris.

M. S. Yovanovitch has been appointed Secretary to the Serbian Legation.

M. and Madame Gennadius have returned from Bournemouth to 14, De Vere Gardens.

M. Beza, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from Bucharest.

M. Cafantaris, the Greek Minister of Agriculture, arrived in London on Sunday from Athens.

Colonel Rosetti, the Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from Paris.

The Persia Society hopes to entertain H.H. Prince Firooz Nosrat-ed-Dowleh at dinner at an early date.

Lord and Lady Sydenham have returned to 101, Onslow Square, S.W., from The Priory, Lamberhurst.

The Persian Minister has been indisposed since Friday last, and is likely to be confined to bed for some little time to come.

M. Tilea, who has been appointed Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has arrived in London and entered upon his duties.

Lady Ronaldshay, wife of the Governor of Bengal, left for Calcutta last Friday, after a stay in this country of more than a year.

Count de Salis, who recently conducted investigations in Montenegro for the British Government, has returned to England.

Mrs. H. Mercer has left town for Malta to join Col. Mercer, who is on Lord Plumer's staff. She expects to be away for some months.

Lieut.-General Sir William Marshall, with Lady Marshall, left Brown's Hotel on Saturday for India, to take over command of the Southern Army.

Gen. Sir Charles Townshend has just made a tour of the Rhondda Valley. Lady Townshend presented gifts from local associations to ex-Service men.

Sir J. Rennell Rodd, who, with Lady Rodd and his family, is coming to London, will, after his arrival, proceed to Egypt as a member of Lord Milner's Mission.

General Watson, Chief Administrator for Occupied Enemy Territory Administration, has been making a tour of the Jewish communities and settlements in Palestine.

M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, is expected to leave Bucharest shortly for Paris, where he will act as chief of the Roumanian Peace Delegation.

Mme. Koyitch, the wife of the Chargé d'Affaires for the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, held a reception at the Legation in Queen's Gate on Wednesday.

Field-Marshal Lord Allenby had booked his passage for Port Said from Marseilles by the P. and O. liner Kaiser-i-Hind, but he postponed his departure at the last minute and cancelled the passage.

On September 28, at Cairo, Major Charles Jennings, Leicestershire Regt., son of the Rev. H. E. Jennings, vicar of St. Clements, East Dulwich, was married to Margery, only daughter of Colonel A. E. Tate, C.S.I., C.M.G., of The Wilderness, Wimborne Road, Bournemouth.

The engagement is announced between Frederick Day Ardagh, B.A.(Oxon), second son of Dr. and Mrs. Ardagh, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Sheila, youngest daughter of the late W. A. Wilson, of Pita Ratmalie, Haputale, Ceylon, and Mrs. Wilson, of 9, Tavistock Square, London.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant Walter Anley Hawes, R.A.M.C., youngest son of Charles Anley Hawes and Mrs. Hawes, of Bombay, India, and Ethel Kathleen, eldest daughter of Henry V. E. Longworthy, J.P., and Mrs. Longworthy, of Field Place, Malden, Surrey.

On October 14, at St. Margaret's Church, Uxbridge, Major Lionel Arthur Hawes, D.S.O., M.C., R.A., second son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Hawes, of Bombay, was married to Gwendolen Mary, only daughter of Mr. D. H. Grimsdale, J.P., and Mrs. Grimsdale, of The Shrubbery, Uxbridge.

The engagement is announced of Captain William Paterson Hay Lightbody, P.M.O., O.E.T.A., Haifa, son of the late Mr. J. H. Lightbody and of Mrs. J. H. Lightbody, of 62, Carrington Street, Glasgow, and Dorothy Mildred, daughter of C. Edward E. Cooke, J.P., and Mrs. Cooke, of The Manor House, Bygrave, Baldock, Herts.

M. Venizelos was the guest at dinner on Tuesday evening of Sir John and Lady Stavridi. Among the guests invited to meet M. Venizelos were the Greek Minister, the Earl of Reading, Mr. and Mrs. Winston Churchill, Sir Alfred and Lady Mond, Sir Gordon and Lady Nairne, Mrs. Bertram Brooke, and Mr. Harold Spender.

The engagement is announced of Major Hamilton Gardiner, Egyptian Civil Service (late R.F.A.), only son of Major-Gen. H. L. Gardiner, C.B., and Mrs. Gardiner, of Hilden, Rye, and Diana, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Patterson, of 25, Queen's Gate Gardens, S.W.7, and The White House, Watch Bell Street, Rye.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major Basil Moody, Indian Army Reserve, eldest son of the late Rev. W. H. Moody, rector of Bentley, Hants., and Mrs. Moody, of Linslade, Bucks, and Eva Mary Evans, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Evans, of Witheby, Sidmouth, and Russells, Watford.

Major H. W. V. Temperley, who was Assistant Attaché with the Serbian Army during the offensive of 1918, and who travelled extensively in Yugoslavia, and was subsequently at the Paris Conference for three months (during August was Acting Attaché at Belgrade), returned to England the middle of September. He has now resigned his office, and taken up the post of Reader in Modern History at Cambridge University.

On October 14, at Canterbury Cathedral, Captain Eustace E. V. Temperley, M.C. (late R.E.), of Jodhpore, India, was married to Myrtle Irene Stuart, daughter of the late Canon E. A. Stuart, of Canterbury, and Mrs. Stuart, 47, Aberdeen Park, Highbury. The Dean of Canterbury officiated, assisted by the Rev. A. Temperley, father of the bridegroom.

On October 13, at the Parish Church, Eastbourne, Major Charles Forbes Battye, M.C., Royal West Kent Regt., only son of the late Capt. C. F. Battye, Indian Staff Corps, and of Mrs. Battye, 20, Hartington Mansions, Eastbourne, was married to Sybil Constance, only daughter of the late Rev. Colin Grant-Dalton, Rector of Wincanton, Somerset, and of Mrs. C. Grant-Dalton, Ellerthwaite, Eastbourne.

A marriage has been arranged and will take place on Saturday, November 15, at St. Mary's, Speen, between R. W. L. Dunlop, C.I.E., D.S.O., temporary lieutenant-colonel, R.F.A., son of the late Rev. R. V. Dunlop and Mrs. Dunlop, of Speen Hill House, Newbury, and Mrs. Forbes Robertson, widow of Captain Keith Forbes Robertson, Rifle Brigade, and daughter of Captain Edgar Duke, R.A.M.C.

At the Investiture held at St. James's Palace on October 18 Prince Arthur of Connaught invested Brigadier-General Hubert Isacke with the Insignia of a Companion of the Order of the Star of India; Colonel Leonard Bagshawe, R.E., Lieut.-Colonel Harold Woodall, Dorset Regt., Mr. Ernest Bell, Mr. Mark Cogswell, and Mr. Charles Tegart with the Insignia of Companions of the Order of the Indian Empire.

On October 18, at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, the marriage took place of Cecil William, son of the late N. Chr. Mathiasen, Danish Consul, Gibraltar, and of the late Mrs. Mathiasen, of Gibraltar and Port Said, to Emily Beatrice, second daughter of the late Rev. Harry A. Darnell, Chaplain to H.M. Forces, and late Rector of Leigh Delamere, Chippenham, and Mrs. Darnell, of B 4, Queen Alexandra's Court, Wimbledon.

M. Venizelos paid a visit to Lloyd's and to Lloyd's Register of Shipping on October 17. He was accompanied by M. Caclamanos, the Hellenic Minister, and Sir John Stavridi, Consul-General for Greece. M. Venizelos dined with M. and Madame M. Embirocos at the Carlton Hotel on Saturday evening. There were also present the Greek Minister, M. Caclamanos, the personnel of the Greek Legation, and Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield.

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Sir Henry Richards, K.C., K.B.E., late Chief Justice of the High Court at Allahabad, has purchased The Yarrows, Camberley, which is now his permanent address.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—

Mr. C. H. Hart-Davis, Chief Assistant Secretary to Government, is appointed to act as Chief Secretary.

Mr. H. P. McLaughlan, M.B.E., will act as Chief Assistant Secretary in the C.S. Office.

Mr. G. F. Wilson, Collector of Customs, is to act as Chief Clerk in the Chief Secretary's office.

Among the lectures announced by the Royal Geographical Society are one on "Central Kurdistan," by Major Kenneth Mason, M.C., R.E., and one on "Surveying in Mesopotamia During the War," by Lieut.-Colonel G. A. Beazeley, D.S.O., R.E. The former lecture will be given at the Æolian Hall, 135, New Bond Street, at 8.30 p.m. on November 3; and the latter in the Society's House, Kensington Gore, at 5 p.m. on November 10.

The titles taken by some of the new War Peers are as follows:—

Field-Marshal Sir Edmund Henry Hynman Allenby, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.—Viscount Allenby of Megiddo and of Felixstowe, in the county of Suffolk.

Field-Marshal Sir Herbert Charles Onslow Plumer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.—Baron Plumer of Messines and of Bilton, in the county of York.

General the Honourable Sir Julian Hedworth George Byng, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., M.V.O.—Baron Byng of Vimy, of Thorpe-le-Soken, in the county of Essex.

Mr. H. St. J. Philby, a British political officer, has accomplished what no other Englishman has done in a remarkable journey across Arabia, says the *Globe*. At least half of his journey was over ground entirely new. For over two months he lived in the capital of the king of Central Arabia, a pure Arab of the Bedouin type. He was the first European to live in his palace, and was extraordinarily well treated, although he found the people generally suspicious. In the course of his journey south he discovered the largest surface of water yet known in Arabia. It was described as the bottomless pit, but its extent was only three-quarters of a mile in width by one-quarter across.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that the Italian Minister at Athens, Baron Romano Davezzano, is to be transferred to the Washington Embassy.

The Secretary of State for India has approved the appointment of Lieutenant-General Sir C. W. Jacob as Chief of the General Staff in India in succession to Major-General (temporary Lieutenant-General) Sir G. M. Kirkpatrick, who vacates the appointment on January 13, 1920.

OBITUARY.

Lieut.-Col. John Edward Orange-Bromehead died on Sunday at Hollam House, Titchfield, Hants, in his seventy-eighth year. He served in the Egyptian Expedition in 1882, and had the medal and the bronze star.

It is announced that Major Arthur Neve has died at Srinagar, Kashmir, aged 61. He went out to Srinagar in 1881 as assistant surgeon at the Mission Hospital, and the next year became chief surgeon. During the war he served as major in the R.A.M.C. in the hospitals for Indian troops at Brighton.

Colonel Richard Mercer Lloyd, who died on October 15, was buried at Exmouth on Saturday. He took part in quelling the Indian Mutiny, and for his services with the Burmese Expedition of 1886-7 was mentioned in despatches. Colonel Lloyd retired from the Bombay Staff Corps in April, 1888.

Surgeon-Colonel Thomas Jackson, Indian Medical Service, of St. George's Hospital, Bombay, died on the 16th inst. of heart failure, while on leave, at Melbourne. He saw service with the Dongola Expedition in 1896, and in the following year was actively employed on the North-West Frontier of India. He had the Egyptian medals and the Indian medal with two clasps.

The death is announced of Sir William Marling, second baronet, of Stanley Park, Stroud. He is succeeded by his eldest son, Colonel Percival Scrope Marling, V.C., C.B., who was born in 1861. The new baronet has seen a good deal of active service in Egypt and in South Africa, and in the European war he was on the Staff with the British Expeditionary Force in 1914-15. He won his Victoria Cross in the Sudan in 1884, when he risked his life to save that of a private. Sir William's second son is Sir Charles Murray Marling, formerly British Minister in Persia.

We regret to have to record the death of Mr. Pierre Zebitch, which occurred in Serbia on September 28. He had journeyed over from London to see his wife and children, from whom he had been separated for five years in consequence of the war, and while there was taken ill and died. Mr. Zebitch was a civil engineer and acted as chief engineer of the engineering works at the Department of Tchatchak (Serbia). He was also consulting engineer of the General Anglo-Serbian Industrial and Financial Company. During the war he gave his services to the Serbian Army as an engineer.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Xanthi, which has been awarded to Greece, has been occupied by Greek troops.

Severe fighting has recommenced in the region of Zanghizur, in the Caucasus, between the Armenians and Tartar troops.

The Serbian Legation in Paris denies the statement concerning the existence of a plot at Agram against Prince Alexander.

The Alexandria tramwaymen having been granted a 40 per cent. increase in wages and an eight-hour day, the strike has come to an end.

In view of the necessity for economy, the establishment of the Malta Dockyard will be reduced to a peace-time level within the next six months.

About 300 Palestinian Jews who had been expelled by the Turks during the war and taken refuge in Greece, and eight Jews from Persia, have returned to Palestine.

The City Corporation decided last week to present an address of welcome to the Shah on the occasion of his visit to London and to entertain him to luncheon at the Guildhall.

The *Sudan Times* reports that recently a thunderbolt fell on a native woman living at the Hilleh of Abu Rus and killed her. Another native woman who was near her was also injured.

Since the middle of September seventeen vessels have sailed from Bombay, Busreh, and Karachi, carrying 289 officers and 9,033 other ranks from Mesopotamia, and 649 officers and 3,896 other ranks from India.

The Board of Trade have been informed by the Lieutenant-Governor of Malta that, owing to the existence of bubonic plague at Constantinople, that place has been declared to be an infected place within the meaning of Article 1 of the Regulations made under the Fourth Sanitary Ordinance, 1908.

Information has been received in London that the Turks, with a view to invading Erivan, have taken the town of Igdir. Armenians are fleeing in thousands from the Igdir district to Erivan. A report from Tiflis states that the Nakhitchevan Tartars have risen against the Armenian Government.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

BIRTH.

RUSSEL.—On October 16, at 55, Campden Hill Court, Kensington, to Margery (née Rees), wife of Commander F. A. H. Russel, Royal Navy—a son.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO,
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

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Proprietor: AUGUSTUS VAN MILLINGEN.

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Billiards, and Lift.

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Bathing Cabins on the Beach. Billiards.
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TROODOS—Olympus Hotel.
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1919.

INDIA AND PERSIA.

The political conditions which prevail in India and in Persia present at once a parallel and a contrast, for while the two countries have the same starting point and the same objective, they are following very different roads. Each of them has now determined to cast off the last remnants of the vicious Asiatic system, the essence of which was exploitation of the people for the benefit of a small ruling class, and each of them is striving to reach the distant goal of national self-government and national self-respect; each of them has the cordial goodwill of the Western democracies, and for some time to come each of them must depend largely upon Western help. That their roads are different is the consequence of well-known historical causes. The Asiatic system of rule was carried even further in India than in Persia, and for that very reason the latter country never fell into the utter depths of anarchy and misery in which the former was submerged in the eighteenth century, and from which she was rescued with such difficulty by the efforts of the British administration. Persia has managed to retain her political identity, despite the recent menace from the North; India went utterly to pieces, and her political fabric has had to be built up afresh. Thus it happens that while the greater country is pressing towards her objective under foreign stimulus and foreign guidance, the lesser is struggling forward without such support; the future alone can show whether such external support is in the long run a benefit or a drawback, but at the moment the question of practical importance is rather how the two countries can help one another, and by pooling their experiences shorten or simplify the journey which they have undertaken. Of late they have drifted somewhat apart: the closure of the land routes through Afghanistan, and the changes in the course of sea-borne traffic, have combined to interrupt the streams of intercourse which formerly flowed, and it is necessary to go back to the Moslem period of Indian history in order to realise the nature and extent of the ties by which the two countries were formerly bound. In that period they were united closely both by commerce and by culture. Persia looked to the entrepots on the west coast of India for everything which she required to obtain by sea: the ships of Cambay and Calicut sought the market of Ormuz, "the jewel of the ring of India," returning with cargoes as costly as those they had discharged, and each country was necessary to the comfort and convenience of the other. Culture travelled by land while commerce was conducted mainly on the sea, but here there was less of reciprocity, for Persia gave much and received little; Northern India attracted scholars and poets, artists and musicians, and even now the atmosphere of her great centres of culture is predominantly Persian. In Lucknow and Delhi, Sa'adi is still a greater name than Shakespeare, and while English is the chief medium for the discussion of public affairs, the practised orator finds his most effective peroration in an apt quotation from the Gulistan.

In the past, then, India and Persia ministered to each other's material needs, while in the regions of intellect and culture Persia gave, and India took. In regard to the future, we may say at once that this latter feature of their intercourse is not likely to recur. Commerce will continue, and we hope that it will swell far beyond its present volume, but it is most unlikely that either country will seek its intellectual or artistic inspiration directly from the other; both will turn rather to Western sources, and if the synthesis of East and West should ever be completely achieved, we may expect that Persia, like India, will contribute to this result. For the present the direct relations between the two countries are likely to rest mainly on a more material basis: India's foreign rulers have studied, and in many cases solved, the most urgent of the problems with which Persia is now beginning to grapple, and India can best repay her old debt by offering the use of her large and dearly bought experience. India, for instance, has realised, if still somewhat imperfectly, the meaning of equal justice, an idea essentially foreign to the old Asiatic system. Persia has still to realise that idea as the necessary condition precedent of any progress on the road which she has chosen, and if she so desires, she can learn more about it from India than from any of the countries lying North or West. Assuming that internal peace has been established, her next need is for means of transit, without which she cannot hope to develop her great potential resources: it was India that pioneered cheap and effective transit in the East, and Persia will be well-advised to study Indian methods rather than those prevailing in countries where capital has been expended with a lavish hand. Transit being provided, agriculture has to be reorganised to meet the demands of modern markets. India has now sufficient experience of that process to be in a position to render valuable help. The widespread mineral deposits have to be prospected and developed; geologists and mining experts from India can at least perform greater services than predatory syndicates generated in the less reputable centres of European finance. Modern industries have to be established, and commercial methods have to be brought up to date; here again India can, if she is wanted, render substantial aid, and possibly through the agency of that talented race which still looks to Persia as an inhospitable motherland. It is now many centuries since the Parsees were driven by persecution from their home: they have done more than any race, except the British, to enrich the country of their adoption, and it would be a noble revenge for old injuries if they should devote some portion of their abundant energy to the introduction into Persia of those aptitudes and methods which are now so conspicuous in Bombay.

It is through such channels as these that intercourse between the two countries may be developed in the near future, and at first sight the result may appear to be of benefit only to Persia, but when we examine the matter more closely we find that the gain will not be unevenly divided. India still suffers from that intellectual isolation which in the old days was imposed on her by her mountains and her seas; she has indeed absorbed, and in part assimilated, much that England has offered, but as yet she knows little of other countries, and is but imperfectly equipped to play her part as one of the great nations of the world. She needs to widen her horizon, and enlarge her experience of affairs, to learn that England is not the only external source of all things good and evil, and to mix more freely with other races in unfamiliar environments. She would gain much by intercourse with Persia, a country which has always looked West as well as East, and which under the new conditions will be within easy reach of the Mediterranean area; she would see there problems essentially similar to her own being handled under a somewhat different inspiration, and she would acquire, what is at present so grievously lacking, some basis for a wide comparative judgment on men and things. She could, as we have said, offer assistance of great value in the concrete tasks which Persia has now to undertake, but she could learn as well as teach, and we do not doubt that close and frequent intercourse between the two nations would be a source of benefit to each in hastening the time when they may be fitted to take their places as full members of the Commonwealth of Nations.

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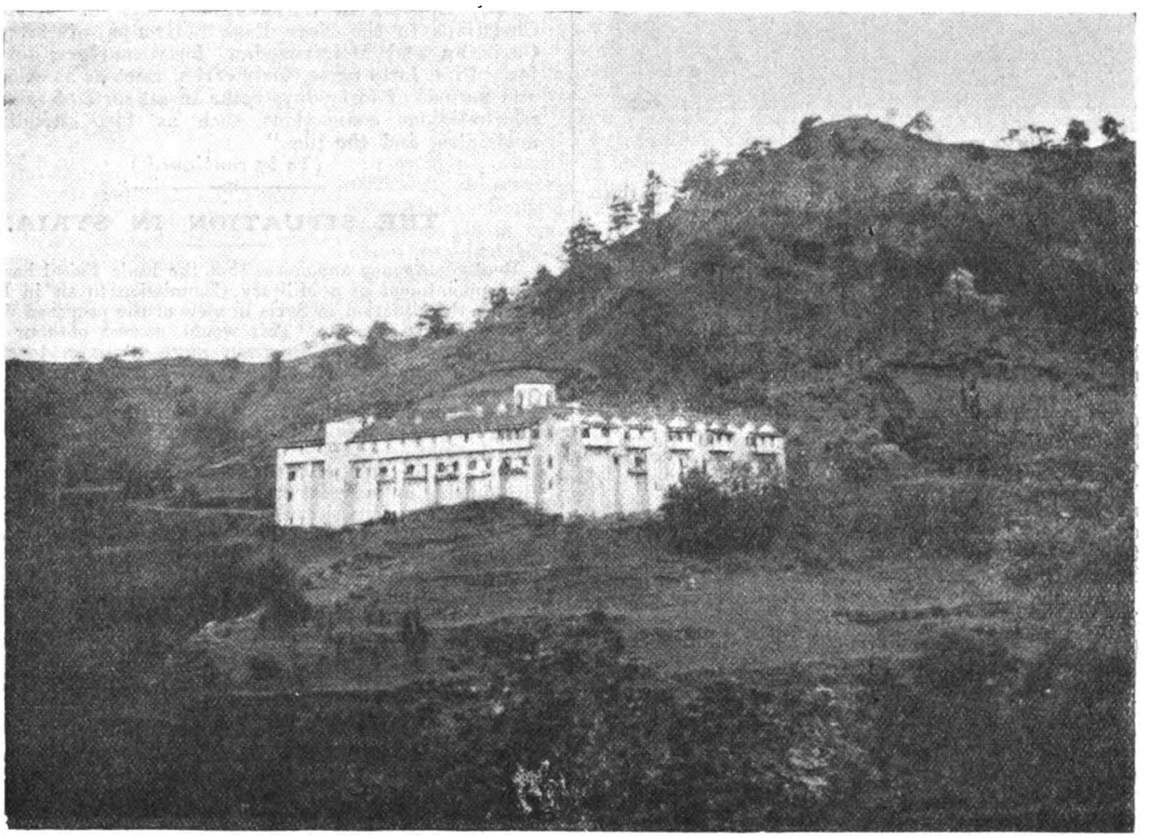
CYPRIOTE SHRINES.

By Lieut.-Comdr. H. C. LUKE, R.N.V.R.

III.

Of the seventy icons generally admitted by the Orthodox Church to be the handiwork of Saint Luke, three enjoy a special pre-eminence and sanctity, due to the belief that the panels on which they are painted were given to the Evangelist by the angel Gabriel. They are an icon of the Panagia preserved in Russia, the "Hodegetria" (the Conductress) belonging to the monastery of Mega Spelaion in the Peloponnese, and the celebrated "Eleousa" (the Compassionate), which is the glory of the monastery of Kykkos, in Cyprus. Kykkos was founded towards the end of the eleventh century to house the "Eleousa," and is situated in the district of Myriánthousa, or Marathasa, at a height of 4,400 feet, in the heart of the Paphos Forest. On account of the importance of the treasure which it shelters, the monastery is privileged to be of the category known as "stavropegiac"—that is to say, it is a "peculiar" exempt from the jurisdiction of the diocesan bishop, and owes allegiance only to the Archbishop of Cyprus. Frequently destroyed by fire and reconstructed, its buildings date in their present form only from the latter part of the eighteenth century, nothing of the original monastery but the "Eleousa" having survived the conflagrations. The icon itself is concealed behind an embossed silver-gilt cover encrusted with emeralds, rubies, and other precious stones; and only a square inch of the picture is visible through an opening made in the case. The whole rests in a massive stand or frame of tortoise-shell inlaid with mother-of-pearl, which is built up against the iconostasis of the monastery church. A life-sized black hand and arm of bronze, affixed to the side of the icon-stand, recall one of the "Eleousa's" most sensational miracles. A Moslem negro in Turkish times once tried to light his pipe by the little lamp burning before it, when a sword shot out from the icon and severed his arm. Close by, encased in silver, hangs the nose of a sword-fish, which was about to devour a sailor, when he prayed to the icon, and all was well. Many other miracles are ascribed by the Orthodox with perfect confidence to the "Eleousa," who is, above all, celebrated as a rain-getter; and annually on September 8 the icon is the object of a popular and well-attended *panegyris*. On this day the monastery swarms with thousands of villagers, many of whom, for want of other accommodation, spend the night on the floor of the church. A few enterprising ones, instead of sleeping at Kykkos, leave directly after the liturgy for the monastery of Chrysorrhoiátissa, which is separated from Kykkos by an arduous journey of seven hours across the mountains. Chrysorrhoiátissa also possesses an icon painted by St. Luke, and its *panegyris* falls on the same date as that of Kykkos. It is a meritorious act on the part of the Orthodox Christians to attend both festivals in one day; and whoever does this seven years in succession has performed the equivalent of a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and is entitled to the epithet of Hajji.

Two other Cypriote monasteries share with Kykkos the distinction of being "stavropegiac"—namely, Machaerá, on the border of the districts of Larnaca and Nicosia, and the Enkleistra, near Paphos. Machaerá was founded in the year 1200 by the hermit Nilus, whose autograph Ritual Ordinance,[6] written on vellum, is still preserved in the monastery. Beyond this manuscript and the usual wonder-working icon, Machaerá contains little of interest, for the monastery was totally consumed by fire in 1892, and in its existing form is entirely modern. It is pleasantly situated on Mount Chioni at a height of 2,250 feet, and is surrounded by pine forest. The present abbot is a courteous old gentleman, who was formerly a schoolmaster. His immediate predecessor, on the other hand, was completely devoid of letters. This All-Saintly-and-Erudite[7] prelate signed documents with the imprint of his thumb, smeared with ink, and was unable so much as to say his prayers. For the purpose he employed a sort of whipping-boy. The abbot sat in his chair, the boy stood beside him and spouted the prayers; and the abbot's vicarious devoutness was generally regarded as adequate and satisfactory.



MACHAERÁ MONASTERY.

The Enkleistra, which means the Hermitage, was founded in the last years of the twelfth century by the hermit Neophytus, at the head of a beautiful and well-watered valley lying some miles west of Paphos. It was originally intended by Neophytus as a retreat for himself, but the Saint's reputation for holiness was such that, almost immediately, other ascetics grouped themselves around him, and hollowed out their cells in the cliff which he had chosen for his refuge. Saint Neophytus flourished at the time of the conquest of the island by Richard Cœur de Lion, and his is the only contemporary voice that has transmitted to posterity the sentiments of the Cypriotes towards the tyrant Isaac, the English King, and the substitution of Frankish for Byzantine rule in the island. In a letter, happily preserved, to an unknown disciple, Neophytus makes bitter lamentation concerning the misfortunes of his native land. Writing in 1196, four years after the establishment of the Lusignan dynasty in Cyprus, he castigates from his rock-cut cell both conqueror and vanquished, "Inkliter" and Byzantine, and

[6] Published in Venice, in 1756.
[7] The title of abbots and archimandrites in the Orthodox Church is *πανοσιολογιώτατος*.

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ascribes to the sins of his countrymen the evils that have befallen them. "A cloud veils the sun, and a mist mountains and hills, and these for a while shut out the warmth and bright ray of the sun; and us, too, for now twelve years, a cloud and mist of successive calamities which have befallen our country wrap around."

By his letter "concerning the misfortunes of the land of Cyprus," and by the publication in England of his Ritual

KYKKO MONASTERY.

Ordinance[8] Noephytus is perhaps the best known in the west of Cypriote Churchmen. He died about 1215 at an advanced age, and was buried in his cell, in the tomb which he had constructed with his own hands to serve him as a bed in his lifetime, and as his grave thereafter. There his body remained undisturbed until 1757, when it was removed to the church that had meanwhile been built on the other side of the glen, to serve the needs of the monastic community, which had long outgrown the founder's cave-chapel. The skull was placed in a casket of silver-gilt, one panel of which opens to enable it to receive the kisses of the faithful; while the original wooden coffin containing the Saint's bones reposes in a large chest surmounted by a *baldacchino*, handsomely carved in a style suggestive of Florentine art. Casket and chest are opened twice a year for the veneration of numerous pilgrims, who are not always composed entirely of Christians. Once, when staying at the monastery with its hospitable and patriarchal old abbot, I saw two unattended Turkish women among the worshippers, conspicuous by their *charshaf* and veiled faces. When the ceremonies were over and the crowd had dispersed, the pair obtained permission to pernoctate (as the Oxford statutes have it) in the church, hoping by the intercession of the Saint to be cured of the epilepsy from which they suffered. Paradoxical as it may seem, Christians and Moslems in the

PANEGYRIS AT CHRYSORRHOIATISSA MONASTERY.

Near East, while hating the doctrines of each other's faiths, take not unkindly to each other's superstitions. I have also seen Turks, both men and women, present as worshippers at Kykkos and Chrysorrhoiátissa on the occasion of the *panegyris*, and kissing the icons on the iconastasis with the same fervour as their Christian fellow-pilgrims. We find the converse of this in the faith reposed by Christian peasants in the Moslem charms known as *khamaili*, amulets, enclosing verses of the Koran and cabalistic inscriptions, which are effective against sickness, death, and the evil eye In view of the points of contact which exist between Christianity and Islam, or, more correctly, between their several superstitions, it is not surprising that there are in Cyprus, as elsewhere in the Levant, shrines sacred to Christians and Moslems alike. One of these is the so-called Turabi *tekyé* at Larnaca, Turabi being an Arabic or Turkish corruption of the Greek Therapon. St. Therapon was a bishop in Cyprus, probably of Kition, some time in the seventh century, and met his death during one of the Arab invasions, to which, as we have seen, the island was at that period subjected. It is not known how the bishop's tomb came to pass into Moslem custody, nor yet how the holy man contrived to become a Moslem worthy. Suffice it to say that as Therapon, or as Turabi, he receives to this day the attentions of the adherents of both faiths.

A more interesting sanctuary frequented by Christians and Turks, though outwardly Mohammedan, is the Kirklar *tekyé* near Tymbou, in the district of Nicosia. The name means "the Convent of the Forty"; and although we do not know who these particular forty may have been—they are vaguely described as the forty Sheikhs—the number constantly appears in the religious lore of Moslems and Christians in the Near East. Groups of forty saints, Christian and Mohammedan, forty martyrs, forty jinns, forty Pirs, forty ogres, forty efrits, meet us at every turn[10]; and periods of forty days recur in all sorts of religious and semi-religious connections, such as fasts, wedding-feasts, noviciates, and the like.[11]

(To be continued.)

[8] First published in Venice in 1779. Republished in *Archæologia*, vol. 47 ondon, 1881.

THE SITUATION IN SYRIA.

Reuter's Agency announces that the Emir Faisal has proposed the appointment of a Military Commission to sit in London to discuss the situation in Syria in view of the proposed withdrawal of the British troops. This would consist of four delegates, British, French, and American representatives, together with the Emir himself. Its function would not be to deal with the political future of the country—a question for the decision of the Peace Conference—but to adopt the steps necessary for the immediate future, in view of the results which the withdrawal of the troops might occasion.

The Emir states that the Arabs rely so much upon Great Britain that unless great care be taken the removal of the troops will cause a serious situation. If, however, the troops are withdrawn and it is made clear to the people that this does not involve a partition of the country or a final decision, nothing serious will occur.

Great Britain has in principle accepted his proposals, and he is in Paris on the invitation of M. Clemenceau to discuss the matter with him.

LONDON MOSLEMS AND THE TURKISH EMPIRE.

In conformity with the decision of the Moslems in India to hold a special meeting offering prayers for the preservation of the Turkish Empire, and the undiminished power and authority of the Sultan of Turkey as the Khalifah of the Moslem world, the Moslem residents of London assembled at No. 111, Campden Hill Road, on Friday, the 17th inst., to join with their brethren in India in their prayers. The service was led by Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall. After the service three resolutions were unanimously adopted. The first declared that the Sultans of Turkey have been for many centuries past the recognised Khalifahs of the Moslem world, and that the present Sultan of Turkey occupies in relation to the Moslem world the same position as his predecessors. The second emphasised the necessity of the political independence of the Islamic Khalifah. The third protested "in the strongest language at its command against the systematic vilification, in the European Press, of the Turkish patriots who to-day are endeavouring to retrieve the mistakes committed during the past few years, and who are using every legitimate endeavour to stem the tide of unwarranted aggression on Islamic territories by certain European and Christian nationalities, more especially the Greeks and the Armenians."

The Secretary for India wishes to hear from invalided and disabled Regular officers of the Indian Army who are anxious for employment in a civil or quasi-military capacity in the East, with a view to putting them in touch with opportunities of employment that come to his notice. Nothing can, however, be done for applicants unless their medical records show that they are *primâ facie* suitable physically for service in the East. The majority of officers of this class have already been communicated with, but it is possible that some may have escaped notice. Communications should be addressed to the Secretary, Military Department, India Office, Whitehall, S.W.1.

[10] for an example of forty devils, see above.

[11] *cf.* F. W. Hasluck, "The Forty," in the *Annual of the British School at Athens*, No. XIX., 1912-1913.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

It was obvious that Egypt's finances would for the time being be seriously affected by the recent disturbances, and the unsatisfactory position shown in the accounts for April, which are given elsewhere in this issue, is in no way surprising. There was the considerable deficit on the month of £E714,241, as compared with a surplus for the corresponding month of 1918 of £E393,195, decreases of greater or lesser extent being recorded under practically every head except interest on investments. It is anticipated that, with the exception of the railways, post office, and similar services, the losses will be recovered later on, but our correspondent points out that the fall in the Customs receipts will only be made good by the improvement in imports during the next few months.

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Even if the immediate losses are to a great extent recovered, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the set-back which the country has sustained will make its effects felt for some time. During the present year, at any rate, the financial position is likely to cause anxiety to the authorities, and in this connection the remark of our correspondent may be noted, that, "even allowing for the country's wonderful recuperative powers and its habit of disappointing forecasts, especially when they are of a pessimistic nature, it is difficult to see how it will be possible to avoid having recourse to a considerable portion of the draft (on the reserve fund) provided for."

***

A number of excellent openings for British firms are outlined in the letters from our Constantinople Correspondent, which appear in the present issue, and I hope that some of our merchants and exporters will be enterprising enough to try to take advantage of them. Of the openings instanced, I would call special attention to those connected with communications. For instance, the correspondent points out that there is room for at least a dozen motor-'bus services in Constantinople. Then the "Shirket Hairie" and the "Seiri Seifein" steamboat services both need new ships, and this apart it is suggested that "it might be possible to get a concession to run ships to certain ports now served by the State steamers, which are certainly utterly incapable of satisfying the needs of the places at present served by them." Other interesting openings are referred to, notably the scope for the introduction of motor-engines for barges, and our Correspondent makes it quite clear that the possibilities for business in Turkey at the present time are very considerable. It is merely a question whether our business men possess the enterprise necessary for entering the market, and whether, if they do, conditions here will enable them to "deliver the goods."

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In connection with the first call of 5s. per share by the directors of the Abyssinian Corporation it is announced that the corporation has purchased the important business of Messrs. J. D. Nicholas and Co. in Abyssinia. This firm is established at Adis Abeba, and at Goré, Bouré, Gambela, Sayou, and Gidami, in Western Abyssinia. This acquisition, following the purchase of the well-known business of Messrs. Gerolimato and Armanza, gives the corporation a pre-eminent position in the trade of Western Abyssinia. It is a curious fact that, despite the influential auspices under which the Corporation was formed and also the optimistic survey of the company's prospects by Lord Wolmer at the recent statutory meeting, when he indicated important developments, the shares of the Corporation are quoted at a discount. I presume that the reason is that the investing public here are very largely ignorant of the great possibilities of Abyssinia commercially and otherwise.

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There seems to be a prospect that a contract will be placed by the Egyptian State Railways with an American firm for the supply of fifty locomotives. The Egyptian State Railways normally look to England for the great bulk of their locomotives and rolling stock, and the prospective loss of this contract, which will be worth at least £500,000, is naturally a matter of great concern to British firms of locomotive builders. It is maintained that British firms were not in a position to contract for the locomotives, as the time available for tenders when drawings and specification reached this country was much too short. It is stated that the contract has not been finally allotted; if so, I trust that an effort will be made to extend the time so that British firms may be allowed to participate. Our firms do not expect to be favoured at the expense of other countries, but they do expect, as they are fully entitled to, that they will be allowed to compete on equal terms with their rivals.

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Since the question of inadequate postal and cable communications with foreign countries was first raised some months have elapsed, but while in the intervening period improvements have taken place, the position is unquestionably still most unsatisfactory, especially as regards the cables. Our Belgrade Correspondent in a recent message complained bitterly that the British colony there "is without telegrams, for a cable that takes over fifteen days is useless; postage is slow, though it has been improved recently; but parcels post is non-existent; it is urgently and insistently wanted, and nobody can understand why we have not got it." It would not be difficult to give more instances of this character, and I am afraid that our Belgrade Correspondent's remarks apply more or less to many other Near Eastern centres. Why the authorities have not yet been able to remedy this state of affairs is a mystery. It is certain, at any rate, that they have not lacked reminders on the subject, for both from public bodies and the Press there have been continuous complaints.

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Some remarkable instances of the present delays in the cable service have just been forwarded to the Postmaster-General by the President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. There is a delay of four days on messages from China, and an average delay of four days and sometimes five on messages from Persia. "The complaints demonstrate," wrote the president, in giving these and similar instances, "that the delays are common to all the Eastern markets. I desire to urge with all the emphasis I can command that the present unsatisfactory state of affairs should be met by energetic efforts to remedy the service. As things stand, the overseas trade is severely handicapped, and in view of the importance of restoring and developing our exports the cable service should be immediately raised to the pre-war standard of efficiency."

***

The Government of India's policy in regard to civil flying is now announced, and is based on the principles that a large organisation with a small number of well-situated maintenance services is sounder economically than a number of organisations which would involve a correspondingly larger number of maintenance services, and that an air transport organisation should not be dependent on any particular aircraft construction company. It is considered that the development of civil aviation will best be carried out in India by the grant of a monopoly for a period of years for the carrying of mails to a single air transport company which should be independent of any particular aircraft construction company. There would only be a monopoly in regard to the carriage of mails, the rates for which would be fixed by Government, and the company would be free to fix rates for goods and passenger traffic in competition with companies which might be established for that traffic. Such a company, it is recognised, would probably be able to shut out competition for other traffic, and the terms under which such a monopoly would be granted would require careful consideration and discussion, and firms have been asked through the Chambers of Commerce to communicate the conditions which would be agreeable to them to the Commerce and Industry Department as a basis for discussion.

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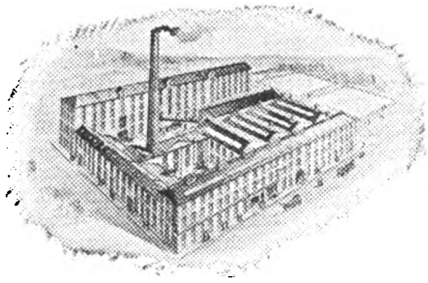
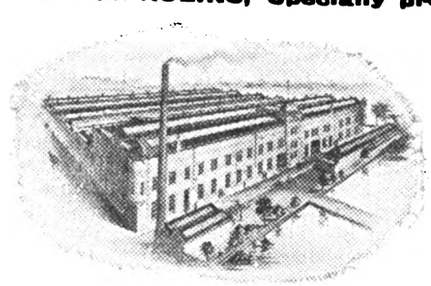

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Administration of Palestine.

The Budget Statement for 1919-1920.

The Budget Statement for 1919-1920 of the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration (South) indicates that our administration of Palestine has made considerable progress. The estimates for the preceding year showed receipts £E661,813, and expenditure £E738,649, with an anticipated deficit of £E76,836. The actual receipts came to £E748,258: the actual expenditure is assumed at £E696,883, and although until the Army Pay Department has furnished a statement of its charges against the Administration the latter figure cannot be considered as final, it is evident that a surplus may be expected on the year's working. For the year 1919-20 receipts and expenditure are estimated to balance at £E735,200, and, as the report points out, the Administration of Palestine is costing H.M.'s Government nothing.

Uncertainty of Political Status.

This is a most satisfactory result, but it is evident that if the Administration had been allowed a free hand the result would have been even better. The uncertainty as to the political and economic future of the country has tended considerably to lower the estimates, since they have involved the postponement of several services that would otherwise have been regarded as essential. Moreover, the period of occupation without a settlement has been long, and in order to avoid a complete dislocation of the life of the people, the Administration has been compelled to assume all the ordinary functions of a peace-time government in a way that would not have been called for had the period been shorter.

The conditions under which the Administration is carried on in many respects constitute new precedents. Whilst in other occupied enemy territories a regular civil Government has been set up side by side with the Army of Occupation, in Palestine, although the Administration actually collects and expends the revenues, it is closely controlled in all details by the general staff and the public funds are thus liable to abnormal charges. Another unusual condition lies in the fact that while the Administration is expected out of local revenue to provide for all the functions of the previous civil Government, the country itself, without certain developments which have had to be suspended until the peace settlement is reached is not sufficiently productive to be self-supporting as a separate economic unit. Moreover, the instructions received from H.M.'s Government have precluded the development of the revenue and of existing resources to the same extent as in other divisions of occupied enemy territory.

Improvement in General Conditions

The most noticeable indications of improvement in general conditions have been the increase in population, in stock of animals, and in the area under cultivation. On March 31, 1919, the population was estimated aproximately at 647,850, made up f 515,000 Moslems, 65,300 Jews and 62,500 Christians. Normal conditions have, however, not yet been reached, many exiles have not returned, villages ruined by the war still remain unbuilt, and there is as a result of the uncertainty as to the political and economic future of the country a general feeling of insecurity as to the future of land tenure.

The stock of taxed animals was 531,000 as against a total of 139,000 on March 1, 1918. This increase is rendered more remarkable by the fact that practically all the animals in the country had been requisitioned by the Turks, and at the time of the occupation were therefore seized as booty by the Army, from whom the inhabitants had to buy them back. The total area administered is approximately 8,700 square miles, or about one-fourteenth of that of the British Isles. The area under cultivation is estimated to have increased 15 per cent. since the occupation. This is largely due to the release of lands that were thrown out of cultivation by the military operations in 1918, and by the conscription of the able-bodied population. This has, however, not produced a corresponding increase in the revenue as the latter is derived from tithes, the total of which depends on the market prices of cereals, which have fallen by 35 per cent. during the year. The percentages of the respective communities engaged in agriculture are as follows: Moslem, 69 per cent.; Christians, 46 per cent.; Jews, 19 per cent.

Revenue Figures.

Turning now to details of the Budget, the principal items of revenue are (figures in brackets are for the preceding financial year): Direct taxation, £E228.020 (£E160,311); customs, £E300,000 (£E122,000); law and justice, £E55,000 (£E23,300); relief services, £E43,400 (£E324,486); post office, £E30,530 (£E19,350); telegraphs and telephones, £E19,950 (New). Under expenditure, the main heads are: General administration, £E178,200 (£E126,866); police, £E99,300 (£E98,265); public health, £E90,500 (£E50,861); public works, £E85,750 (£E13,171); education, £E46,000 (£E15,331); relief services, £E64,700 (£E331,905).

Certain funds are not included in the Budget as the revenues are either assigned to the Ottoman Debt Commission or to special loans. This year the revenue assigned to the Ottoman Public Debt amounts to £E50,625, against £E59,447, and the tithes assigned to special loans (railways) in other parts of Turkey to £E103,000, against £E82,000. The total value of the tithes is put down at £E224,835, but on account of the assignment to special loans, etc., the administration only benefits to the extent of £E100,600. The collection, it is pointed out, is made on the pre-war basis, the additional tithes imposed by the Turks since the beginning of the war being entirely abandoned.

The report says that in its present form the tithe will always be troublesome. In time no doubt it will be commuted for fixed annual payments, but before this is possible a cadastral survey and land settlement are absolutely necessary. They are essential also for the proper administration of the house and land tax and of the State domains, and although the resources of the Administration do not admit at present the undertaking of a survey on any extensive scale, the matter is of such importance that a sum of £E6,300 has been allotted for preliminary measures and the training of the staff.

It is interesting to note that the total taxation of the country is just over £E1 a head. The taxes levied this year remain the same as in 1918, with the addition of the professional tax, which had previously been withheld. House and land taxes show a considerable increase on the figure for the preceding year, and the animal tax, which is levied on sheep, goats, buffaloes, pigs, and camels when not used for ploughing, shows a similar large increase.

Customs and the Question of Ports

Customs is, as indicated, the chief source of revenue, and the increase shown is derived mainly from the import of the staple requirements of the country, and is due not only to the growth of general prosperity, but also to improved administration of the Customs. It is pointed out that the increase would certainly have been larger had there been the same facilities at the ports in Occupied Enemy Territory (South) as already exist in Occupied Enemy Territory (West). The difference in this respect is so great that there had been instances where imports intended for Occupied Enemy Territory (South) could only be shipped to Beyrout, to be transported thence at heavy cost by road or sailing boat.

The ports in O.E.T. (South) are Jaffa, Haifa, Acra, and Gaza, and three temporary ports are also opened on the Cæsarea coast during the summer months for the melon export trade. None of these ports is yet provided with a harbour, and although as regards Jaffa and Haifa projects and concessions had been actually under consideration for some time before the war, and the commercial elements in the territory have pressed for the resumption of port developments, and many leading firms of financiers and contractors have offered their services, it has not been possible to do anything more than regulate the ports in view of the orders of H.M.'s Government to suspend the grant of concessions. Jaffa at present shows much larger returns than Haifa, much of the normal trade of which is being diverted to Beyrout, and it is anticipated that until railway communications improve and a harbour is constructed at Haifa this state of affairs will continue. It is noteworthy that the coastal lights are in the hands of a French company, to which a concession had been granted by the Turks.

Another cause diminishing the Customs revenue has been the inefficiency from the commercial point of view of the Palestine military railways, on which freights are high, thefts of goods in transit have been frequent, and on occasion civilian transport has been entirely suspended for several days at a time. The abnormal increase in the Customs receipts from parcels post would indicate that merchants prefer this more expensive method of forwarding on account of the insecurity of the railway.

(To be concluded.)

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EGYPTIAN FINANCES.

Effect of Disturbances on Revenue

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Cairo, September 29.

The State accounts for April, the first month of the current financial year, have just been published, and confirm somewhat the anticipations that were prevalent. Revenue amounted to £E940,734, as against £E2,062,976 during the corresponding month of 1918, and expenditure to £E1,654,975, as compared with £E1,669,781 in April last year. There is therefore a diminution of £E1,122,242 in revenue and of £E14,806 in expenditure, and the surplus of £E393,195 shown a year before becomes as a result a deficit of £E714,241.

The main heads under which a falling off in revenue is registered are direct taxes, £E183,677; Customs, £E312,767; legal fees, £E107,795; railways, £E323,819: ghaffir cess, £E50,549; whilst, with the exception of interest on investments, practically every other head shows lesser decreases.

That the revenue collection during the first two or three months of the financial year, especially during April and May, would suffer as a result of the disturbances, was fully expected, for, apart from the general cessation of business in the interior, it was quite impossible to carry out to any appreciable extent the usual financial operations amongst the fellaheen landowners.

The only items which it is to be feared will not recover what they have lost will possibly be the railways, Post Office, and similar services, but under the other heads, such as direct taxes, domains, ghaffir cess, etc., the loss may be considered as merely temporary, for it is to be presumed that the outstandings will be collected during the other months of the year. At the same time, the drop in Customs receipts will only be caught up if imports improve in the course of the next few months. At the end of May, the last month for which figures are available, they were down by £E4,647,000, compared with 1918.

All things considered, what with the loss in revenue to be expected as the direct outcome of the disturbances, and the increases in pay which have had to be granted to Government officials to enable them to meet the present high cost of living, the Anglo-Egyptian financial authorities will not have an easy time to balance the State accounts for this year. In the Budgetary estimates provision was made for a draft of £E1,550,000 on the reserve fund to meet the expected deficit in revenue and increase in expenditure due to the troubles, and, even allowing for the country's wonderful recuperative powers and its habit of disappointing forecasts, especially when they are of a pessimistic nature, it is difficult to see how it will be possible to avoid having recourse to a considerable portion of the draft provided for.

The Port of London Authority have received an expression of appreciation from the India Office of the energetic and able assistance rendered by the officials of the Authority at East India Dock in connection with the R.I.M.S. "Dufferin," which resulted in the passengers, over 300 in number, being embarked on October 2, with complete success, in little over two hours.

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ROUMANIAN TRADE NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, October 1.

Railway Questions.

M. Peritzeanu, General Director of the Roumanian State Railways, in reply to certain criticisms relating to the re-establishment of normal conditions on the railroads, states that the income earned by the railways increased 140 per cent. from January to July this year. The present lack of material, he says, is a great hindrance to the repairing of the locomotives. Up to the present material to the value of £40,000 only has been received from England, and a further £200,000 worth of material is still on the way to Roumania. France has sent a further six locomotives, several of which are defective. With the shortage of material, transmission belting, coke, etc., it is difficult for the railway workshops to make any real progress, and the 200 locomotives which the workshops have repaired since December of last year have been counterbalanced by another 200 which have gone out of service during that period and are in need of repairs. As regards fuel for the engines, although there is, of course, an abundance of oil fuel in this country, the necessary installations for its consumption are lacking in many of the locomotives in present use.

Delays in Serbia.

A matter which is irritating public opinion and causing considerable uneasiness and annoyance to business men here is what appears to be an almost systematic delay in Serbia of goods destined for Roumania. At the present moment four goods trains loaded with commodities from France, Italy, and Switzerland, and consigned to Roumania, have been stopped in Serbia, and there appears to be no definite information as to their whereabouts, while numerous small consignments have been lost, and personal luggage belonging to passengers travelling through Serbia has been frequently the subject of petty pilfering A certain amount of contraband traffic with Serbia was certainly being carried on at one time under the guise of through luggage to Roumania, but this can hardly be considered a warrantable excuse for the wholesale stoppage of merchandise. Petitions have been addressed by commercial houses here to the Roumanian Ministry of Industry and Commerce, asking that this matter should be taken up with the Serbian authorities, with a view to putting a stop to a procedure which is exceedingly annoying, as well as the cause of considerable financial loss.

DISTRESS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agriculture Department, dated October 17:—

Gratuitous relief in all affected districts of Central Provinces except Raipur and Drug, relief works in Angul District of Bihar and Orissa, relief operations Sholapur District of Bombay Presidency, and Government fodder depôts in Maharatwara Districts of Hyderabad, have been closed. Situation further improved in Hyderabad where good spring crops expected. Crops generally satisfactory, but rain needed in the Punjab. Numbers relieved:—Bengal: works, 3,265; gratuitous, 7,734. Bihar and Orissa: works, 6,585; gratuitous, 48,175. Feudatory States of Orissa: works, 6,022; gratuitous, 22,716. Central India: works, 3,100; gratuitous, 7,700. Central Provinces (incomplete figures): works, 12,985; gratuitous, 5,305. Bombay: works, 2,900; gratuitous, 19,671. Hyderabad: works, 17,000; gratuitous, 25,000. Madras: works, 59,706; gratuitous (incomplete figures), 91,875.

British firms intending to open offices in Calcutta or Bombay are advised by H.M. Trade Commissioner to make arrangements in order to secure adequate office accommodation and residences for their staff. There is at present a serious shortage of housing accommodation for Europeans in these cities. Speculation in land and houses has been active in recent months, and great profits have been made. The result is that in order to secure an adequate return on capital rents have been increased in many cases by 50 per cent. and over, and householders are obliged to pay, as it is impossible to secure accommodation elsewhere.

TRADE MARKS IN INDIA.

In connection with recent reports concerning the increased influx of goods bearing imitation of British marks in British India (says the "Board of Trade Journal"), the attention of British manufacturers and exporters is directed to the protection which exists in that country against infringement. No Trade Marks Registration Act exists in British India, and it is not the present intention of the Government to introduce such legislation. The protection at present afforded to British manufacturers is contained in the provisions of the Penal Code and under the Merchandise Marks Act. In the first place it is open to a manufacturer to have recourse to the civil courts to prevent goods bearing imitations of his marks being marketed in India. In the second place, he can take action against the offending party under the sections of the Indian Penal Code which relate to trade, property, and other marks. Thirdly, direct protection is accorded under the Merchandise Marks Act and the Sea Customs Act, which provide that goods bearing counterfeit marks are liable to confiscation, and any person concerned in the offence is liable to a penalty not exceeding three times the value of the goods or Rs. 1,000, whichever is the less.

The Customs authorities are not generally prepared, however, to take action on their own account unless the offence has already been established by a competent tribunal. But under Section 19 of the Sea Customs Act they are empowered to give notice to the aggrieved party and to temporarily detain the goods. Should the goods bear counterfeit trade mark and not a counter-indication of country of origin, the Customs officials are empowered under Section 18 (e) to take immediate action. In cases coming under Section 18 (d), if the aggrieved party furnishes indemnity bond to the Customs, the goods will be detained pending action before the Civil Courts taken by the aggrieved party. The provisions of Sections 18 (d) and (e) are as follows:—18. No goods specified in the following clauses shall be brought, whether by land or sea, into British India. (d) Goods having applied thereto a counterfeit trade mark within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code, or a false trade description within the meaning of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act, 1889. (e) Goods made or produced beyond the limits of the United Kingdom and British India, and having applied thereto any name or trade mark being, or purporting to be, or being a colourable imitation of, the name or trade mark of any person who is a manufacturer, dealer or trader in the United Kingdom or in British India unless:—(i.) The name of trade mark is, as to every application thereof, accompanied by a definite indication of the goods having been made or produced in a place beyond the limits of the United Kingdom and British India, and (ii.) the country in which that place is situated is in that indication indicated in letters as large and conspicuous as any letter in the name or trade mark, and in the same language and character as the name or trade mark.

Firms not having representatives in India would be well advised to instruct some solicitor to act on their behalf. In order that British manufacturers should be in a position to prove the possession of the mark, it is desirable that they should adopt one or other of the following methods:—(1) Advertise their mark with full description in the Government Gazette and other Press; (2) cause copies of their marks to be filed at the various principal Customs throughout India.

ROLLING STOCK ORDERS FOR INDIA.

Modern Transport states that Cammell Laird and Co. have lately received contracts for the construction, at the recently acquired works at Nottingham, of four bogie dining cars, underframes, bogies and ironwork, and for ten third-class bogies, underframes and ironwork for the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. These underframes will each be 67 ft. in length. In addition, Cammell Laird and Co. has an order from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for 46 bogie carriages, each 68ft. in length, together with the necessary underframes, bogies and ironwork, as also the ironwork with the metallic furniture and other fittings for nine ordinary first and second-class bogie carriages for the Assam Bengal Railway.

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Constantinople Business Letter

Some Opportunities for British Enterprise.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, October 3.

The unsettled state of the country continues to make all but absolutely necessary business an impossibility. Everyone is standing by to see what is going to happen. There have been some heavy consignments of wool and mohair to England during the last month, and that has had its effect on the exchange, the pound sterling having dropped from 370 piastres to about 340.

In the meanwhile preparations can be made for the future by obtaining concessions for the numerous enterprises which must be undertaken as soon as the state of the country permits. The most urgent question, as I have already pointed out in a previous letter, is the housing problem. So serious is the dearth of housing accommodation that it has actually been suggested that hutments no longer required by the army should be brought from Egypt, Salonika and elsewhere in order to relieve the pressure. Any sort of accommodation fetches an astonishing price, out of all proportion to the cost of living. A six-roomed flat in the suburb of Chichli, for instance, costs anything from fifty to eighty Turkish pounds a month, and unfurnished at that. This is equivalent, at the present rate of exchange, to £170 to £280 per annum for very ordinary accommodation. A small furnished flat may cost anything from £300 to £700 a year. It is not surprising, therefore, that there are already one or two companies in the field with plans for rebuilding those areas which have been destroyed by fire. In the meanwhile it might be worth while to take a leaf out of the Americans' book and to see what can be done out here with those bungalows which are shipped and put together in sections. A house here, say with eight rooms and without electric light or bath-room, costs anything from £1,000 upwards. Previous to the war one or two English people bought this kind of bungalow and had it sent out from England. They have been a great success, and if they are still obtainable they would certainly sell well at the present moment.

Communications.

For many years to come any enterprise in Turkey connected with communications by land or by water, will, if properly managed, be a source of big and steady profits. As regards the capital, the roads, though not very numerous, are tolerable in most cases, and quite good where military necessity has been concerned. Communications with the suburbs are very defective at present owing to the want of rolling-stock and ships. The trams are terribly over-crowded, and there are no motor-buses running, although there is most certainly room for at least a dozen services. The vehicles would have to be fairly light, without outside accommodation, and as strong as possible. The tramway company is charging about 3d. per mile at present, and although a reduction of this outrageous charge has been promised, as usual the matter has not yet got beyond that stage. The company, having an absolute monopoly at present of popular communications in the capital, charges what it likes.

October 9.

One of the greatest worries in life in Turkey is the question of transport. Whether it be a question of a short trip up the Bosphorus or a longer journey to one of the places on the neighbouring coast of the Marmora Sea, there is always the same old worry about getting there. A Persian proverb has it that travel is hell! And it most certainly is here in Turkey.

The Bosphorus is served by a steamboat company whose ships were nearly all requisitioned during the war, and a large number were sunk by our submarines in the Marmora. The result is that the service is ridiculously inadequate. The sailings are few and the boats are dangerously overcrowded. The company—known as the "Shirket Hairie"—must sooner or later make up its mind to buy new ships, and as the British took a most important hand in destroying the company's pre-war fleet, it is only fair that the British should replace them—for payment, of course, since business is business.

Again, the Marmora islands and certain of the little ports along the coast of Asia Minor are served by a State concern known as the Seïri Seifein, still worse than the Shirket Hairie. Not only is the service miserably insufficient and slow, but most of the ships are dirty and utterly worn out. The result is that when there is a breakdown there is no ship to replace the old tub that has to be repaired, and one may have to wait days in some wretched Turkish seaside village until the thing has been fixed up. The other day I was in one of these ships which broke down in the middle of the Marmora. We were only six hours late on a journey that should not take more than three, but we were thankful to get to our destination at all.

Practically all the passenger traffic and a certain amount of the commercial traffic also depends upon these ships. There is some talk of the Seïri Seifein being converted into a private company, but in any case new ships are absolutely necessary, and their purchase cannot be long delayed.

It should be possible for an enterprising firm to get some good orders, and it might be possible to get a concession to run ships to certain ports now served by the State steamers, which are certainly utterly incapable of satisfying the needs of the places at present served by them.

Motor Engines for Barges.

A good deal of the miscellaneous carrying trade with Constantinople is carried on by sailing barges called "mahonas." This has been, even in the now almost prehistoric days of cheap materials and labour, an unsatisfactory business, on account of the slowness and uncertainty of the transport. As in the case of the steamers, large numbers of these mahonas have been sunk, but no one can say that Turkey is incapable of progress, for certain enterprising owners have fitted their barges with motor enginee, and get through many times the amount of business that they transacted in the old days. The Bosphorus has some very strong currents, in some places as swift as six and seven knots an hour, and the motor engine is an inestimable boon. There is bound to be a large and increasing sale for these machines in the near future, and even at present it ought to be possible to do a certain amount of business in them.

Petrol Lamps and Appliances.

The excessive dearness of fuel is driving people to think more seriously of using oil as the chief medium of heating and cooking, where hitherto it has been regarded more as an adjunct to coal and charcoal. There are already a number of petrol stoves and lamps on the market, but there is room for a much greater variety, and especially of illuminating lamps.

General Business.

The situation is stationary in this direction, and there is nothing to add to my remarks on the subject in recent letters. A certain amount of business is being done with Russia, but the prohibition of Russian exports stifles everything, except comparatively small transactions. In this connection it is worth while noting that advices from Odessa indicate a very queer state of affairs with regard to the rouble, in which the people seem to have poor confidence. The Bolsheviks left chaos behind them. Bolshevik money has been declared illegal, but there seems to be some prospect of its being exchanged at a rate to be fixed later on, for the legal currency.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated October 15:—

Rainfall nearly general in Burma, North-Eastern India, and to south of peninsula, total fall decreasing. More required western districts Bengal.

Bombay Cotton Market steady. Fully good Broach April-May Rs.493. Piecegoods market quiet. Calcutta jute market quiet, little doing. Hessians quiet, tending downwards. Heavy goods neglected, values unchanged but nominal. No change in bank rates.

H.M. Trade Commissioner in India and Ceylon is at present on a tour, in the course of which he proposes to visit Ceylon, Madras, the Malabar Coast and Hyderabad. He will return to Calcutta early in November.

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Near East Markets.

Turkish Fruit Crops.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows under date October 1:—

In our previous report, dated August 1, we endeavoured to explain, so far as circumstances then permitted, the conditions likely to govern the course of business and the movement of the fruit crops during the present season. Politically the situation in the province shows no modification. The International Commission of Inquiry has come and gone, but the result of its investigations is unknown. But the uneasiness existing has not been allayed, and farmers in all districts are collecting their crops with all haste and rushing same to market, or removing their produce to the more important centres where greater safety exists.

Sultanas.

The statistical movement of the present season's produce up to September 30 is as follows:—Total arrivals on the market, about 12,500 tons; total sales reported about 11,500 tons; stock unsold, 1,000 tons.

Shipments made or making:—S.S. Edenhall, for London, 100 tons; s.s. Trentino, for London, 1,600 tons; s.s. Borodino, for London, 1,700 tons; s.s. Rosetti, for London/Bristol, 1,800 tons; s.s. Vittoria, for Liverpool, 2,000 tons; s.s. Queensland, for London, 1,500 tons; s.s. Folda, for London/Hull, 1,500 tons; total about 10,200 tons. The last three steamers are still loading, and the figures given above are estimates of their probable cargoes. About 1,500 tons have also been shipped during the month to Holland, Canada, etc. More activity is now developing on the Continental market, and heavier shipments will have to be reckoned with during October.

Stocks now remaining in the interior are estimated as follows:—In the Magnesia district about 7,000 tons; in all other districts about 7,500 tons. These figures bring up the total crop estimate to about 27,000 tons. Local consumption will require 2/3,000 tons, and some of the fruit in the more outlying districts will probably not be available for transport to our market until more security prevails in the disturbed area. Arrivals now are diminishing in volume, and dealers are experiencing some difficulty in buying in the country.

Figs.

The unfavourable view we took about this product in our last report is, unfortunately, being realised. Total arrivals to September 30 amount to about 15,000 loads, or, say, about 3/3,300 tons. This quantity has been entirely swept off the market for shipment to the United States and Canada. Some very trifling lots have been shipped to Holland, Sweden, Australasia, etc. Supplies have come forward irregularly, and qualities on the whole have not proved satisfactory. Two or three of the leading shippers sent their own buying agents into the interior, and into the disturbed areas, and it is in some measure due to this initiative that some good packing fruit was secured, and the total supply for the month was augmented.

We have just received the following report from two buying agents we sent up country, and who have had occasion to travel over most of the producing area in the Meander Valley:—"The yield this year is proving very short; the causes of the deficiency are the following: The political situation. The emigration of most of the inhabitants from the producing districts in the spring months, which prevented the usual measures being taken for fertilising the fruit on the trees by hanging strings of male figs. This has caused an enormous loss of fruit. Blights, which have been occasioned by the heavy rains. We estimate the likely result of the yield at about 30/35,000 loads. If railway communications are restored all the fruit will be sent to market, otherwise, under the present conditions of transport it is doubtful if 7/8,000 loads more can find their way to Smyrna." If this forecast is realised, the final result of the yield will prove under our original estimates.

The United States are placing further orders on our market, and very few figs will be available for other countries.

United Kingdom Control.

As is generally known, the Ministry of Food in the United Kingdom has established a control over all dried fruits, and has been buying its requirements of sultana raisins direct from the home agents of Smyrna shippers. Prices have been established on a net basis, free of discounts and brokerages, and have ranged from 100s. to 110s. per cwt. c.i.f. U.K. ports, according to grading. This control has so far worked satisfactorily, and the measure undoubtedly has been a wise one. Without the control it is certain that prices would have been forced up to a very high level, and consuming countries generally would have had to pay very much more money for their fruit. First arrivals of new crop sultanas were paid 110s. to 130s. c.i.f., but as soon as shippers and dealers realised the effectiveness of the control, all speculative buying was checked and the market speedily adapted itself to the level of values which the Food Ministry in the U.K. was prepared to pay.

Values locally have been fairly steady, any fluctuations depending on the course of exchange which has declined very sharply, and which probably has entailed losses on shippers who had not sold Exchange in anticipation of their financial wants during the month. The Ministry of Food in the U.K. has so far assured a quantity of about ten thousand tons of sultana raisins. The purchase of this fruit has been entrusted to expert brokers, who possess long experience and a thorough knowledge of the trade, and have bought judiciously. As regards figs, no prices have yet been fixed, but it is apparent that the Ministry of Food is not disposed to buy at the parities paid by markets outside the U.K. It is likely that very few Smyrna figs will be imported into the United Kingdom.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 11:—

Our Opium Market keeps steady and active, with sales amounting to 42 cases at same prices as our last, ranging from 14s. to 20s., and morphine render from 9 per cent. to 12½ per cent. This week's sales, we understand, are to be consigned to London and New York. Exchange has not altered from that of last week, quoted in our report of the 4th inst. The arrivals to date are 725 cases, against 14 at same date last year.

ROUMANIA'S SURPLUS GRAIN

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

October 1.

It is announced that two offers have been received by the late Government for the surplus Roumanian crops remaining from this year's harvest. The first offer came from France, for the whole quantity of grain available for export, payable in francs, a credit for the corresponding sum to be immediately opened with the French banks. The question of price has not been so far discussed.

The second offer was received from Belgium for 100,000 tons of grain, in exchange for which she stated her willingness to give coal. Two delegates from the Belgian Government entered into relations with M. T. Constantinescu, the General Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and prices were discussed. M. Constantinescu informed the Belgian delegates, however, that nothing could yet be settled, as the quantity available for export could not be fixed until exact data were forthcoming as to the result of the maize crop.

WHEAT SCARCITY IN CYPRUS

(From A Correspondent.)

The Acting High Commissioner has empowered the Provost Marshals in all the six districts to nominate inspectors, who may examine the stocks of all persons holding cereals. If they find that any quantities are being unreasonably withheld from the markets, they may appropriate what amounts they deem proper, paying a fair price for the same.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.

Beyond a continued hardening tendency, there is no feature of interest to report in regard to the market. It is believed that rates in this country will shortly be raised in view of prices in producing centres. Action on these lines is certainly called for if this market is to obtain reasonable supplies.

Sultanas.

The position with regard to this commodity is fully dealt with in Messrs. Giraud's report, which appears in another column, from which it will be seen that the Ministry of Food has assured a quantity of about 10,000 tons. These shipments will be more than welcome in view of the almost barren state of the market.

Sugar.

Imports in September amounted to 1,297,000 cwt., consisting of 552,000 cwt. of refined and 745,000 cwt. of raw sugar. From January 1 to September 30 the imports amounted to 23,579,000 cwt., and at the moment, thanks to the cessation of demand from the Continent, stocks appear to be ample for present requirements.

Coffee.

At auction this week 1,767 packages were offered. The demand was good, and prices showed a tendency to advance. East Indian bold greenish for export made 143s., while medium made 137s. and peaberry 135s. for home consumption. Other prices include Costa Rica best, 152s. to 154s., peaberry 141s. to 147s., and Brazilian 125s. Futures have shown a firmer tendency. Quotations are:—December, 123s. 9d.; March, 117s. 6d.; May, 112s. 6d.; July, 108s. 6d.; September, 109s.

Oilseeds.

The market has been rather quiet. Fine Indian linseed has been done at 40s., while bold Ferozepore rapeseed has fetched the same figure. Cottonseed has been very dull, fine new Egyptian being on offer at 21s. The imports of linseed during September amounted to 509,683 quarters.

Oil Cakes, etc.

Linseed oil cake has been done at 25s. Soya bean cake has realised the same price, while transactions have been effected in cocoanut cake at 22s. and in cottonseed cake at 20s. Refined cotton oil has been steady at from 88s. to 98s., while crude has been done at 80s. Linseed oil has been firm at 90s., but turpentine has been a shade easier at 124s. 6d.

WORLD'S HARVEST ESTIMATES.

The Board of Agriculture has received from the International Agricultural Institute at Rome the following estimates of this year's crops in the countries named:—

Wheat, in Spain, Scotland, Italy, Canada, the United States, British India, Japan, and Tunis, 926,096,000 cwt., or 6 per cent. below last year's production and 1.4 per cent. below the average production of the five years 1913-17; rye, in Spain, Italy, Canada, and the United States, 61,793,000 cwt., or 8 per cent. below 1918, but 47.3 per cent. above the average for 1913-17; barley, in Spain, Scotland, Italy, Canada, the United States, Japan, and Tunis, 198,923,000 cwt., or 12.2 per cent. below 1918, and 6.7 per cent. greater than the average for 1913-17; oats, in Spain, Scotland, Italy, Canada, the United States, Japan, and Tunis, 498,734,000 cwt., or 18.5 per cent. below 1918 and 7.5 per cent. below the average for 1913-17.

Maize, in Spain, Italy, Canada, and the United States, is estimated at 1,508,036,000 cwt., or 11.8 per cent. above last year, and 4.4 per cent above the average for 1913-17; linseed, in Italy, Canada, the United States, British India, Japan, and Tunis, 13,965,000 cwt., or 34.3 per cent. less than last year, and 35.5 per cent. less than the average for 1913-17; the potato crop in Scotland, Canada, and the United States, 259,007,000 cwt., or 11.7 per cent. below last year, but 1.8 per cent. above the average for 1913-17; sugar beet, in Spain, Canada, and the United States, 153,205,000 cwt., or 25.6 per cent. above last year, and 20.8 per cent. above the average for 1913-17.

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Engineering Notes.

Railway Ticket Printing.

At a recent show a substantially made and simple little printing machine was attracting considerable attention. Driven by a 1 h.p. electric motor it printed railway and tramway tickets at the rate of 10,000 per hour. Another, almost similar to the above, printed 14,000 railway tickets on one side only in an hour, and another machine could count the tickets at the rate of 36,000 per hour. In view of the fact that the majority of railway and tram tickets used in the East were printed in France, Italy, Germany and Austria—at least up to a year or so before the war—it may be of interest to railway, tram, 'bus and other companies to know the existence of such machines; at the same time it is advisable that their makers should try to introduce them into the markets of that region where any modern means effecting economy is a matter of general interest.

Automobile for the Desert.

The successful application of a propeller working in the air as a means of propulsion for a road vehicle, a river boat, and a canal barge—of which mention was made at the time in these columns—has been followed by some interesting experiments with a kind of sledge mounted on six wheels, driven by a 50 h.p. motor, and similarly equipped with a propeller. This vehicle, which carried three persons, travelled easily over the rolling sand of North Africa at a speed of from 12 to 18 miles an hour, and, according to reports, was able to climb gradients of one to five. However, the war started soon after, and nothing more was heard—at least in public—of this new "mechanical ship of the desert"—for it is hoped that the camel will retain her old title—until quite recently, when it was reported that new experiments with a "bigger ship" were in progress again on the sands of North Africa. It is believed that this new means of transport will solve many of the difficulties of communication in the Sahara, and it is hoped that by fitting such vehicles with wings not only to facilitate their progress, but to enable them on occasion to leap over obstacles in their path. Such vehicles, if perfected, would no doubt prove of considerable value in certain parts of Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, Egypt, as well as in North Africa. The fact that these "semi-aeroplanes" will travel on *terra firma*, and not in the air, will undoubtedly make them very popular among the natives as well as the tourists for trips in the Desert.

Syrian Bitumen.

It is claimed that Syrian bitumen is without a rival in the world, being exceptionally pure and rich in its native state. It is not used for street paving, covering ship's bottoms, or for timbers used in dams, but in the manufacture of black varnish for furniture, leather, etc., it is unsurpassable in efficiency and effect. Dead Sea bitumen is considered to be superior even to the Hasbeya product, and bitumen of prime quality is found also near Latakia in Northern Syria. Asia Minor's mineral wealth, as has often been mentioned in these columns, is great, but undeveloped. The Hasbeya pits are now lying idle, and have been practically abandoned for some years, the product sold before the war being old stock.

Acetylene Lighting.

Lighting by acetylene is becoming quite popular in the East. Besides the ordinary stationary plants there are those used for lighting factories, large warehouses, private houses, etc. There are also in use small hand lamps of a very simple construction, which even peasants can charge with carbide and light as easily as they would fill and light an ordinary paraffin lamp. But for its simplicity, powerful illuminative properties, and moderate cost acetylene appeals particularly to authorities in rural districts for lighting small towns or villages, and to estate owners and farmers for either indoor or outdoor use. There is, however, a wider scope for the acetylene light for outdoor use, and a suitable portable plant that can be employed by contractors, railways, harbour authorities, shipping companies, etc., would be welcomed. For such outdoor purposes, as well as for mines, quarries, farm work, etc., a plant of British design and of simple construction may be mentioned as a type suitable for the East. The plant consists of three main parts, an outer tank holding water, an inner receptacle holding the carbide, and a burner stand pipe. The lights are small and compact in size, being less than one-half the weight of oil lights of equal power. The apparatus is more quickly charged and put into operation than any other portable light made, only water and carbide being necessary, while the action is entirely automatic. With this lighting system there is no possibility of an explosion. The flame is not affected by currents of air, and requires little oxygen for its consumption, a most important feature in its favour when used in tunnels, mines, or other underground work. One or two powerful reflected lights can be supplied from one generator, or a series of smaller burners. This system is cheaper to operate than oil or arc lights, and is extremely simple to handle.

Machinery for Beet Cultivation.

The present hopeless condition of the German and Austrian sugar industry has apparently roused the energies of beetroot cultivators in the Near East, and a determination is manifested on their part to avail themselves of the opportunity to improve their position. It is for this reason, probably, that there have been several inquiries recently from Governments and landowners in the Near East interested in the progress of sugar beet cultivation for modern implements specially adapted for that purpose. In Roumania, South Russia, Asia Minor and other neighbouring districts the average sugar beet grower is making use of the ordinary implements that he uses for the cultivation of other crops, but for such operations as digging beetroot, lifting it, cleaning, etc., he uses methods that are not only inefficient, but also cause considerable damage to the roots. To assist such growers official inquiries are being made for modern implements as used in other beetroot cultivation countries. Most of the implements or machinery used by some of the large sugar beet growers in the Near East are of French, Belgian, or German construction; but there are similar improved and new designs of British construction, which we believe would be more acceptable if they were properly introduced. Some time ago we had the opportunity to describe a new beetroot digging, stripping and cleaning machine, and we now describe another—a new lifter and cleaner, which will interest sugar beet growers in the Near East at the present time.

The Beet Lifter and Cleaner.

This machine is specially constructed to lift and clean beetroots with ease and with the minimum of abrasion and loss. It is on the double disc principle, and is said to give the best results when operating upon rows of beet from which the leaves have been previously stripped. Two women in ten hours, with specially shaped spades, easily remove the leaves from over two acres. When three rows of beet have been cleared in this fashion the machine can be started to work. Two horses (perhaps three of the small size used in the East) are sufficient for its operation, whilst one man without previous experience can guide them and attend to the machine at the same time. The discs penetrate the ground at converging angles, and, it is said, that, however long the root may be, it is completely lifted. Nothing is left behind in the soil and it is claimed that the weight of produce per acre when lifted by this machine is nearly one ton more than when dug by hand. Moreover, none of the roots are bruised or cut. There is a rotary drum at the rear of the machine which, it is claimed, cleans the beets better than chain harrowing and has the further advantage of saving the labour necessary for that implement's employment.

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THE LATE MR. T. A. BURLUMI.

We are indebted to a correspondent for the following appreciation:—

By the death of Theodore A. Burlumi, which took place suddenly on October 19, the Greek world loses a great patriot and England one of its staunchest friends. Born at Patras some 68 years ago, Theodore A. Burlumi came to London as a young man, and gradually built up the great firm of currant merchants which bears his name. From his youth, like most young Greeks of his day, he had learnt to look upon England and France as the saviours of his country's independence, and his love and admiration for England and everything English grew still stronger as the years passed by, so much so that although most of his family ties bound him to Greece, he came to look upon London as his real home. A young man of great ability and intelligence, he soon began to make his mark, and it was not long before he became recognised as the greatest authority on all matters connected with the Greek currant trade. During the war he was chosen as the head of the mission which was sent to Greece to purchase currants on behalf of the British Government. Apart from his business capabilities, Mr. Burlumi became a constant contributor to the Press in this and other countries, and wherever Greek national interests were concerned he was always solicitous to get at the truth and to put Greek feelings and sentiments in their correct perspective before the people of this country. During the recent war he was, of course, a staunch supporter of M. Venizelos, and many a time, both upon the platform and in the Press, he propounded the true feelings of the Greek people. As a journalist, fearless and outspoken, Mr. Burlumi stood very high, and he was in his time president of the Foreign Press Association in London. He has died, as he wished, in harness, and with the great objects of his life either achieved or almost so, viz., the dawn of a greater Hellas and the ties between his country and England and France drawn tighter than ever together.

The report on the working of the Indian Companies' Act in Burma for the year 1918-19 shows that fifteen new joint stock companies, limited by shares, were registered during the year, with a total authorised capital of Rs.1,45,40,000.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

ENGLISHMAN (30), demobilized officer now in the East, big organising and local experience, speaks French, Arabic, own motor car, desires to represent British firms in EGYPT, PALESTINE, SYRIA, &c. Address, Represent, care of Editor, NEAR EAST.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

New British-India Steamer.

The trial trip took place, on the 17th inst., of the s.s. "Gairsopoa," a B type standard cargo steamer, built by Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron Co., Ltd., Hebburn Yard, on account of the Shipping Controller, and taken over by the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. The principal dimensions of the vessel are: Length between perpendiculars, 300 ft.; breadth, moulded, 52 ft.; depth, moulded to upper deck, 31 ft. She carries a d.w. of about 8,200 tons on a draft of 25 ft. 3 in. The vessel is fitted with triple expansion engines supplied by Palmer's Company. The trial trip was in every way satisfactory.

Port Improvements at Busreh.

Amongst the passengers by the C.P.O.S. steamer "Metagama," which left the Mersey for Quebec and Montreal on the 15th inst., was Colonel W. R. Cockrill, C.I.E., R.E., who is proceeding to Vancouver. After being stationed at Dunkirk for nine months, Colonel Cockrill proceeded to Mesopotamia as Port Director. He told a Liverpool Press representative that when he arrived at Busreh, in the autumn of 1917, the port consisted only of a wharf known as the little German wharf, which was only capable of carrying two cranes; whereas, when he left on June 1 this year, the facilities of Busreh as a shipping port had been so developed that they were able to handle 2,200 tons of d.w. cargo a day. Under the Director-General of Movements and Railways at Busreh, they had an engineer's department for construction, a marine department which looked after the navigation and harbour appliances generally, and a set traffic department which loaded and discharged the ships, and forwarded the supplies to the base. When they first took over control they only had eighty miles under the port directorate. They built 600 ft. of wharves, surveyed and buoyed the river with lights, and the wharves were equipped with electric cranes, and the very latest and up-to-date mechanical equipment. They had 15 gantry cranes on the docks, three Donald elevator conveyors, four locomotive cranes, and a 30-ton floating crane. In the early days the ships used to tie up against the small German wharf on the mud, but at the present time Busreh might be very favourably compared with Liverpool in the handling of freight

The Greek Premier at Lloyd's.

M. Venizelos, the Greek Premier, visited Lloyd's on October 17. He was accompanied by M. Caclamanos, the Greek Minister, and Sir John Stavridi, Consul-General for Greece, and was received in the Committee Room by the chairman and committee of Lloyd's. Mr. Charles de Rougemont, the chairman, conducted his Excellency to the Underwriting Room, where he received a most cordial welcome from the members.

In returning thanks to a speech of welcome by the chairman, M. Venizelos said that he supposed that very few people who knew the name of Lloyd's were acquainted with the magnitude of the work transacted there. Founded when the foundations of the British Empire were being laid, Lloyd's had developed to such an extent that it was the pioneer institution, and was supreme in its sphere of activity throughout the world. Among the names of the Empire-makers in British history that of Lloyd's was pre-eminent. As with all British institutions, it bore the stamp of trust and confidence, which centuries had contributed to. He was very glad to have had the opportunity of visiting them as the representatives of an institution whose wonderful resources were so closely connected with the mercantile marine, and which commanded their gratitude and admiration.

After leaving Lloyd's, M. Venizelos was escorted to Lloyd's Register of Shipping in Fenchurch Street by the chairman of Lloyd's and the secretary of Lloyd's (Rear-Admiral Sir Edward Inglefield), where he was received by Sir John Luscombe and entertained at luncheon.

INDIA'S OIL RESOURCES.

Theory of Continuous Belt from Burma to Roumania.

A theory is being discussed in British India that oilbeds exist continuously along a belt stretching from Burma in the east to Roumania in the west. Should the fact be eventually established a discovery of the very highest importance will have been made, for the belt, according to *Indian Engineering*, will lie wholly on the Indian side of the Himalayas.

At present, however, only uncertain indications have been found, the latest of which have been discovered by Mr. Middlemiss, who is at present Superintendent, Mineral Surveys of Kashmir. He has not so far actually found oil in Jammu Province, but has located geological conditions pointing to the existence of a natural reservoir of a type giving good promise of a store of oil, being in all respects similar to oil-yielding structures in the neighbouring Rawal Pindi plateau. In the latter region oil had long been known to be present, but efforts to obtain it in quantity were unsuccessful till the Khaur oilfield near Pindigheb was at last located.

Discussing the general question of the occurrence of oil-beds along the sub-Himalayas, Mr. Middlemiss says: "The whole of the belt of stratified rocks in Jammu embraces a section of the sub-Himalayan rocks of tertiary age from Eocene upwards, which are identical in composition, age, and lithological characters with those of the petroliferous series in the neighbouring Rawal Pindi district. They are also identical in age with, but differ in some particulars lithologically from, the petroliferous series in Assam and in Burma, and also in the newly-discovered fields in Persia. In fact, they form with these known petroleum-bearing areas what is really one continuous but intricately winding belt of deposits belonging to one comprehensive geological epoch, that stretches from Persia on the one hand to the extreme south of Burma on the other. It is also equally true that in general characteristics and in age these rocks exposed in Jammu agree with those of a great proportion of the more distant successful oilfields of the world, notably with those of California, Peru, Russia, Roumania, Galicia, and Sumatra." It is a wide field for the research of geologists, not of prospectors, for, as Mr. Middlemiss states: "The success in average 'wildcatting' without geologic guidance is 1 test in 150. Geologic work has reduced this to 1 in 3."

NEW ROUMANIAN OILFIELD LEGISLATION.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest states that a new Decree-Law of September 12 provides that all those properties in Roumania upon which no work has as yet been done shall be subjected in their future working to laws which are to be passed later. This is considered in many quarters as a sort of preparatory measure to enable the Roumanian Government to become an interested party in their exploitation. This point, however, should not be considered as serious, because only those properties upon which no exploitation work has as yet been done are brought into view, and these—or the majority—have been held presumably for speculative reasons. Article 1 acts on the other hand rather in favour of companies having established rights over properties, as their present rights remain valid and cannot be attacked or limited during the period of application of the new law, although it prevents further exploitation on other lands, or transmission of existing rights, and is thus an infringement of the "right" of free sale or mortgage of holdings. An article in the *Moniteur du Pétrole Roumain* of September 15, attacks the new law on the point mentioned above, *i.e.*, that it is an impediment to the free development of the industry; but on the whole it may be taken that exploitation of existing workings is not yet by any means fully developed, and the existing lack of transport facilities is a much more serious obstacle to developments further afield than is shown in the article in question. Stagnation is more likely to result from this last cause than from any other at the moment, although steps are being taken to ameliorate conditions.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Advance in Prices.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Extraordinary conditions have prevailed in the market during the past week. There has been an important advance in prices, specially in fine goods, and a large business has been done. Rather striking developments have occurred in connection with Egyptian cotton, prices being distinctly dearer. It is reported that spinners in the United States have bought on a big scale in Alexandria, and English spinners have also been in the market to an important extent. This rush of business has been largely due to the scarcity of the higher grades in American cotton. Egyptian yarns are from 5d. to 6d. a lb. dearer than a week ago. A feature of interest has been the large contracts placed by Messrs. Coats, of Paisley, for thread manufacturing, and it is said the prices paid are the highest ever known. Lancashire cloth manufacturers have also been active buyers. Reports relating to the Egyptian growth remain favourable. Bullish advices have again been received with regard to the American crop. Owing to the rise in Egyptian yarns all kinds of fine cloths have been put up in price. A considerable demand has been experienced in piece goods for Egypt and Near Eastern outlets. An increased turnover has transpired in standard makes and miscellaneous cloths for India. Free buying has again been reported for China. Manufacturers are more deeply sold than ever, and there is a good deal of indifference as to selling production further ahead. American yarns have advanced in price, and a healthy trade has been put through. In export yarns 2/42's have moved off freely for China.

NEW COMPANIES.

Palestine Building Company.

The Haboneh (Society for Promoting Building Operations in Palestine), Ltd., has just been registered with a nominal capital of £200,000 in 200 shares of £1,000 each. The objects of the company are, to promote, develop, work, and carry on building industries and undertakings in Palestine in any manner which may seem to the directors to be to the interest of the Jewish race in any country or place, to promote such emigration of workmen and experts from any country into Palestine as may be required for the purposes of the company, and to acquire from any State or authority any concessions, grants, powers, and privileges in Palestine; to buy, sell, improve, manage and deal in land, buildings, hardware, furniture, and household equipment, etc. The first directors are:—Michael Ussisckin, 115, West End Lane, N.W.; Isak Naiditch, 77, Great Russell Street, W.C.; Hilel Zlatopolsky, 77, Great Russell Street, W.C.; Isaac Goldberg, 10, Aylestone Avenue, N.W.2; Samuel Tolkowsky, 20, High Holborn, W.C.; Boris Goldberg, 50, Hanover Gate Mansions, N.W.; Morduch Schalit, 75, Broadhurst Gardens, N.W. The business is to be managed in Palestine, except as the directors may decide to manage any part elsewhere. The registered office is situated at 8, Drapers' Gardens, E.C.

Bucharest Development Syndicate Ltd.

A private company with the above title was registered on October 6 with a capital of 9,900 ordinary shares of £1 each and 2,000 management shares of 1s. each. Objects: to acquire, turn to account lands, concessions, mines, oil and other properties, etc., and to enter into an agreement with E. J. Hart. Subscribers: E. J. Hart, 35, King Street, E.C., C.A. (2,000 management shares), F. W. Kenney, 80-82, Copthall Avenue, E.C., merchant (one ordinary shares). First directors, E. J. Hart and F. W. Kenney. Registered office, 80-82, Copthall House, E.C.

Vickers-Orient, Ltd.

Vickers-Orient, Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares to carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in steel, iron, brass, and metals of all kinds, shipbuilders and shipwrights, electricians, etc. The registered office is at Vickers House, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

The Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company, Limited.

A Record Year.

The sixty-sixth general meeting of H.H. the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company (Limited) was held on October 21 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, Mr. C. A. Winter (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. F. Adams) having read the notice and the report of the auditors,

The chairman said: With regard to the broad-gauge system, the gross earnings amounted to over Rs.83 lakhs, being nearly Rs.6 lakhs more than the gross earnings of any previous year, the increase being under both coaching and goods earnings. The gross expenses were Rs.10 lakhs over those of any previous year, owing to the cost of works provided for under deferred maintenance having to be re-estimated. During the year a sum of Rs.22 lakhs was set aside for deferred maintenance expenditure. The completion of the permanent-way renewals as far as the British frontier, the renewal of all bridges under standard strength, and the replacement of 15 "L" class engines by 10 standard goods have been provided for. As a result of these heavy debits the net earnings for the year amount to under Rs.32½ lakhs, compared with Rs.40½ lakhs in 1916-17 and Rs.36½ lakhs in 1917-18, the two highest figures. As you will see, we have adopted —I do not know if it is unique—a system for providing for what we have to buy after the war, instead of having our future earnings handicapped. I think we are the only railway in India in that position. Our coaching traffic amounted to Rs.21,64,364, constituting an increase over last year of Rs.2,03,448. Our goods earnings showed an increase of Rs.1,69,823. The working expenses of the year absorbed 61 per cent. of the gross earnings, this high percentage being due to heavy debits to deferred maintenance, as already mentioned.

With regard to the metre gauge, the gross earnings were Rs.12½ lakhs over those of last year, the increase being in both coaching and goods traffic, but principally the latter. The gross expenses were nearly Rs.25 lakhs, compared with the average of Rs.23½ lakhs for the last five years. Owing to the Hyderabad-Godavery Valley Line being comparatively new, it has not been found necessary to provide for very heavy expenditure under deferred maintenance, but after allowing for all works which are necessary, and also re-estimating the cost of works already provided under deferred maintenance, a sum of Rs.3½ lakhs was debited to working expenses during the year on this account. You will see the immense difference between that debit and the debit on the broad gauge. The net earnings for the year amounted to Rs.27½ lakhs, the highest figure during any previous year being Rs.21½ lakhs, in 1915-16. The coaching earnings showed an increase of Rs.3,37,274 over last year, and our goods earnings an increase of Rs.7,95,507. The outstanding features of the year are the occurrence of famine in the Hyderabad State and in other parts of India, and the prevalence of malaria and influenza. The famine conditions caused a heavy increase of grain traffic, and also involved abnormal conditions of traffic working. The scarcity of food made it necessary for the company to purchase rice on a large scale for sale to the employees. There is every reason to suppose that the prevalence of malaria and plague and other epidemics is likely to continue for some years.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to us that we are in a position to recommend a bonus of 1 per cent. We have deferred paying a bonus until our finances were in such a position that a bonus once declared could be regarded as a permanency. Nothing is more unsatisfactory than to have an occasional bonus, whereas one that can be looked upon as a regular addition to the dividend has the effect of improving your stock value. The bonus this year comes out of income—I mean the interest on your investments—with the exception of a little over £2,000 and next year it can be paid entirely out of income. Colonel Sargeaunt, who has been on the board for over 20 years, has resigned owing to ill-health. We have been most fortunate in securing a successor to him in the person of Sir Robert S. Highet, deputy-chairman of the East Indian Railway. You will be glad to hear that Colonel Huddieston, who went over our line the year before last, hopes to start for India some time in November, and will make an inspection of our line and deal with any matters that require attention. I now propose: "That the directors' report and the audited accounts made up to March 31, 1919, submitted to this meeting, be received and adopted."

The deputy-chairman (Lieutenant-Colonel George Huddleston, C.I.E., V.D.) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The dividend and bonus recommended were declared, and the retiring directors (Mr. C. A. Winter and Lieutenant-Colonel W. Carew Smyth) and the auditors (Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co.) were re-elected.

A cordial vote of thanks to the agent and the staff of the company in India, proposed by the chairman and seconded by Lieutenant-Colonel Huddleston, was passed unanimously and the proceedings terminated.

Gharbieh Land Company.

The following are extracts from the report of the directors which was submitted to the shareholders at the ordinary general meeting held in Cairo on July 31:—

The year's transactions have reduced to 7,589 feddans, 4 kirats, 4½ sahms the area of the company's estates, as at February 28, 1919, the cost price of which was £E431,544.234. Since the closing of the accounts we have acquired 233 feddans from the Government, on which we have an option of purchase at a price of £E22½ per feddan. These lands form part of the Sawalem domain, to which they have served as one of the principal boundaries on the application of the scheme of canalisation introduced for the development of the domain. The greater part of the 233 feddans has already been improved, and the price indicated of £E22½ the feddan is very much below their actual value.

Irrigation and Drainage.

The introduction of new methods of irrigation, which we referred to in our last report, have continued to give the best results. You will note, in fact, that, despite the rise in the price of fuel and the increase in the cost of transport, the expenses of irrigation have undergone a decrease of more than 13 per cent. on the total of the previous year, and of nearly 40 per cent. on that of 1916-17. This saving will be increased as the cost of fuel and the expenses of transport decrease. In the expenses of development incurred in 1918-19 are included, for the amount of £E857.143, the works of canalisation (digging, widening and deepening, intakes, bridges, etc.) carried out or completed in the course of the year. These works include the secondary and tertiary ditches of a total length of about 17,600 metres. The increase in the cost of drainage arises principally from the fact that we have again applied in 1918-19 artificial drainage to certain lands previously cultivated with rice, and which, for reasons of economy, had been drained by gravitation alone for two consecutive years.

Building.

In view of the circumstances and of the dearness of building materials, we have had to restrict our activities for the last few years to maintaining our villages in a good state of repair, adding, from time to time, some new dwellings to meet the more pressing needs of the situation. But the development of our estates, since the works of improvement have begun to produce their effects, compels us to occupy ourselves without delay in the creation of new villages to increase the density of the population. We ought from this year to allocate a certain amount for the realisation of this project, for already several of our cultivators are compelled to live some distance from the estates, and it will be difficult to attract others while we are unable to offer them living facilities in proximity to their lands. We constructed in 1918 two warehouses, one stable, four houses for employees, and eight new dwellings for peasants, using for this purpose the wood of an old building which we have had to pull down. Thanks to this, the cost of these works was no more than £E450.

Cultivation.

The net profit on cultivation was £E24,457, against £E23,019 for the previous year. Receipts and expenses were respectively £E37,351 and £E12,894.

The cotton crop of the estates amounted to 6.270 kantars, of which 4.090 have been sold by the company for its own account and for that of the cultivators. As the cotton of 1918 was requisitioned, we have had to deliver to the Cotton Control Commission a quantity of about 3,800 kantars. The prices obtained have been on the whole below those of 1917, but the difference has been partly compensated by the yield, which has been comparatively high.

The company did not cultivate for its own account more than 100 feddans of cotton in 1918. It will not cultivate more than 50 this year, all the other lands reserved for this cultivation being leased.

Sales of Land.

A slight improvement in land transactions began to take place last year in the district where the estates of the company are situated. Offers to purchase have increased to a certain extent, and we have been able to sell in 1918 100 feddans more than the previous year.

The yield and the sale of cotton of tenants, etc., that have taken place after the closing of the accounts have been placed in our books at an estimated value, based on the prices of the deliveries made to the Cotton Control Commission before February 28.

Profit and Loss.

The net profits of the year, after allowing for expenses, interest charges, depreciation, and provision for sales for the account, amount to £E14,204.964, against £E11,424.852 in 1917-18. The previous reduction of £E1,500 for doubtful debts reduces the profits to £E12,704.964, as follows:—Revenue: Profits on cultivation, £E24.457.031; profits on sales of land, £E6,531.264; interest collected or acquired, £E6,003.768; total, £E36,992.063. Expenditure: Charges on 5 per cent. bonds, £E13,136.692; general expenses (deduction made of 1-5th for debit of development account), £E4,072.111; interest paid or due, £E3,857.494; provision for sales for the account, £E1,650; provision for doubtful debts, £E1,500; various payments, £E70.802; total, £E24,287.099. Balance of net profit, £E12,704.964. Deducting from that balance the remuneration of the board of directors, £E1,000, there remains £E11,704.964. Deducting that sum from the debit balance brought forward from the previous year, £E106,259.524, there remains a debit balance of £E94,554.560, which we propose to carry forward to the succeeding account.

The retiring directors are MM. Wacyf Bey Boutros Ghali, L. du Monceau, and H. E. Garle, who are eligible for re-election in accordance with the company's statutes.

We ask you to re-elect for the year 1919-20 Messrs. F. H. Russell and J. C. Sidley, of Russell, Harris and Co., chartered accountants.

Resolutions of the Meeting.

The meeting approved the balance sheet and the accounts for the twelfth year ended February 28, 1919, and gave discharge to the board of directors for its administration. It was decided to carry forward to the following year the debit balance of the profit and loss account of £E94,554.560. MM. Wacyf Bey Boutros Ghali, L. du Monceau, and H. E. Garle were re-elected as directors. Messrs. F. H. Russell and J. C. Sidley, of Russell, Harris and Co., chartered accountants, were re-appointed commissioners for the year 1919-20. The remuneration of the commissioners for 1919-20 was fixed at £E100.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna—Aidin Railway for the week ended September 27 amounted to £8,518.

Alexandria tramwaymen having been granted a 40 per cent. increase in wages and an eight-hour day, the strike has come to an end.

The directors of Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates announce a dividend of 4 per cent. (8s. per share), less income tax, on ordinary shares for half-year (interim), payable October 30.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Imports.

STAMBOUL, October 4.

A marked improvement has succeeded the stagnation of the previous week. Sales of some importance have taken place for Russia; one notes also some goods forwarded to destinations on the Turkish littoral of the Black Sea. Prices are sustained as much in Europe as in our market. Stocks are not increasing, the arrivals being absorbed by sales.

Produce.

Sugar.—A rapid upward movement is in evidence in the price of stocks following the brisk demand from Russia, and especially from Roumania. Stocks here, represented principally by merchandise in transit, are estimated at about 2,500 wagons. Quotations : £60 to £61 the ton for spot, and £59 afloat. In our market £T32 to £T33 100 kilos.

Coffee, Rice, Oil.—There has been no appreciable change.

Exports.

The falling tendency of the exchange, and the lack of sale of Anatolian products in the markets of consumption has resulted in a considerable diminution of business.

Sales of the Week.—Opium, increased to 16 cases Druggist Old Karahissar, sold, at Ps.770 to 800 the oke; 2 cases Druggist New Karahissar, sold, at Ps.720 the oke. There have been no arrivals, owing to the irregularity in communications. Prices are maintained.

As regards mohair and wool, no change is to be recorded. Arrivals insignificant.

Silk.—A little more in demand; 20 bales of Broussa have been sold at £T13.10 the kilo.

Cereals.—Wheat : Arrivals of the week have risen to 100 wagons. Quotations : Ps.8½ to 11½ the oke, according to quality.

Barley : Arrivals, 30 wagons; price, Ps.7 to 7½ the oke.

KUTAHIA, August.

The new crop of cereals, which is regarded as very good, is beginning to appear in our market.

The market for cereals, one of the chief articles of export of our region, has been especially quiet during the month under review. Exporters have suffered considerable losses, owing to the unexpected falls in the markets of Constantinople and Smyrna.

Cereals : About 40 wagons. Prices.—Wheat : Ps.230 to 240 the kilo. Barley : Ps.85 to 90 the kilo.

Mohair.—No important operations to record. Some holders have hurried their stocks to Constantinople to realise them at the first opportunity. The price, which was high last month, up to Ps.96 the oke, has fallen to Ps.80 without purchasers.

Wool, Opium.—Apart from some small purchases there is no important transaction to record.

Eggs.—Export of the month, 2 wagons.

Manufactures about £T15,000. Colonial produce about £T7,000.

It is understood that the P. and O. "Kalvan," of nearly 9,000 tons gross, which is to be employed as a "relief ship" in the Indian service, is expected to sail from the Thames about November 20.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

RED WHITE & BLUE

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office : 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager : E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary : C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary : R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS : 7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER : 25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES : 41-45, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

The Abyssinian Corporation.

In a letter to the shareholders of the Abyssinian Corporation, the secretary says:—The board of directors, in making the first call of 5s. per share, have pleasure in informing the shareholders that the corporation has taken over the entire business of Messrs. J. D. Nicholas and Company in Abyssinia on advantageous terms. Mr. Nicholas is British, and his firm does an extensive business in hides, wax, coffee and cotton goods. It is established not only at the capital, Adis Abeba, but also in Western Abyssinia, at Goré, Bouré, Gambela, Sayou and Gidami. This transaction, it is anticipated, will prove very profitable to the corporation. By the acquisition of this business, together with that of Messrs. Gerolimato and Armanza, which, as was recently announced, has already been taken over, the corporation gains a pre-eminent position in the trade of Western Abyssinia. Trading prospects are reported to be very favourable, and further funds are required for their immediate development.

Algerian Oilfields.

The following is an extract from a report just received from the lessees of the leased areas, Mesilla and Medjilla, of the Algerian Oilfields, Limited:—"The drilling at No. 12 has entered the Cretaceous formation, reputed sterile; it is of no use sinking further. The nature of the formation has been recognised on the spot by M. Mena and M. Dalloni (geologist at the Faculty of Science, Algiers) and at Paris, by a professor of paleontology at the Sorbonne, after examination of samples received. According to this same professor the well on 2149 appears to have entered the Trias formation forming a breach between the Tertiary formations, which is an unfavourable sign. The ground is very disturbed in this district. Examination of the narrow sections reveals the deviation of the axis of crystallisation." The engineers of the Tliouanet Company are now busy locating the position for a new well. The output from the producing wells remains steady at about 80 tons per month.

Burma Corporation.

The report of the Burma Corporation, Ltd., to December 31, states that the profit and loss account shows that the amount receivable from Burma Mines, Ltd., being the proportion of their profits due to the corporation for the year 1918, was £181,480, against £144,108 for the previous year. The greater part of this amount has been advanced to Burma Mines, Ltd., to meet capital expenditure, increasing the total advances made by the corporation at December 31, 1918, to £585,004. The issued capital remains unchanged. The corporation holding of 721,813 shares of Burma Mines, Ltd., out of a total issue of 724,577 shares remain unchanged. The accounts of the Burma Mines, Ltd., show that the amount realised from sales of lead and silver was £918,696 during 1918, against £739,577 for the previous year, and the total receipts to £1,008,244, against £796,227. The operating expenditure in Burma amounted to £591,277 in 1918, against £479,694 in 1917, which, notwithstanding the greatly increased cost of supplies, and the innumerable difficulties in working caused by the war conditions still prevailing, as well as by an epidemic of cholera and influenza, shows a satisfactory decrease in the ratio of expenditure to the total receipts, the figures being for 1918 59 per cent., against 60.24 per cent. for 1917. Developments at the Bawdwin mine have continued satisfactory. The ore reserves at the end of 1918 were 4,404,000 tons, assaying 24.1 oz. silver, 26.2 per cent. lead, and 18.4 per cent. zinc. The work during 1918 on the Shan lode has developed a fair-sized copper ore body, high in silver, and the above-mentioned reserves include 283,000 tons of copper ore, assaying 21.6 oz. silver, 14.2 per cent. lead, 8.7 per cent. zinc, and 10.2 per cent. copper. The tonnage of ore developed during the year amounted to 324,869 tons, a considerable tonnage when taking into consideration the large footage of driving and cross-cutting necessary to connect the Chinaman and Shan ore-bodies, and to block out the ore. These two ore-bodies are now connected by good haulage-ways on the 653 ft. level, 430 ft. level, and 300 ft. level. The northern extension of the Shan lode as far as developed has turned into copper ore, high in silver, and from the indications below, and on the surface it is believed that any ore-bodies to the north will also be of this nature. The country to the north is very favourable. The "Gold Hole," which contains a copper ore-body, is still 1,400 ft. north and 800 ft. east of the most northerly working. During 1918 the smelter and refinery produced 18,641 tons refined lead and 1,970,614 oz. refined silver. In the first half of the year the estimated production of lead was nearly attained, and the production of silver was exceeded, but unfortunately operations were entirely upset by cholera and influenza epidemics which started in August, and the effects of which in the operations of the smelter lasted to the latter part of November. The Board have recently had the benefit of discussing the question of increasing the smelter output with Mr. Hall, the resident manager, who came to England for the purpose. After careful consideration and discussion with Mr. Addicks, the consulting engineer, it has been decided that an entirely new and modern lead smelting plant and reduction works of a capacity to produce 60,000 tons of lead and 5,000,000 oz. of refined silver per annum should be erected at Namtu. Plans of the new smelter and refinery are now in progress, and the preliminary steps in connection with the erection of the plant have already been taken. The engineers of the Burma Railways Co., Ltd., have completed the survey for the proposed extension of the metre gauge line to Namtu. Owing to the careful consideration and investigation necessary on account of the introduction of a new industry to Indian labour and conditions, progress with the Indian zinc smelting works has not been rapid. Plans for a plant to deal with 10,000 tons of spelter and 30,000 tons of sulphuric acid per annum have now been got out. The preliminary steps have been taken for the erection of works at Jamshedpur, adjacent to the works of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Ltd., who are the sub-lessors of the site, and tenders are now being invited for the supply of the necessary plant and machinery. Since the last annual meeting Messrs. R. Gilman Brown and H. C. Hoover have resigned their seats, and Messrs. Herbert Guedalla, Percy Wheeler, and John A. Agnew have been elected members of the Board. Steps are being taken for the formation of a new company in India to take over the Bawdwin mine from Burma Mines, Ltd. The new company will be incorporated under the Indian Companies Acts, and will have a capital of 18,000,000 shares of rupees 10 each, of which 13,531,182 will be issued fully paid to Burma Mines, Ltd., as the purchase price, the remainder being held in reserve. These arrangements when carried through will entitle the shareholders in Burma Corporation, Ltd., to receive 14 shares in the Indian company for each share in the corporation. Meeting, River Plate House, E.C., October 29.

Burma Mines

The report of the Burma Mines, Ltd., for the year ended December 31, states that the question of the company's liability, if any, for excess profits duty is under discussion with the Inland Revenue authorities. Meanwhile no provision for the same has been made in the accounts. Mr. R. Gilman Brown has resigned his seat on the Board. The directors are making arrangements for the formation of a new company in India under the Indian Companies Acts. The new company's capital will be 18,000,000 shares of rupees 10 each, of which 13,531,182 will form the purchase consideration payable to Burma Mines, Ltd., and the balance will be held in reserve. Shareholders will receive 14 shares in the Indian company fully paid for each share in Burma Mines, Ltd.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The annual general meeting of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., will be held at 41, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., on October 30, at 4 p.m.

The directors of the Calcutta Tramways Company announce a dividend of 3½ per cent. (3s. 6d. per share), free of income tax, on ordinary shares (interim), payable November 5.

The directors of the Pabbojan Tea Company have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 6½ per cent., less income-tax at 6s. in the £, on account of the year 1919, payable to holders registered October 21, on and after November 7.

The directors of the South Indian Railway recommend a final dividend for the year 1919 of 3 per cent., less income tax, payable on January 1 next, making with the guaranteed interest of 1¾ per cent. payable on the same date, 4¾ per cent. for the half-year ending December 31 next, and together with the payment made on July 1 last a total of 7¾ per cent. for the year, as against 6¾ per cent.

The directors of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., recommend a dividend of 10s. per share, free of income-tax, making with the interim dividend 15 per cent. for the year and a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share; that £23,000 be written off premises account, £10,000 be placed to reserve fund, and £40,000 be carried forward. The annual meeting will be held on November 25.

The directors of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway announce a distribution on January 1 next of 1½ per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, which will make, with the interim dividend paid in July, a total of 6 per cent. In addition to this, arising out of the favourable rate of the Indian exchange, the Board recommend the payment of a bonus of £2 per cent. All the above is subject to English income-tax.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

Business has been fairly active this week, with the continuation of some irregularity in prices.

In Government stocks the tone has been a firm one all the week with a good many buyers about, but very few sellers, and so the business done has only been on a small scale, and prices are unaltered.

In Bank shares, whilst on the one hand Agriculturals have been a dull market, and are closing 1-16 lower at 5 13-16, and the Prefs. are also ⅛ lower at 7⅛, there has been a sustained demand for National Bank shares, which are closing ¼ up at 19⅞. Anglo-Egyptian Banks are ⅛ lower at 18¼.

In Railways, Delta Lights have been strong, with a good many buyers about, and they close ⅜ up to 6⅞.

Amongst Land shares, Aboukirs are 6d. lower at 29s. on some profit-taking. The news from the property continues to be most excellent, both as regards prices being obtained for the cotton crops, and the sales of land and encashments. Béhéra shares have been inquired for from Egypt, and there has been a certain amount of business done, with the result that the shares close ½ up at 14¼. Consolidated Lands remain a dull spot, but the most recent advices were all of an encouraging nature. For Delta Lands there are several buyers about at the present level. New Egyptians have advanced 6d. to 23s.; and Union Foncières have been in demand, closing ⅛ up at 3⅜. On the other hand, Sudan Plantations are ⅛ lower at 7 15-16.

In Miscellaneous descriptions, the feature has been a decline in Salts and Sodas, which are closing 3-16 down at about 3.

Oil shares are again rather lower. Anglo-Egyptian B. close a dull market at 5⅛. Roumanians have dropped 9d. to 24s., and Traians are 1s. lower at 12s.

In Greek securities the 1890 loan has dropped ½ to 65½. The Fundings and the 1902 loans are both 1 point down at 64 and 65 respectively, and the 1914 loan has dropped ⅜ to 72⅜. Currant bonds remain in demand at 94. Bank of Athens shares have come to business to-day in a small way round the current price at 70s. There has been some business in Piræus-Athens Railway 4½ per cent. bonds round 66xd., and there are some small sellers about of the 3 per cent. bonds round 50.

A branch of the French bank, Credit Foncier d'Algerie et Tunisie, is to be established in Malta.

The area sown with indigo in the Madras Presidency was estimated in September at 65,300 acres, against 114,700 acres last year.

The clerks at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank at Alexandria went out on strike on October 16 in consequence of the refusal of the directors to meet their demands, says a Reuter message from Cairo.

The traffic returns of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., for the ten days ended September 30 were £E11,948, making the total for the year £E128,722. The figures for the corresponding periods of 1918 were £E11,080 and £E149,524.

A first instalment of £10,000 for the purpose of purchasing seeds and fruit trees for the relieving of devastated districts in France has been allocated by the Royal Horticultural Society's War Relief Fund This society has already materially assisted Roumania and Belgium.

The returns of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended October 9 were:—Cattle markets, £508; general markets, £553; total, £1,061; total for year, £43,549. The figures for the corresponding week of 1918 ended October 10 were:—Cattle markets, £505; general markets, £507; total, £1,012; total for year, £39,572.

STRANGERS' HOME FOR ASIATICS,

WEST INDIA DOCK ROAD, LIMEHOUSE, LONDON, E.

"I was a stranger and ye took me in."

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD., 4 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Oct. 15	Price Oct. 22
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	50½	50
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	80	80
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	78½	78½
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	65½	65½
Greek 5%, 1881	65½	65½
Do. 5%, 1884	65½	65½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	56	56
Do. 4% Reuter's, 1889	54	54
Do. 5% 1890	66	65½
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	65	64
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	66	65
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	60	60
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	73½	72⅝
Do. 5% Currant	94	94
Montenegro 5% Loan	70½	70½
Persia 5% 1911	82	82
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	64	64
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	75	75
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	63⅝	64½
Do. 4% Unified	49	49
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅞	5⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	18⅛	18⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	35/-	35/-
Bank of Athens	70/-	70/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	8	8
British Trade Corporation	10½	10½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	10½	10½
Imperial Bank of Persia	10⅜	10⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	6½	6½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅜	6⅜
London County and Westminster	16½	16⅜
National Bank of Egypt	19⅛	19⅛
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6½	6⅞
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	13½	13
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	65½	65½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	65½	65½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	68	66xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	55	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	29/6	29/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	13⅜	14¼
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	2/4½	2/4½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	13/3	13/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	13/6	13/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅛	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	22/6	23/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅛	2⅛
Sudan Plantations	8⅛	7⅞
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	3⅜	3⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	1⅛	1⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	1⅛
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	3⅛	3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅛	5⅛
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅛	3⅛
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	99	99⅛
Chinese 4½% 1898	78	78
Do. 5% 1896	88	88
Argentine 5% 1890	86½	86⅛
Do. 5% 1907	87	87
OIL.		
Anglo-Egyptian B	5⅛	5⅛
Anglo-Persian	26/9	26/6
Anglo-Roumanian	12/-	12/3
Roumanian	24/9	24/-
Traian (Roumanian)	13/-	12/-

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Oct. 15	Oct 22
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	64⅛	64⅝
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	64⅛	63½

* Redeemable.

CORPORATION STOCKS.		
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959	82	82
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	73½	73½
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938	75⅛	75½
BANKS.		
Chartered of India	80	80
Eastern	9½xd	9½xd
Mercantile of India A	38½	36½
National of India	55	55
MINES.		
Balaghat Gold Mining	5/6	5/6
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	⅜	⅜
Burma Corp.	11⅛	11⅛
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	14/6	15/-
Champion Reef Gold	4/3	4/-
Mysore Gold Mining	1⅜	1½xd
Nundydroog	14/6	15/9
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	8⅞	16/-
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	1⅛	1⅛
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)	⅜	⅜
OIL.		
Assam Oil	2⅛	2⅛
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	1½xd	2xd
Brit. Burmah	2½	2⅜
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	14⅜	14⅞
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	1⅜	1⅜
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.	10⅜	10⅜

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES

Continued—

RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	53	54
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	136	138½
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	60	60
Bengal-Nagpur	117	117
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	106	106
Burma Railways	112	112
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13	13
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	12⅜	12⅜
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	13	13
Madras and S. Mahratta	10⅛	107
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	129½	129½
Nizam's Guaranteed State	76	76
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	11	11⅛
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	9½	9½
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	92½	92½
Do. Deferred	665	625
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	70	70
Bengal United Tea Ord.	16½	16½
British Indian Tea Ord.	9⅜	9⅜
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17	17
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	11/3xd	12/-xd
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	6½	6⅜
Consolidated Estates	6⅜	6⅜
Darjeeling Co.	19/3	19/3
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	58/9xd	60/-
Dooars Tea Ord.	3½	3½
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	1	1
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	3xd	3½xd
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	31/6xd	35/-
Hewagam Rubber Co.	?	1
Jhanzie Tea Association	10	10⅜
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	22½	22½
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	18	20/-
Lanka Plantations Ord.	19/3	22/3
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	54/6	57/-
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	44/4½	44/4½
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14	14½
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	1½	31/3

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Sept. 19. Rs.	Sept. 26. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	67	68
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	292	292
Bank of Bengal	1975	1975
Bank of Bombay	2325	2325
Bank of Madras	1500	1500
Bank of India	178	172
Tata Industrial Bank	88½	85½
COAL.		
Baraboni	19	19
Bengal	935	935
Burrakur	51	50½
East Indian	39	39
Equitable	47	47
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	72	72
Standard	68	68
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	280	250
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	1872½	1765
Bowreah	430	385xd
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	700	700
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	612½	592½
Central India	2800	2760
	1400	1380
Elgin	125	125
Gold Mohur	1500	1500
Khatau Makanji	4200	4200
Muir	120	120
New Ring	180	175xd
Phœnix	655	612½
Swadeshi	2880	2770
JUTE.		
Alliance	822	775x
Barnagore	220	220
Budge Budge	685	729
Clive	320	331
Dalhousie	568	583
Delta	686	715
Fort Gloster	1000	1020
Gourepore	1215	1250
Howrah	53	54⅝
Kamarhatty	905	1006
Kankinarrah	720	818
Khardah	480	515
Kinnison	990	1045
National	400	460
Standard	706	737
Union	840	880
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	102	100
Bengal Timber Trading	460	460
Burn and Co.	340	350
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	226½	226
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	226½	206xd
Howrah Oil Mills	44	44
India General St'm.	180	180
Indian Iron and Steel	110	110
	101	104
Marshall Sons and Co.	18½	18
Titaghur Paper	362	360

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 443.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

To-day the Shah of Persia is to arrive in England as the guest of the King. Although his visit to our country will be, according to present arrangements, a very short one, not only London, but the provinces also will have an opportunity of giving him that cordial welcome which is assured to him both by reason of the long-standing friendship between Persia and Great Britain and by his own record as a friend of the Allies during the war. Young though he still is, his Majesty has passed through trying times, and he has shown himself able to stand staunchly by his friends in spite of temptations. That is a quality that Englishmen have always held in highest esteem. The visit puts the finishing touch to the new Anglo-Persian Agreement, which cannot well fail to prove advantageous to both countries.

Hopes of the Fiume problem being solved very shortly on the basis of the proposals recently put forward by Signor Tittoni and described in these columns, have now to be abandoned, if that Rome report is correct which says that Mr. Wilson has refused to allow the project to go through. As Signor Tittoni had already declared that his proposals constituted Italy's best offer, the deadlock still remains. Italian feeling on the subject is very sore, and Washington is for the time regarded with as much disfavour as Paris. In view of the repeated failures to find a way out of the difficulty with the aid of so many advisers and outsiders, it might conceivably be no bad thing for the Italians and the Yugoslavs to endeavour to reach an understanding without further assistance of the kind. At any rate, the attempt would hardly bring about a situation more unsatisfactory than the present one.

Egypt continues to suffer more than its fair share of strikes, even in this era of strikes, the railwaymen being the greatest offenders. The agitators, however do not have things all their own way. A threatened strike on the Delta Light Railways came to nothing, and a general strike on the State and other railways, which was to have taken place on Sunday, also failed. The political unrest has been rather less marked, perhaps, but unfortunately there have been riots of a serious kind at Alexandria, where the military had to be called to the aid of the police, and were at last obliged to fire on the crowd. According to one report two rioters were killed and ten injured, while the police had twenty-seven injured. These figures, if correct, would seem to indicate that the police showed great restraint in handling the situation. An Alexandria mob is likely, if thoroughly aroused, to be more difficult to handle, and to show more determination than a Cairo mob; but the authorities have been prepared for such demonstrations for some time; and, though it is impossible to avoid outbreaks, they will in all probability be promptly quelled in all cases.

The outlook with regard to Turkey becomes no more encouraging as the weeks drift by. For one reason or another little or no political news reaches this country from Constantinople, and though some of the Press correspondents appear to be bent on making up for shortcomings in this respect by a wide airing of their own views, the result is not entirely satisfying. It is clear enough, however, that the delay in presenting the Peace terms to the Porte has already had deplorable results. At the time the Armistice was signed Turkey was in really chastened mood, and ready to place herself, practically without reservation, in the hands of the Allies. In all probability she believed that they had quite made up their minds regarding her future, and that there was nothing for her to do but acquiesce in this decision; it was "Kismet," and she was still sufficiently Oriental to accept it unquestioningly. Indeed, it is permissible to hold that quite a considerable number of Turks accepted it almost gladly, believing that, though they must pay for the folly of the Young Turks in plunging their country into war, good might yet come out of evil, and that the Allies would make a sincere effort to help them along the path of reform. Damad Ferid Pasha and his colleagues almost certainly held such ideas when first they took office.

Since those days a change has come over the spirit of Turkey. The Turks have been told so frequently, and by some people so exultantly, that their Empire is to be utterly broken up that they seem to have been forced to the conclusion that they can look for help nowhere outside their own borders, while it must also have dawned upon them that, so far from the Allies' decision on their future being irrevocable, there was, until quite recently at any rate, no clear-cut decision on the subject in the Allies' minds. The way in which Paris has handled certain details of the problem has tended to exasperate every patriotic Turk, "young" or "old"; and the obvious unwillingness of any particular Power to accept responsibility for any step that may lead to real trouble, or expense, has put fresh heart into the waverers and weaker brethren. The result is that the

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Allies to-day are confronted by a great many difficulties that need never have arisen, if only they had acted promptly and fairly.

We are not particularly concerned about the future of Turkey from the Turkish point of view; although we still retain sufficient faith in the principles so frequently proclaimed by the Allies during the war to believe that the Turks may even yet hope for fair treatment. But we cannot close our eyes to the fact that, as a leading Moslem Power, Great Britain stands in a very different position from many of the Allied and Associated Powers in regard to Turkey. It is all very well to declare that the Indian Moslems' solicitude for the Sultan of Turkey's position as "Khalif" is entirely misplaced, and that the sympathy of other Moslem countries for Turkey in her time of humiliation is incomprehensible. The fact remains that the solicitude and the sympathy exist, and Great Britain cannot, in honour, ignore them. Neither has she the same reasons for wishing to see Turkey humiliated as those which prompt certain other nations; nor should she allow herself to be swayed by the opinions of extremists of the type who wish to see Turkey broken up chiefly because they desire to deprive the Turks of Sta. Sophia. These things may appeal to some people, but they will not appeal to the average Briton, who remembers that our country owes her position in the East largely to the lack of fanatacism which has characterised her rule. For us the problem of Turkey's future is less simple than it is for some of our Allies. It is to be hoped that our representatives in Paris are looking at it from the British Empire's point of view first and foremost.

Although the period within which the Bulgarian Delegation had to sign the Treaty of Peace was understood to expire on October 25, no report has been received up to the moment of going to press that the final act has taken place in Paris. For reasons that are set forth elsewhere in this issue the Supreme Council has no reason to be proud of the Bulgarian peace terms. If no reference had been made during the war to the principle of nationality, if the Allies had not claimed to be fighting for the triumph of right and the introduction of a new spirit of justice and humanity in international relations, the treaty would represent the ordinary punishment that defeated nations have always had to expect. As things are, it has enabled the Bulgarian Government to call attention to a number of points which the Supreme Council may have difficulty in answering. There is not the least doubt that the draft treaty is inconsistent with the eleventh clause of President Wilson's fourteen points and a good deal of the frenzied rhetoric with which the Allies' war aims were proclaimed.

The difficulty confronting the Supreme Council is admitted. Serbia and Greece advanced certain claims, copiously supported by data and statistics. Was the Council deliberately to ignore two valiant Allies, and show favour to a defeated enemy? Unless very strong arguments could be given in support of it, such a course was out of the question. In other words, unless the Supreme Council could put up a case which would convince the Greek and Serbian representatives that they were ill advised in the line that they were adopting against Bulgaria, and unless it could offer a solution which must have appealed to the intelligence of the Greeks and Serbians, it had no alternative to accepting in whole or in part Greek and Serbian dictation of the Bulgarian peace terms. It is impossible to withhold all sympathy from the two States; they prefer to have Bulgaria under their heels to trusting to vague promises on the part of the Entente Powers. The major blame, therefore, attaches to the Supreme Council in Paris rather than to the representatives of Greece and Serbia.

Anyone who really knows the Balkans, and is anxious to promote their prosperity, realizes that both Greece and Yugoslavia will be better off with a friendly Bulgaria than with an unfriendly one. They cannot be blamed for not trusting the Bulgarians at this stage; but it was the business of the Entente Powers to take the whole Balkan situation on their own shoulders, not from any love for Bulgaria, but in justice to our Greek, Serbian, and Roumanian Allies. In the absence of any other definite arrangement, the maintenance of peace in the Balkans devolves on the three States, and they must keep watch and ward accordingly at considerable expense and, no doubt, at the cost of a certain amount of domestic friction. The peace of the Balkans, however, was really the concern of the Entente Powers, and the solution ought to have been one which they could have justified and could have enforced with a clear conscience. They have adopted a cowardly policy, for which the Balkans and Europe will suffer one day, unless the League of Nations takes the matter in hand more successfully.

Lord Morley's idea of including a number of Indians in the Secretary of State's Council at Whitehall is generally admitted to have been one of his happier thoughts, but the practical difficulties in the way of its realisation become more obvious as time goes on. It is not always easy to get the right men, for private and professional ties count for much in India, but the number of premature retirements shows that it is easier to get than to keep, and Indian Members tend to disappear by the time they have become accustomed to the environment. The latest retirement, that of Sir Prabhashankar Pattani, is happily not occasioned by reasons of health, and his connection with the State of Bhavnagar has been so intimate that his selection as Administrator during the minority of the young Maharaja is probably the best that could be made, but this fact only emphasises the loss to Whitehall. The vacancy is not, we understand, to be filled for the present, while the Council itself is in the melting pot, but we trust that at least one adviser with inside knowledge of an Indian State will be included in whatever organisation is ultimately established for the conduct of Indian business in this country.

It is characteristic of the artificial nature of much that passes for public opinion in India just now that such an appointment would probably be unpopular in Nationalist circles. In theory, an Indian State comes much nearer to the Nationalist ideal than a province administered mainly by Englishmen, and theorists would expect an outburst of approval on every occasion when Englishmen call the States into their councils, but in practice the result is very different; Lord Chelmsford's Government have recently appointed officials from the States on various commissions of inquiry, and a glance through the columns of the Indian Press shows that this line of action has won very little support. The gentlemen selected are stigmatised as reactionaries, or something worse; the States from which they come are described as backward; their personal qualities are belittled; and even when nothing positive is alleged to their discredit, the prior claims of various prominent politicians are asserted in unhesitating language. "Nationalist India," in fact, refuses to look for inspiration to States governed by Indians, and this habit of ignoring the experience of so large a part of the country is, if we are not mistaken, going to produce difficulties in the days which lie ahead.

Why the States are so unpopular is a question which cannot be answered in a word. For one thing, some of the strongest Indian rulers have little liking for politicians, and they have not taken the trouble to conceal their sentiments. For another, the British Government is certainly more benevolent than the average of the States, and the politicians who would deny this proposition most vigorously are forced to assent to it by implication. The chief reason, however, is probably to be found in the old Indian theory of the loaves and fishes: aspirants fear that there may not be enough to go round, and any widening of the circle of distribution is, therefore, a thing to be condemned, almost irrespective of the merits of those who may be favoured. The relation between this theory and the "spoils system" of some Western democracies is a subject on which little has yet been written, but it will doubtless be elucidated by

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Indian experience, and we confess we do not envy the first batch of Indian Ministers so far as the allocation of their patronage is concerned; they must in any case give more disappointment than pleasure, and the incidents to which we have alluded show that the rod is already in pickle.

Now that the necessity for famine-relief is happily almost over, the time is approaching when the Indian Government should make a determined effort to ascertain and publish the whole story of the recent difficulties in connection with the supply of food. It is, of course, a complicated matter, but the main point can be stated very shortly; in previous famines there was free trade in food, and however low the visible stocks might be, there was always food for those who had the money; but this year, when trade has been closely controlled, local supplies have fallen far short of expectations, and people with money have had difficulties in getting what they wanted. Recent statements in the Legislative Council indicate that the Administration recognises that large quantities of food are, so to speak, missing, and in order to furnish a basis for future policy, it is essential that the facts should now be clearly ascertained: Has the missing food been eaten, or has it been hoarded, and if it has been hoarded, who is responsible? Unless these questions are answered now, the next famine, when it comes, will find the Administration hampered by lack of data at a time when its entire energy will be required for the practical business of organising relief.

We notice that some of our contemporaries in India lay the blame on "profiteers," and we have no doubt that "profiteers" have been active in this famine as in others; but the facts regarding them can be learned with comparatively little difficulty, and they will not furnish anything like a complete explanation. Apart from "profiteering," there are two theories to be examined: some authorities hold that the people had been eating more in 1917 and 1918 than ever before, so that the invisible stocks were lower than previous experience suggested: others urge that the measures of control resulted in frightening the people, and thus prevented the invisible stocks from being brought to light. If the first theory be justified, the whole statistical basis of famine-preparation must be promptly revised: if the second be the true explanation, the Administration must retrace its steps; and though India has suffered many commissions of late, we think that room must be made for one more—a body of sufficient authority to get all the facts on record and to indicate what changes of policy are necessary in the primary task of ensuring that even in disastrous seasons the people shall never have to go short of food.

In the House of Lords, on Tuesday, Lord Curzon, replying to a request for information put by Lord Sydenham, made a long statement regarding the Peace Treaty with Afghanistan. The Treaty, he said, was only the first stage in negotiations which are not yet complete; the Ameer and his country are now passing through a period of probation, and when this period is complete there will be a further meeting and a final treaty. Under the agreement, Lord Curzon added, the subsidy formerly paid to the Ameer goes, and the arrears due to the late Ameer are forfeited; so, too, are the privilege of importing arms into Afghanistan through India, and the guarantees for the protection of the Afghan frontiers against unprovoked attack. "In these circumstances we could not possibly insist upon the equivalent of those conditions—that is, upon retaining control of the foreign relations of the Afghan Government." The argument is sound enough, no doubt, and, as we have already recognised, it may be well to be rid of a make-believe which gave but doubtful advantages in exchange for a substantial benefit. If, therefore, the control disappears when the "final" treaty is signed, its demise may not be universally regretted. These facts, however, only make it the more remarkable that the resignation of our prerogative did not receive the same publicity as the rest of the agreement reached.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

A Crisis that Passed.

The defeat of the Government in the House of Commons over the Aliens Bill was wholly unexpected. It produced a good deal of excited talk and journalism, but was easily smoothed over. The whole trouble arose out of a revolt of the Government's own supporters, who thought they had been treated as mere registering machines, and determined to show that they had a mind of their own; it was used in some quarters as a means of discrediting Sir Auckland Geddes. But the trouble was overcome without difficulty, the Government had its way after all, and Monday's proceedings reversed those of the previous Thursday with utmost good-temper.

In one respect at least the storm has done good, for it has shown that nobody particularly wants to upset the Government. The Unionists who voted against the Aliens Bill succeeded in enforcing their point, that they are something more than mere ciphers. The Labour Party also voted against the Government on the good old principle that it is the first duty of an opposition to oppose—but neither Mr. Henderson nor Mr. Adamson could command a majority in the House, and it is extremely improbable that they could obtain a majority in the country. Indeed, their plans for the next General Election are by no means completely arranged. The Independent Liberals under Sir Donald Maclean did not vote at all, and they also recognise in private, what they would do rather than admit in public, that the tide has not yet turned sufficiently to float the Liberal fleet again. Indeed, none of the heavier vessels that were stranded last December have shown any signs of preparing for sea again. Mr. Asquith makes an occasional speech. But Sir John Simon seems engrossed in the law, Mr. McKenna has definitely given up politics for banking, and Mr. Runciman is never heard of. Unfortunately political leaders in these days, like Dreadnoughts, soon get out of date, and some of the younger Liberals, under cover of expressions of loyalty to the leaders of 1906-16, are as ready as Lord Fisher to "sack the lot."

Finance and Currency.

The real trouble with the Government is not the strength of its opponents, but the weakness of some of its members. In nothing has this been shown more clearly than in the failure to deal with national finance. National expenditure has not been reduced as it should have been, and every Government office in Whitehall appears to spend as much as it chooses, while Treasury control has become entirely ineffective. The figures of Government expenditure and revenue which were issued on Monday revealed a very serious state of things, but, unfortunately, there are some indications that the difficulty will be turned to personal ends, and used for a resumption of the vendetta against Mr. Chamberlain instead of a plain recognition by all parties that a new policy must be adopted.

It is a little difficult to understand the persistent objection to Mr. Chamberlain. He is not a great man, and he has little personal magnetism. But he is honest and hard-working, and his speeches, even the dullest of them, usually contain sound common sense. He is less of a mathematician than Mr. McKenna, who has had few equals at figures, but at least Mr. Chamberlain makes his Budgets intelligible, which Mr. Lloyd George never did.

The present complaint against the Chancellor of the Exchequer is that he refuses to introduce a supplementary Budget this autumn. But the objection is unreasonable. It takes some time to prepare new schemes of taxation, which all agree to be inevitable. But hasty taxation may do more harm to the interests of the nation than even a deficit. The real remedy for the present trouble is to reduce expenditure, not to increase revenue, and reduction of expenditure can only come from the Prime Minister's initiative. Unfortunately Mr. Lloyd George's whole temperament is antipathetic to economy.

Meanwhile, an unexpected difficulty is on the horizon. The price of silver is rising steadily. Before the war

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the real value of a shilling was about sevenpence; but real and face value now practically coincide. If silver rises appreciably further, it will actually pay to melt down our coins for the sake of the metal—in fact, this is already being done in France. The Mint officials frankly admit the difficulty, but there appears a natural reluctance to issue five-shilling notes. It would seem somehow to carry us still further from the days of the golden sovereign. But there is a shortage both of silver and copper coins, although enormous numbers of new coins are being put into circulation. Partly it is due to the penny and shilling-in-the-slot machines for gas and electricity, which lock up millions of coins all over the country, and partly no doubt to the higher prices. When prices double, coinage must double too, or the shortage will be felt.

More War Memories.

Several more war books or articles have been published, and the materials for history are steadily increasing by the publication of personal apologia. Count Czernin, who naturally writes pessimistically about Austria, depicts the ex-Crown Prince of Germany as in pacific mood as early as 1917, but his notes contain little of value. Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg's defence is better done; it reveals a trained mind of the second order—it has always been Prussia's misfortune, as von Bülow said, that most of "our politicians are asses"—but the evidence is mainly negative. He denies the summoning of the Potsdam War Council on July 5, 1914; on Belgium he maintains the usual Prussian attitude that the invasion was a military necessity, and the British objection was mere hypocrisy. As regards the "scrap of paper" incident, the only addition he makes to the account given from the British side was that the British Ambassador burst into tears and begged to be allowed a few moments to recover himself, as he was not fit to appear before the Chancellery clerks in his then state of emotion. Few people on this side of the Rhine will consider that our representative need be ashamed of the revelation.

Hard upon Lord Fisher's breezy memoirs there have been published the reminiscences of Sir Percy Scott, which resolve themselves largely into criticism of the Admiralty. Sir Percy pictures the Admiralty as tied hand and foot by red-tape, which is no particular compliment to Lords Fisher and Jellicoe, both of whom occupied high official position there before the war; and he fortifies his criticisms by many technical details which only the expert can discuss with knowledge. It is probable that these two recent volumes of naval memories, coupled with Lord Jellicoe's book of last summer, will give employment to the naval correspondents of the newspapers through the winter.

Meanwhile, Mr. Fortescue, the official historian of the British Army and of the war, has followed up his attack in the *Observer* on Lord French's unhappy book, "1914," by a long and merciless analysis in the current *Quarterly Review;* and one other outcome of this autumn crop of military literature deserves to be noticed. In General Ludendorff's account of the campaign, which is by common consent the most authoritative work yet published, there occurs the statement that the inner circle of German leaders recognised that they had really lost the war by the end of 1916, and that the unrestricted submarine campaign was their only remaining hope. It will be remembered that the Asquith Government fell in December, 1916, and it does not need great prophetic powers to foresee that strong partisans will soon be claiming that Mr. Asquith, after all, was the man who won the war, although neither he nor anybody else realised the fact for two years afterwards.

Nationalisation and Labour Troubles.

Although a strike which is affecting the engineers drags on week by week, England is for the time being immune from labour troubles. Both Capital and Labour are getting their wind after the railway strike, and watching with interest the development of affairs in the United States. It was our turn in September; now it is emphatically America's turn, and her difficulties seem to be worse than ours, while the American papers complain that their public is less resourceful and less ready to volunteer for emergency work than the British. But the position in the two countries is very different. America has a far larger alien population than we, and the foreign Labour element in the States is more ready to be led away by extremists, while the fact that the trade unions are less strong and have no political representation at Washington in Congress gives an opportunity to the promoter of class-warfare that is lacking here. The mere fact that every British Labour member hopes to became a Cabinet Minister in a Labour Government some day is a strong inducement to keep the Labour movement here on constitutional lines; the real extremists are the men who have stood for Parliament and failed to obtain election. But in the United States, for all the boast of equality, politics are the preserve of the middle-classes, and the revolutionists there are making use of this fact.

But there have been signs enough that British Labour is far from satisfied with its recent progress. The locomotive men on the railways, who were understood to have obtained their full demands months ago, have this week put forward a further claim for an advance in wages and other privileges; and at the resumed negotiations between the railwaymen and the Government a scheme has been put forward by the representatives of the men for a share in the control of the industry. In these democratic days, when Labour demands open diplomacy in foreign affairs, it is rather strange that the leaders should allow—or desire—their own official negotiations with the Government to be shrouded in impenetrable secrecy. But nothing beyond the bare statement has been published, and the public is not allowed to know how much control the railwaymen demand, or given any indication as to the mind of the Government on the subject.

It seems quite inevitable that on this matter a hard and bitter struggle will be fought. Labour has to some extent enlarged its sphere of operations, and whereas before the war its demands were almost exclusively concerned with hours and wages, they are now very largely centred upon a share in the control of industry. The subject is extraordinarily controversial, the literature on both sides is voluble if rather academic; but it is not by arguments that the question will be decided, for nobody pretends that master and man carry on their discussions on crucial points in a serene atmosphere of pure reason.

The Promenade Concerts.

An interesting little ceremony—a presentation to Sir Henry Wood—took place in London last week, when the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Promenade Concerts was celebrated at the Queen's Hall. Sir Henry Wood has been the conductor from start to finish. Before the war his orchestra was equal to any in Europe, and better than most; during the war it suffered, like everything else, by the enlistment of one instrumentalist after another, and one cannot pretend that the air raids, with their very audible "music without," helped either the musicians or the rather sparse audience within. But the performances were maintained notwithstanding, German music and all; and now the war is over the old standard of excellence has been quickly restored.

Sir Henry Wood has been a conductor of catholic tastes. Apart from the regular Wagner, Beethoven, and Tschaikowsky nights, he has introduced a great deal of new music, and one is grateful to him for the opportunity of hearing Sriabin, Sibelius, and Strauss, whose marvellous work, "Death and Transfiguration," was condemned by the musical critics very unfairly a few years ago. A vast amount of new British music has also been performed at the Queen's Hall, but except for one or two pieces by Elgar and Coleridge-Taylor, none of it sticks in the memory or has succeeded in making a reputation for itself. Our deficiency in music is curious, but is probably due to the fact that our composers are too imitative of the great foreign masters. Neither in literature, art, nor politics have we shown any lack of originality, but in music we seem unable to get away from the standard model, with disastrous results.

OCELLUS.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, October 9.

Settlement of the Tram Strike.

After eight weeks' cessation, the Cairo Tramways resumed their services last Sunday, an agreement having been arrived at between the company and the workers, thanks to the intervention of the Conciliation Commission and H.E. the Governor of Cairo. The workers obtained satisfaction on practically all the important points raised by them, except with regard to their Union, which the company declines to recognise, but to which it does not forbid its employees to belong. The rumoured increase in fares has not taken place, the Government, it is understood, declining to entertain any such idea at the present moment. As far as can be gathered, the company could not prove that the extra expense due to the increase in pay and allowances to its personnel would be more than it could bear, and in the circumstances an increase in fares was certainly not justified. The company is known to have made substantial profits in past years, and it can therefore well afford to give a trial to the new state of affairs. If at the conclusion of, say, a year, it can prove that the net profits do not permit of the distribution of a reasonable dividend to its shareholders, then it will be in a position to demand, and may expect to obtain, consent to an increase in the fares; but the demand for an immediate increase, merely because it might possibly incur a loss on account of the present abnormal state of affairs, backed as that demand is understood to have been by no definite proofs, was certainly not admissible; and the Government acted quite rightly in setting its face firmly against the proposal. It is now hoped that a similar settlement will soon be made with the Alexandria and Ramleh Tramways, but as in the case of these two companies there appears to be some complication in connection with the original concessions, it is to be feared that some little time may yet elapse before a permanent settlement is arrived at.

The Industrial Situation.

It is to be noted that in the Tramway settlement the question of the recognition of the Syndicate, which had been previously one of the main points of dispute insisted on by the Bourse du Travail, was dropped. Likewise, it is interesting to note that the Cairo bakers, who were recently incited to ask for better terms by the Bourse, have repudiated the latter, and have declared their desire to settle their differences directly with their own masters; whilst the effort to bring out the printers and the lithographers has also failed. Since the departure of Messieurs Collalto and Pezzutto, the sinister influence of the Bourse du Travail has indeed been on the wane, and there seems little doubt that the industrial workers of Egypt have no use for such an institution, but prefer to settle their differences with their employers in their own way. Indeed, to-day one hears little talk of trade unions, and we shall probably find in two or three months' time that the doctrines of trade unionism have been forgotten almost as completely as they were ignored in this country three months ago. In the circumstances the Government would possibly do well to hold its hand in connection with its trade union law; for it is always unwise to legislate in advance of public opinion, and that would be the case if such a measure were promulgated at the present juncture.

The Political Situation.

Opinion has become very decided against the early despatch of the Milner Commission to Egypt, and it appears to be pretty generally felt that its arrival at the present juncture would be inopportune, and would create unnecessary difficulties. It is becoming recognised in European, as well as Egyptian, circles, that there may be something in the argument that the settlement of the Turkish peace conditions and ratification of the general Peace Treaty by the Allied Powers should precede the Commission. The Cabinet has fully discussed the question at several meetings this week, and Mohammed Said Pasha has had several interviews with the Acting High Commissioner. These facts have given rise to the rumour of a Ministerial crisis; but at the time of writing there are no signs of any such regrettable occurrence as the possibility of the resignation of the Cabinet.

The extremist Press sustains the violently anti-British tone of its articles already reported. The news of the possible arrival of the Milner Commission in the very near future was the signal for somewhat violent attacks on the Prime Minister, whilst the telegrams announcing the railway strike in England synchronised with the appearance of articles which, when they were not amusingly sarcastic, were exceedingly violent and abusive. It is noteworthy, though not surprising, that the news of the collapse of the strike has been passed over without comment by the extremist Press. In the campaign for "independence" it is not only we British who come in for abuse, our Allies and those foreign statesmen who have publicly approved of the British Protectorate are also being held up to public (Egyptian) scorn. In this connection the following priceless fragment, addressed to President Wilson, which appeared in *Al Afkar* as soon as the news of his illness was received here, is typical of the stuff which is published by the extremist Press and avidly read and quoted by the rank and file:—

TO THE HONOURABLE DR. WILSON.

By my soul, if you are now wakeful and suffering from insomnia and pain, and if you feel your soft bed to be a flame of fire, you have caused the same pain and feelings to a nation who felt her doom in what you decided about her.

Die without praise, and if you live, do live in pain and shame.—Yours truly,

(Signed) ZAKI MUBAREK.

Dr. Wilson, it may be mentioned, was the hero of Egypt some six months ago, and it was to him that Egyptians looked for liberation from the terrible British yoke. On April 22 the President, unfortunately for his reputation amongst the Egyptians, issued his

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statement recognising the British Protectorate, and since then the extremists have had nothing good to say about him. *Sic transit gloria mundi!*

Government Appointments.

Although no official announcement has as yet been made, it appears certain that Sir Paul Harvey has accepted the offer of the Financial Adviserships, to which he was appointed in 1907, and from which he resigned in 1912 because, as was understood at the time, he disagreed with the late Lord Kitchener in regard to the expenditure which the latter contemplated in connection with his various projects. Meanwhile, Mr. R. S. Patterson, who is to succeed Dr. Dunlop as Adviser to the Ministry of Education on the expiration of the latter's leave, is Acting Financial Adviser, and on his shoulders has fallen the difficult and somewhat thankless task of dealing with the many economic and financial problems which have arisen during the past few months, and which are daily arising. Sir Murdoch Macdonald, whose prolonged absence in England has been due to work in connection with the Egyptian and Sudan public work schemes, returned this week, and has now resumed his duties as Adviser to the Ministry of Public Works. Mr. J. Langley, Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture has also returned from leave. As regards the three remaining Adviserships, Sir George Macauley has remained at his post at the Ministry of Communications throughout the summer, and Sir Gilbert Clayton, who has been nominated to the Advisership to the Interior, has already taken up his duties there; but there is so far no news of Sir William Brunyate, who, as was previously announced in this correspondence, is to revert to the Judicial Advisership, and Mr. Sheldon Amos continues to act in that capacity.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, October 16.

The Political Situation.

It is not an easy matter at the present moment to form a correct appreciation of political values. The situation is so complex that until further developments take place it would be unwise to hazard a forecast of the outcome of present issues. Very little reliable information is obtainable as to the programme and intentions of the existing Government, and the censorship, which is still rigorously in operation, prevents a great deal of useful news from finding its way into circulation.

As regards external questions, M. Misu—for whom the portfolio of Minister for Foreign Affairs in the present Cabinet was reserved—has just arrived in Bucharest from Paris, and may be expected to afford the Government considerable assistance in the direction of settling the question of the Austrian Treaty. The Peace Conference, it is stated, has sent copies of a note relating to the position in Hungary through the Legations of each of the four Allied Powers, to avoid its meeting the same fate as the 75 radiograms sent from Paris in August, which were stated never to have reached Bucharest.

It is on internal political questions, however, that public interest in Roumania is now concentrated. The forthcoming elections are of considerable importance, as being the first to be held throughout the whole of "Great" Roumania, and excitement naturally runs high. It is on account of the importance of the elections, no doubt, that the bitterness of M. Bratianu's opponents has attained almost to extreme limits. The present Government is looked upon as a screen behind which the Liberal Party are pulling the strings, and is denounced as being in reality a military dictatorship set up for the purpose of ensuring the continuance in power of the Liberal Party. Yet, in view of the unwillingness of any of the Opposition leaders to take the responsibility of forming a Government, and the failure of all other expedients which were suggested, it is difficult to see what alternative was open to the King other than the formation of the Cabinet as at present constituted. There is, however, no doubt that the Liberals have obtained a strong hold on the economic life of the country in various ways, and this fact gives rise to charges—whether with or without foundation it is difficult to say—that the late Government resorted to unconstitutional methods to gain ascendancy over the commerce and industry of the country.

There is a general feeling among the Anti-Liberals that elections presided over by the present military Cabinet, and under the existing censorship and other restrictions, cannot be conducted on equitable lines, and therefore M. Take Jonescu and General Averescu have both announced their intention of abstaining from the elections. The Liberal Press met these announcements with the taunt of weakness, but they were quickly followed by a declaration by the Socialists of the same intention, and a similar attitude is being adopted by the Opposition parties in Transylvania.

A concerted movement has been initiated by M. Paul Bratashanu by the formation of "The Constitutional League," with the main object apparently of overthrowing the political power of the Bratianu family, and at the inaugural meeting on October 12 no adjectives were spared in execrating the policy of the Liberal Party and in blaming the conduct of M. Bratianu at the Peace Conference, to which conduct is attributed the whole of the present difficulties between Roumania and the Allies.

National Education.

A Commission on the programme of studies and regulations relating to supplementary educational courses has just completed its work. Commencing from this year, all factories, commercial undertakings, workshops, etc., will have to send their apprentices and learners to supplementary educational courses until they arrive at the age of sixteen years. These courses will form an integral part in the primary educational system, and are applicable to the various branches of education demanded by the various regions. All children who do not continue their studies at higher grade schools will be compelled to frequent these supplementary courses up to the age of sixteen years, and fines will be imposed upon parents or guardians who do not carry out these regulations.

There will be four courses: an agricultural one for localities in which the majority of the inhabitants are occupied with farm work, another of an industrial character, a third commercial, and a fourth for instruction in domestic work for girls.

Ceremony at Curtea d'Argesh.

The old monastery at the ancient town of Curtea d'Argesh, for many years the burial place of the rulers of Roumania, was the scene on Saturday, October 11, of a short requiem mass in memory of Carol I., whose decease took place just five years ago. In the absence of the Queen the King was accompanied by Princess Ileana and attended by the members of the newly constituted Ministry. M. Maniu and M. Popovici arrived from Sibiu, together with Col. W. Cozens Hardy, M.P. The ceremony lasted barely fifteen minutes, at the expiration of which the King had a short interview with Col. Cozens Hardy and a somewhat prolonged conversation with M. Maniu, in the presence of General Vaitoianu.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, October 6.

Reception of the Peace Terms.

The first reports regarding the Peace terms for Bulgaria proposed by the Paris Conference came as a painful shock to almost all Bulgarians. They produced the bitterest disappointment and depression, and brought about a condition of mourning throughout the kingdom. But they did not utterly crush, or paralyse, the staunch Bulgarian spirit, which has survived centuries of slavery and oppression.

Until the return of the delegates from Paris with the document itself, nobody was willing to believe that the radiograms had given truly the verdict of the Paris Conference. But when the three Bulgarian representatives, MM. Theodoroff, Stambolisky, and Sakyzoff, descended from the train, on that memorable September 26, their drawn and sorrowful faces told at once the cruel tale that they were the bearers of Bulgaria's death sentence.

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M. Stambolisky on the Terms.

In the course of a long speech, made to a large audience, at the Agrarian Club, M. Stambolisky gave his hearers the impressions he had brought away with him from Paris. The Bulgarian Delegation, he said, was most inimically treated by the French and Allied Press, owing to the slanders set about and the unscrupulous Press campaign carried on by Bulgaria's neighbours, about fictitious "atrocities" committed by the Bulgarian Army and Administration during the war. Only to himself were some courtesy and favour shown, the Press declaring that he had fulfilled his duty to the fatherland to the end, and could with a pure conscience appear before the world's supreme tribunal to plead his country's rights. But, notwithstanding this favour, the general conclusion was that, just as for upright Lot God did not spare Sodom and Gomorrah, so the victors could not spare Bulgaria for the sake of Stambolisky.

M. Stambolisky finds the proposed terms almost insupportable. "We knew," he said, "that we were to be tried, but we never expected that the sentence would be so severe and so unjust. We believed that if the humane principles proclaimed by President Wilson were partly observed in drawing up the Peace with Germany and with Austria, the same humane principles would have full application in the case of little Bulgaria, who, nobody can deny, has always struggled for the union of the Bulgarian race. But, on the contrary, Bulgaria is the only country, so far, to which the principles of barbarism are most fully applied—in her case not only is the principle of nationality violated, but parts are torn from her living body. The modern and Christian world is tearing from us our brothers by blood and language, who for forty years have shared with us independent political life. Parts of the districts of Vidin, Tsaribrod, Strumnitza, and all Macedonia, the whole of southern Thrace, and the whole of the Dobruja are taken away. Thus we are placed in a worse position than we were in forty years ago; and this after we have spent all our wealth for the realisation of our union, after shedding the blood of 500,000 men—the flower of the nation—and after we had hoped, in view of the declarations of the great President of the United States, that the Entente Powers would understand the supreme will of a small and heroic nation so far as to forgive her transgressions, and satisfy her natural yearning for the union of her race, thereby consolidating for all time the peace of the Balkans."

In conclusion, M. Stambolisky said that the Government will protest against this flagrant injustice, but will not go to war for the attainment of national union. There would be a new policy of working by peaceful means, which are sure soon to be crowned with success.

The new Chamber opened on October 2. M. Theodoroff tendered the resignation of the Cabinet, which was accepted. M. Stambolisky was entrusted by the King with the formation of a new Cabinet.

CYPRUS.

Small Pox Precautions.

Owing to the continued danger of a spread of the small-pox epidemic (several more villages, including some of the largest, have again been gazetted as infected), the Officer Administering the Government has issued a General Order regulating the movement of sick or suspected persons. No person can leave an infected area without the written permission of the medical officer in charge. Full instructions are given to the police and medical authorities to see that all provisions of the Order are strictly carried out, and that telegraphic information is reported to the proper quarters. Persons who desire to leave Cyprus must embark within thirty-six hours after reaching the port of departure, and within twenty-four hours after reporting themselves to the Government Medical Officer, provided that his examination is satisfactory.

The Locust Tax.

Under a law which has been in force for thirty-eight years, certain duties, rates and taxes are levied under five schedules, in order to provide funds for locust destruction, the first being in respect of all titheable produce. The others include taxes on buildings, trades and professions, incomes from public offices and pensions, and on sheep and goats. The officer administering has, by Order in Council, directed that the collection of taxes under two of the schedules shall be suspended from March 1, 1920, till further notice, and on the three other schedules for one year from the same date. This relief will be welcomed on all accounts, and it points to a diminution of expenses in fighting the pest. It is, however, regrettable that so little should be published on the subject of the annual locust campaign, as its history under British administration is of great interest to all who have followed what has been, on the whole, a creditable and successful war.

Agriculture.

The annual report of the Director of Agriculture, Mr. G. Bevan, for the last financial year has been published, and presents the record of a prosperous year for agriculturists. A noticeable feature relates to a greatly extended local employment of crushed locust beans (carobs) as food for animals, and to some extent for poultry. This has been strongly advocated by the Agricultural Department, and is quite a new departure, strange to say. Taking the present price of carobs as not exceeding £5 a ton, it has been found by the Cypriots to be a paying form of food under present conditions. The Limasol District has been forward in this respect, and Kyrenia, another good carob area, has also adopted the innovation to a large extent. Local consumption of the bean should now be largely increased. The report is an interesting one in many respects, and calls for further notice.

Miscellaneous News.

On the occasion of a visit from H.M.S. Marlborough, a water-polo match was arranged between teams from the ship and the detachment of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, in which the latter were victorious.

Cooler weather has set in, and good rains are hoped for.

Prayers have been offered in the churches for the removal of the epidemic, in accordance with the request of the Acting Greek Archbishop.

MALTA.

VALETTA, October 8.

The Emigration Question.

Emigration is the great desideratum in the island, and many attempts have been made in the past to organise some agency for securing the desired end. These attempts have failed in almost every instance, but at last there seems to be hope that we are on the verge of a project, recently launched, "making good." We have before us the report of the Malta Government Delegation on the possibility of the utilisation of Maltese labour in France. It affords hopeful reading, and, contrary to the usual rule here, the Delegation seems to have accomplished the work it set out to do. *En route*, the question of the employment of Maltese dockers at Marseilles was discussed with the Acting Consul-General of that port and other leading members of the considerable Maltese community at Marseilles. There seems to be a great chance of the utilising of Maltese labour in Southern France. On August 30 we find that the Delegation had reached Paris, where protracted and important meetings and discussions took place between the Maltese representatives and M. Herbette, Director of Administrative and Technical Affairs, and M. de Navailles, Chef de Bureau of Foreign Affairs. Matters were threshed out in great detail, and it may be stated that the principle of the employment of Maltese labour on reconstruction work in France has been definitely established; and events have reached such a stage that batches of five hundred men are to leave for France weekly. Already the number of such men asked for is well over 6,000.

A project of this nature bristles with possibilities of friction and failure, but the Delegation have done their work so well and thoroughly that little appears to have been overlooked. Equality with the French on a labour footing, wages, compensation, feeding, and even religion have received the attention of the authorities on both sides. It should be stated that the proposed rates of pay vary from 13.75 francs to 18.75 per day of ten hours. Reference to the possibilities of the employment of

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Maltese labour in the French possessions—including Morocco and Northern Africa—did not receive the support of the French authorities, the main reason being that the manual work in those regions is performed chiefly by the natives at about two francs a day. It is hoped that good will come of the Delegation's labours, and that the exodus of so many will help to relieve the economic pressure from which the island is suffering to-day. Discharges from the Dockyard and the demobilization of local labour battalions are the order of the day, and these are swelling the ranks of the unemployed. It is to be hoped that all concerned will rise to the occasion, that nostalgia will not prove a bar to success, and that sentiment will be cast aside. The work will be hard, no doubt; but the Maltese countrymen are strong and sturdy, and should give a good account of themselves.

The Governor's Speech.

His Excellency the Governor utilised the occasion of the prize distribution and the ceremony of the opening of the schools and the university to refer to the present state of the island. Among much excellent advice he stated that he hoped that sufficient time had now elapsed to enable all to view the recent regrettable riots dispassionately, and expressed a wish that they should be relegated to their proper place in the history of the island. The affair, he added, was one of those matters which might happen in any community, but one of which all should be heartily ashamed, and which should not be allowed to interfere with the progress and development of the island. After outlining what he considered to be the true function of a university, his Excellency advocated broader views and a going out into the world of the students and graduates, who should show themselves of such a stamp that they would bring credit to their country and their *Alma Mater*.

"Olla Podrida."

His Honour W. C. F. Robertson, C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary, has left the island for London—it is thought in connection with the question of the reform of the Malta Constitution.

Hotel-keepers—even the English—are said to be selling wine at 2s. 6d. a bottle which can be purchased in the shops at 7d. It is advised that such glaring cases should be dealt with as excessive profiteering.

The reports of the Commission appointed to inquire into the June riots have just been issued. They will be gone into in detail in the near future

ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, October 17.

General Hanbury's work of pacifying the Greeks and the Turks in the Aidin Vilayet has recently had a grievous set-back. The Turks have succeeded in circumventing the Greeks, and again successfully attacked the British railway, which is guarded by Greek troops, at two points—Ephesus and Odemish. One bridge was destroyed, and there now only remain about forty miles, out of the 300 miles of railway, available for traffic to Smyrna. Even such articles as butter and eggs have ceased to reach Smyrna. In contrast with the lamentable condition of the British railway, the French line—Smyrna-Karahissar-Panderma line—which is guarded by Senegalese troops, is almost unmolested. There must be some weighty reason for leaving the British line in the hands of the Turks, though British merchants cannot yet appreciate it, and bitterly regret what they consider is a palpable extension of the external muddle.

October 18.

News has just reached Smyrna that the Turks have succeeded in surrounding the Greeks in the town of Odemish, and it is believed that the Greeks have suffered very heavy losses there.

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BULGARIA AND THE TERMS OF PEACE.

We have received from a Bulgarian source an appeal addressed to the British and to the American Press urging both to insist upon a radical revision of the conditions of peace in accordance with the principles enunciated by President Wilson.

The following statement accompanies the appeal:—

The future of Bulgaria is organically related to the territorial, national, economic, and cultural rights of the Bulgarian people. The Peace Conference gave no heed to these rights. The "conditions of peace" elaborated by this Conference not only paralyse the national and economic development of Bulgaria, but they also render its political existence impossible. To bring about the ruin and death of the Bulgarian people seems to have been the cardinal thought that presided at the elaboration of the Bulgarian "conditions of peace."

Objectively speaking, these conditions are more cruel and more monstrous than those imposed on Germany and Austria. From these two States are "disannexed" not German provinces, but Italian, Polish, Czech, Slovak, Croatian and Slovenian, Serbian, Small Russian and Roumanian regions. From Bulgaria, on the contrary, purely Bulgarian parts of her territory are torn in order to be given to the Serbs, the Greeks, and the Roumanians. The conditions of peace mean the exodus of more than a hundred thousand Bulgarian inhabitants. They will look for refuge in Bulgaria, where they will join the 300,000 refugees who have already come from Macedonia, and the 170,000 from Turkish Thrace, and the 80,000 from the Dobruja.

The Bulgarians left Moravia in 1878 to establish themselves in Tsaribrod and its environs which the treaty attributes to Serbia, and they will not remain under the dominion of their new masters. They will try to establish themselves in Bulgaria. The new immigrants will be a very heavy burden to the smaller Bulgarian State, mutilated as it will be, without any direct access to the Ægean Sea, and loaded with a contribution of two and a-quarter milliards of francs. Bulgaria cannot give them shelter and food; as she has only a professional army, for which it will be difficult to find volunteers, because her citizens prefer their plough and their individual freedom to any kind of military servitude, she will not be able to prevent or to crush movements of revolt that the injustices and despair will suggest to these unhappy refugees.

The Congress of Berlin in 1878 and that of Bucharest in 1913 have created a ground and conditions that are favourable to troubles and to the "komitajis" in the Balkans. To-day the Conference of Peace not only gives sanction to this state of things, but amplifies it. Must and can Bulgaria be held responsible for these troubles, the germs of which were sown by the great Powers in Berlin, troubles which they encouraged tacitly in Bucharest and which they prepare again in Paris with their atrocious conditions of peace?

Justice demands that these conditions be mitigated. This the whole Bulgarian people demands. This demand, inspired by a sense of duty toward right and peace, asks that the most disastrous clauses of the projected treaty of peace be cancelled.

1. That the territorial clauses be cancelled. This reparation concerns regions that, from the geographical point of view, as well as historically and ethnically, are purely Bulgarian. Never in the course of the centuries, neither politically nor spiritually, have they been under Serbian domination. There have never been, and there are not now, Serbians in these regions. Such a decision is contrary to the declaration of President Wilson, who said that the populations shall not pass from one "sovereignty to another" like pawns in a game.

As to the strategical considerations, they constitute an anachronism in view of the existence of a League of Nations, and with regard to a disarmed Bulgaria.

2. That the contribution be reduced in such a proportion as to be in accord with the financial and economic resources of Bulgaria. For the interest on these two and a-quarter milliards of francs, leaving aside the debts from before the European war and the expenses of administration, with the depreciation of the Bulgarian *lev*, the necessary sum will be more than twice the present budget. After being deprived of its richest provinces—Dobruja and Thrace—the Bulgarian State will be unable to meet all the payments of such a contribution.

3. That to the populations of Macedonia, the Dobruja, and Thrace should be given freedom to decide their own fate; that the inhabitants of these regions be consulted under the control of the Great Powers by means of a plebiscite, and that this consultation take place under occupation of French, English, American, and Italian troops. This would be the only equitable and rational settlement of these three regions.

4. That the professional army be replaced by conscription, and this in the proportions foreseen in the draft treaty. In Bulgaria it will be difficult to find young men ready to abandon their field or their business in order to serve the flag, even if the pay should be tempting. The Bulgarians pay conscientiously their debt of blood; but, rather than be mercenary soldiers, they will go to any other profession. It must not be lost sight of that the professional army will cost at least twice as much as an army by conscription.

5. That the value of the cattle which Bulgaria must deliver should be paid in cash.

6. That in the treaty of peace a clause be included according to which the international commissions will not be imposed unless Bulgaria should not execute scrupulously the obligations foreseen in this treaty.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Englishmen in Egypt.

The following passage is extracted from an article, "Field-Marshal Allenby's campaigns," contributed to the current *Fortnightly Review* by Major Lindsay Bashford:—

Hitherto in its economic life Egypt has remained markedly isolated. Inscrutable, complex, such outside commercial relations as had been established had been chiefly with the Western European nations, whose representatives in Cairo and Alexandria had come to dominate and exploit Egyptian industry. Egypt had no neighbours. It is not possible here to enter fully into the changes which these last years have brought about in Egyptian affairs. They penetrate far below the decorative surface which is all the average Englishman sees or cares to see. The war has brought an immense access of wealth to Egypt, wealth in cash rather than credit, but it is idle to pretend that this wealth has fallen into English hands. Many who study Egyptian progress, halting though it be, are convinced that Egypt stands to-day on the threshold of a large industrial development. Everywhere new gateways have opened through which Egyptian caravans may pass. The eyes of the peoples of the Middle East have turned from Smyrna and Constantinople to Alexandria, and their glance will not lightly be diverted. Egypt has rich neighbours now. Yet more significantly than ever the paradox stands out that, whereas the Englishman has saved Egypt from bankruptcy and governs Egypt well, his industrial stake in the country is a very minor one. He rules, but reaps poor reward for his toil. Throughout the Middle East it is he, more than other Europeans, who is associated with the new and refreshing doctrines of "self-determination," of the rights of smaller races, that the war has evoked! It is he who in the eyes of the Arab world, from the Euphrates to Morocco, most generously endorsed the "fourteen points" of President Wilson which became a chief pretext for the recent Egyptian disturbances and are spreading distrust and restlessness throughout Northern Africa and the Levant. Shallow idealism, pedantically phrased, is very welcome to half-awakened minds, many of which the Englishman himself has taken pains to educate. These things we must consider. It is not enough to hold the reins of government in Egypt; we must control social life and social ideals, and with fair competition greatly strengthen our hold in commerce and industry. Amongst educated Egyptians there are few real separatists, and the prospect of increased prosperity will lessen their number.

"The Future of Syria."

In an article with the above title the *New Statesman* (October 11) says:—

The political settlement of Turkey has been delayed by a number of causes, chief amongst them being the doubt about America's willingness to undertake a mandate. Until we know whether she will or not it is obvious there can be no permanent arrangements made about Constantinople, Asia Minor, Armenia, and the more northerly portions of the old Turkish Empire. But Syria is a separate problem, and if, as has been suggested this week, America is disposed to act as arbitrator between the various conflicting claims, that will probably be much the most satisfactory way out of present difficulties. They are difficulties not so much of principle as of the detailed application of principles. But it is no use denying that they are serious. There is here, as elsewhere, the lumber to clear away of a war treaty concluded before America's intervention had introduced new criteria of diplomacy. The Sykes-Picot Agreement, as everyone recognises, is unworkable, and will be thrown over. But the claims of France will have to be considered and respected, for we do not want the long partnership of the war to be sterilised by Anglo-French complications in Syria. It is bad enough that Egypt should have stood so long between English and French friendship without making another Egyptian problem in Syria. Then there are our promises to the Arabs to be honoured; and in addition we are committed to setting up a national home for the Jews in Palestine.

After asking on what principles these claims are to be adjusted and these promises redeemed, the writer continues:—

When one begins breaking up a great Empire like that of the Turks and distributing the portions amongst the nationalities that it has oppressed, one realises for the first time that even an artificial unity may have its advantages. Turkey had no favourite nationality to indulge in Syria like the Albanians in Europe or the Kurds in the Armenian highlands. She did impartial injustice all round. But there was no question of one part of the country aggrandising itself at the expense of another; every part progressed to ruin at pretty much the same pace. The first natural effect of establishing the various races as nationalities is to encourage a spirit of international rivalry; and one of the first principles of the settlement, therefore, must be to recognise the real unity of the whole country between the Mediterranean and Mesopotamia, and to prevent its natural development from being retarded by internecine strife, as that of the Balkan countries has been.

The article concludes:—

A united Arabia extending from Damascus to Baghdad and from Aleppo to the Hedjaz seems out of the question, and the true future of the Arab national ideal would seem to be a federation of states, a northern state or group of states under a French mandate and a southern group under a British mandate. This Federation might then have some representative centre, which would, of course, have the right of making representations to the League; but that is a very different thing from attempting to govern the whole of renascent Arabia from one capital. Such a country would have no chance of maintaining its unity, and its formation would be quite inconsistent with a division of the mandates between England and France. One administrative unity, one mandate, is the only principle that would work at all. If this vast amorphous Arabia were to form one single unit of Government, either England or France would have to take the sole mandate. But that would be inconsistent with the established expectations both in Britain and France and in the Middle East. The task will have to be divided between us, and if America will help us to do it fairly it will be the most promising way out of a very difficult business.

The Turkish Problem.

In the *Piccadilly Review* of October 23, a new weekly paper, Col. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., writes on the Turkish problem. He commences with an illuminating individual experience:—

I remember, many years ago, paying a visit to a Turkish country gentleman, who was one of the most distinguished Liberals of his country, and whose desire for Anglo-Turkish friendship was almost an obsession. One day he told me this story: "Some days ago," he said, "I was riding over my estate and I found a peasant who was sowing seed. He was sowing this seed on the rock, as well as upon the soil. I told him," he said, "that he was wasting time and money, and the peasant answered, 'Not so; if God Almighty can make the grain grow in the soil, cannot He make it also grow in the rock?' That," said my host, "is my country. Our life depends upon an annual miracle, and this happens to us because we still live in the age of Faith, but one day that miracle will cease to happen, and that will be the end of my country."

When the Turks came in against us in 1914 these words came back to me, and I thought: The miracle has failed; this is the end of Turkey. I felt no elation at this thought, because, though like many other Englishmen who knew the East, I was very anxious to see the Armenians and the Arabs liberated from the oppressive rule of their masters, there was no liberation in view. The end of Turkey was not to be the beginning of freedom for the subject peoples, for they would simply pass under the yoke of Russia and be the victims of another form of persecution.

He continues:—

Great Britain must be deeply interested in the fate of Constantinople and of Anatolia. In India alone we have a population of three hundred millions, of whom a large proportion are Mahommedans. It is hard for a Protestant Englishman to be ordered to coerce the Province of Ulster. It is as hard for Indian Moslems to be ordered to attack the last surviving independent Islamic State. They carried out their duty because they believed that Great Britain, in victory, would take no sectional advantage and that the war that they were waging would not be detrimental to their own religion.

And he pleads for a sane policy which shall make for order:—

Anatolia can only be partitioned with our consent, and our consent must imply something more than acquiescence. Further, Greece, as constituted by the Peace Conference at Paris, is an artificial proposition that will require to be artificially sustained. She is given Bulgarian territory, Albanian territory, and great districts of Mahommedan territory in Asia Minor. She cannot look to Italy for help, France has her own burdens to bear, and without our support the diplomatic victory that M. Venizelos has won will be in vain. Putting all our declarations with regard to the freedom of the peoples aside, the partitionment of Anatolia is extremely difficult to carry out. The class of men in that country, fighting for their own homes, are a superior type of adversary to the troops we met in Palestine or Mesopotamia.

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A NEW FEATURE.

This week's issue contains as a new feature "The Week at Home." To readers both at Home and Overseas this item will afford an interesting summary of the week's happenings in the world of politics, science, literature and the arts. The need for a link of this nature with Great Britain is felt by all Britons domiciled abroad, and the Letter will enable foreign readers to keep in touch with the chief movements in this country.

To all existing subscribers, as well as to the chance readers of this issue, we make a special appeal to commend **The Near East** *to others. The purpose of the paper will not be fulfilled until it reaches regularly every English-speaking resident in the countries that come within its scope; and in the United Kingdom has spread a much wider knowledge of the Near and Middle East, its peoples and their affairs.*

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

More than once in these columns I have noted long marches done in the Near East, but a story from Leicester, told in the *Sunday Express*, is as good as anything hitherto related. While serving in the Balkans, a Leicester man fell in love with a Serbian girl. After leaving the district he heard that the enemy had raided the place where his lover was, and, not hearing from her, quite naturally gave her up as lost. You may judge of (but will not guess) his surprise when he learned that the girl had walked over Europe to find him, and had landed in England! She had travelled about 1,500 miles in quest of him. Truly "love will find the way"; and its ways are passing strange.

***

We are often told that Persia is the home of that industrious pastime about which my colleague, "Caro-Kann," so learnedly descants. Whether that be so or not, I know that its manner of playing the game is to-day quite eccentric. That this is so is confirmed by a friend of mine recently returned from Persia, who tells me that the greatest insult possible for one Persian chess-player to give another is to make his opponent's king do the maypole round one of his own pawns! He also relates that he was permitted to play against three Persian notables, all of whom had some local reputation in the game, and that he polished them all off in half-an-hour! Another feature in Persian play, not peculiar to them, however, but one which I noticed in a game I was playing when steaming up the Gulf, was their passion for courtly conduct of the game. Each time the queen was attacked it was almost a point of chivalry to call attention to her danger. What would have happened had the queen been removed without the "Take cover" warning I do not like to contemplate.

***

I read in *The Times* the other day the following bright sentences, amounting almost to a *non sequitur*. Here they are:—"Surgeon-General Sir R. Havelock Charles will proceed to India next week for a tour with reference to his work as adviser on medical affairs to the Secretary of State. Sir Havelock Wilson, who had a distinguished career in the Indian Medical Service. . . . ." Sir R. Havelock Charles has suffered a land change (into something neither rich nor strange, however), and one wonders whether he finds to his liking this sudden metamorphosis. I do not know who is responsible for the mistake, but I suppose that the compositor was once an ardent member of the Mercantile Marine; he certainly was not in the R.A.M.C.! It is not always that compositors' mistakes matter so little as in the present case, for sometimes people are seriously offended at such slips. But I do not imagine that Mr. Havelock Wilson, non-official party man as he is, would really be hurt were a knighthood actually given him. To alter Byron: "'Tis pleasant, sure, to see one's name in print; a knight's a knight, although there's nothing in't." CORSAIR.

MUSICAL NOTES.

The Near East is not a subject of extensive knowledge among Englishmen, but of all matters concerning it its music has lain in the completest obscurity. Its politics, commerce, customs, to some extent its literature, are known, but of its music, little or nothing. Many an educated man could not tell you the name of a single composer in, say, Yugoslavia, Roumania, or Greece. As far as I know, there is not a single book in the English language upon the music of the Near East, though one might have thought that we, who spend many words in supporting the rights of small nations, might have uttered a few in noticing their achievements.

This insular ignorance is unjustified. On the Continent Near Eastern music has long been recognised as having in it the possibilities of something very great. About seventy years ago the Polish poet, Mickiewicz, said that the Yugoslavs would become the greatest musical people among the Slavs. And it is not at all extravagant to suppose that out of the freed Balkan peoples will arise a musical genius; the peninsula is, in fact, a most likely source. Their independence gained, their main aspirations satisfied, why should not these nations now produce a man fitly to describe the feelings and thoughts of his country. Until now it has been composers of other nations who have employed as basis of their work the essence (i.e., the folk music) of Near Eastern music, but the time has surely come when folk music will best be used by those whose property it is.

But recent developments must make me qualify a little my remarks on the ignorance of Englishmen upon this subject. Enesco and Flondor, Mokranjac and Savine, for instance, are becoming more than mere names. Of the first and last-named works were performed in London a few weeks ago, and aroused considerable interest. Amid all the signs of a musical revival in England, none, after the very proper desire to find music in itself, is more encouraging than this regard for the countries of the Balkans. It is happily recognised that these small nations, though saturated with musical tradition, will have no fetters to cast off, but will, in expressing what has hitherto been denied them, their national and individual consciousness, produce works of art.

In these notes it will be my purpose generally to remark on tendencies in music (this being of more interest than to give descriptions of pieces), and especially to notice performances both of Near Eastern music and by Near Eastern artists. ANDANTE.

CHRISTIANS IN THE EAST.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has received from the House of Bishops, now in session at Detroit, a request to represent to the British Government its earnest hope that speedy measures will be taken to protect the Christian peoples of Persia and to restore to their homes those dispossessed. In reply, the Primate has sent a telegram assuring the House of Bishops that it may rely on eager support being given to the endeavour to secure all practicable support and protection to the oppressed Christian peoples, not only in Persia, but in the Turkish dominions also. He adds: "We find everywhere confident hope expressed that America will bear her full share in discharging the common responsibility attaching to the outcome of our joint work in the war."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AN INDIAN WAR NOVEL.*

This story gives an interesting and vivid account of the experiences of the heroine, who leaves England during the first year of the war to be Superintendent of a Training School in Southern India. She is a natural, plucky girl, and we follow with sympathy the description of the many difficulties with which she meets in her work and also the story of her love affairs.

The main theme of the book, however, is the subject of political unrest in India, and the Government is criticised as being too lenient in its dealings with agitators and for allowing the activities of a lady, thinly disguised as Miss Jane Judd, who is the leader of a religious sect called "Neognostics," and the moving spirit of a seditious newspaper, *The Flame*. There is an attempted native rising, which has tragic consequences, but the plot to bring about a big rising is discovered in time, and the conspirators arrested. The characters—mostly Government officials and their wives—are well drawn, although the conversation of the men is apt to consist of short lectures on Indian politics. There is a spirited defence of Englishwomen in India against the charge of frivolity during the war.

LEVANTINES, PAST AND PRESENT.†

M. Bertrand Bareilles breaks entirely fresh ground in describing the inner life of Christian Constantinople. Our impressions of the heterogeneous population which vegetates under the Crescent have hitherto been derived from tourists. M. Bareilles is an old resident in the Levantine colony, and speaks more than one of its multitudinous dialects. He has produced a profusely illustrated guide to its habitat, and sketched its history, customs, and superstitions with a master hand. As a patriotic Frenchman he deplores the decay of his country's influence in Turkey; and his feeling will be shared by all who recognise the world's indebtedness to France as a civilising Power. It originated in the Crusades, which were an instinctive effort of Europe under French leadership to hurl back the tide of Islamic conquest. "Frank" is still the Turkish equivalent of Levantine, just as Indians dub all Europeans "Feringhis." Although the non-Islamic element outnumbers its Turkish masters by three to one, it has never succeeded in throwing off a hated and hateful yoke. The Greek, Armenian, and Jewish communities cherish an ill-concealed contempt for each other; the gulf between them is widened by religious discord, and grinding poverty keeps them in subjection. To their industry and commercial aptitude is due the amazing fact that a handful of Asiatic nomads should have held Constantinople in its grip for four and a-half centuries, despite the persistent efforts of powerful neighbours to seize the key of the Near East. The Turk's virtues are those of the soldier; he has neither administrative nor organising power; without Frankish aid he would long since have been ousted, bag and baggage, from Europe. But gratitude is not a trait of national psychology. Turkey has adopted the Roman maxim, *Diride et impera*; she consistently fans the flames of racial prejudice, and when a Frankish community grows too powerful she weakens it by wholesale massacre. Moreover, Osmanlis have a monopoly of all employment needing military prestige, and their ownership of the soil is used as an engine for fleecing their Christian subjects without mercy.

For Western readers M. Bareilles' analysis of racial characteristics has peculiar interest. He remarks that all Levantines wear a strong family likeness. They are deeply attached to their religion, cherish the ties of kindred; are energetic, hardworking, and ingenious. Such failings as they exhibit were generated by centuries of cruel oppression, and would disappear with the advent of sympathetic rule. Their patriotism is intense; but it never extends to the Turkish Government. The Greek dreams of reviving the spacious days of Athenian hegemony; the Jew realises that he belongs to a world-wide community which controls international finance; the Armenian looks backward in imagination to a long-past era when his ancestors fought on equal terms with Rome for empire in the Near East. Hence the detestation in which Levantines are held by the fanatical Osmanli is due less to a sense of his own inferiority than to a well-founded dread of their measureless ambitions. The interests of these oppressed communities must be safeguarded in the approaching settlement of Turkey. It would, perhaps, be a wise policy to entrust their protection to America, who alone of the Allied Powers has no private axe to grind, and is happier than any of them in having but a brief spell of history behind her.

F. H. S.

NOT IN THE NEAR EAST.*

After reading these seven short stories, we have quite a clear impression of what must to most readers be a new world—Pell Street, the Chinatown of New York, and of its inhabitants, with their philosophic dignity, flowery speech, and the rich harmonies of colour which they manage to introduce even into that sordid atmosphere. Each of the stories demonstrates the impassable gulf between the point of view of the Chinaman and the European, especially with regard to the taking of human life. We find a hatchetman, or professional killer, giving proof of a most wonderfully self-effacing love, and see cold-blooded murder regarded with the utmost calm as a necessary act of piety to avenge an insult or merely to "save face."

One story, that of a young student, a Manchu by birth, who goes to Pell Street to seek adventure, is lighter in tone than the others, but none of the tales is lacking in humour.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Banked Fires." By E. W. Savi. (London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 7s. net.)

"The New Map of Asia" By Herbert Adams Gibbons. (New York: The Century Co.)

"The Baroda Library Movement." By Janardan S. Kudalkar, M.A., LL.B. Illustrated. (Baroda Central Library.)

"The Madman: His Parables and Poems." By Kahlil Gabran. (Hutchinson. 5s. net.)

"Salonika and After." By H. Collinson Owen. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Europe in the Melting Pot." By R. W. Seton-Watson, D.Litt. (London: Macmillan and Co. 4s. 6d. net.)

"Quatres Années de captivité et de souffrances, 1914-1918"; par L'abbé Boufroy. "La Société des Nations: Une théorie Catholique"; par Monseigneur Julien. (Paris: Blond and Gay.)

"La Macédoine et L'Hellénisme." By V. Colocotronis. (Paris: Berger-Levrault. 30 francs net.)

"The Lamp in the Desert." By Ethel M. Dell. (Hutchinson and Co., London. 6s. 9d. net.)

"The Complete Manual of Hindustani Grammar." By S. C. Bagchi. (London: Crosby Lockwood and Son. 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Substance of a Dream." By F. W. Bain. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd. 5s. net.)

* "The Eyes of Understanding." By C. R. Milton. (Andrew Melrose 6s. net.)

† "Constantinople—Ses Cités Franques et Levantines," par Bertrand Bareilles. Paris, Editions Bossard; prix 9 frs.

* "The Honble. Gentleman and Others." By Achmed Abdullah. (G. P. Putnam's Sons. $1.50 net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919. October 31	1919. October 18	Friday	1338. Safar. 7	5680. Marheshwan. 7
November 1	19	Saturday.....	8	8
2	20	Sunday	9	9
3	21	Monday	10	10
4	22	Tuesday	11	11
5	23	Wednesday	12	12
6	24	Thursday	13	13

The King and Queen of Roumania have arrived at Lugano on a short visit.

The Maharaja and the Maharanee of Baroda have arrived at Claridge's Hotel.

Mr. Augustus van Millingen is returning to Egypt by way of Taranto on November 20.

Mr. and Mrs. Austin Taylor have left England for Ceylon, and will be away for some months.

Sir Alban Young, British Minister at Belgrade, left London on October 28 for the Continent.

Lady Eustace Percy gave birth to a daughter at 6, Smith Square, Westminster, on October 24.

Mr. and Mrs. Locker Lampson have returned to Rowfant, Sussex, from Barlborough Hall, Derbyshire.

M. Vesnitch, the Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in Paris, is shortly leaving France on six months' leave.

Sir Ralph Paget, the new British Ambassador to Brazil, held his first reception there on October 22. Sir Ralph was formerly British Minister in Belgrade.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Mary, on October 28 visited Hounslow Barracks to bid farewell to the 18th (Queen Mary's Own) Hussars, who are about to leave for India.

Brigadier-General E. S. Hoare Nairne, his Majesty's Military Attaché at Athens, had the honour of being received by the King on October 28.

M. Misu, hitherto Roumanian Minister in London, who has accepted the post of Roumanian Foreign Minister, may be expected to come to London very shortly to present his letters of recall.

The Lord Chancellor has appointed the Rev. F. G. Walker, late Acting Chaplain, E. Sussex County Asylum, and Organising Secretary, Egypt Exploration Fund, to the rectory of Upton Lovel, Wilts.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, visited on October 27 the Foreign Office and presented Colonel Rosetti, the newly-appointed Roumanian Military Attaché, to Lord Hardinge of Penshurst.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Frank Noel Cross, D.S.O., Indian Army, of Fulwood Park, Liverpool, and Miss Eileen Bleasdale, of Mossley Hill, Liverpool, will take place at Mossley Hill Church on November 19.

Sir Prabashankar Pattani is vacating his appointment as member of the India Council to take charge, in conjunction with a British political officer, of the administration of the Bhavnagar State during the minority of the ruler, a boy of eight.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in November, between Captain Benjamin Wyatt Bagshawe, late R.A.O.C., of Calcutta, and Dulcie Katherine Margaret, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George P. Warren, Tir-Aluinn, Pitlochry, Perthshire.

The "Anjuman Islam" is fortunate in having secured Professor D. S. Margoliouth, M.A., D.Litt., to lecture on January 8 upon "The Lines of Religious Development." Among other lectures are:—"Islam and Happiness," by Khalid Sheldrake (November 13); and "The Call of Mohammed to be the Prophet of Islam," by Professor Henri Leon.

The engagement is announced of Major Eric G. S. Waley, Queen's Westminster Rifles, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Waley, of Alderhurst, Englefield Green, Surrey, and Aida, second daughter of M. and Mme. Nessim Ades, of Kasr-el-Doubara, Cairo.

The engagement is announced of Captain W. A. Evershed, I.A.R.O. (P.W.D., Bombay), son of the late Wallis Evershed (Kendal) and Mrs. Evershed, Edwardes Square, Kensington, and Dorothy, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Jones, 9, Chatsworth Square, Carlisle.

The engagement is announced of Major Cecil Harcourt, 28th Punjabis, son of the late C. K. Harcourt and of Mrs. A. S. Judge, of 14, Eldon Road, Kensington, and Winifred Elliott, only daughter of Judge and Mrs. Walworth Howland Roberts, of 16, Palace Gardens Terrace, Kensington.

The marriage was celebrated on October 23, at St. Anne's Church, Eastbourne, between Captain Lionel Hearsey, M.C., 2nd Bengal Lancers, of Kheri, Oudh, India, and Dorothy Maud, younger daughter of Mrs. Herbert Nicholl, Holmbury, Upper Avenue, Eastbourne.

The Rev. T. H. Watson, who has been inducted to the vicarage of St. Anne's, Great Singleton, Lancashire, served as Chaplain with the Forces in Salonika, Egypt, and Palestine.,

H.I.M. THE SHAH OF PERSIA,
who arrives to-day in London as the guest of the King.

The marriage was celebrated on October 25, at the Parish Church, Misterton, Notts, by the vicar, between William James Hodson, tea planter, Marjagram, Cachar, India, and Constance Claire, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Spencer, Bolsover, Derbyshire. Indian papers, please copy.

The marriage was celebrated on October 27, at St. Anne's, Brookfield, Highgate, by the Rev. J. H. Newsham-Taylor, between Horace Montgomery Lee, of Borjuli, Assam, India, and Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Sturgess, of Bournemouth, Hants, late of Victoria, British Columbia.

There are two Arab Delegations now in this country in order to offer to the King their congratulations on the successful conclusion of the war, and to present to his Majesty a scimitar, or "sword of peace," as a memento of that happy event. One, representing Central Arabia, is headed by the Sheikh Faisal, who is the second surviving son of Ibu Saud, the ruler of Central Arabia. The second Delegation is from the principality of Koweit. This is headed by the nephew and heir of the ruling Sheikh, who has done splendid service to the Allied cause. The chiefs paid a visit to Greenwich on October 23, and were shown over the Observatory by the Astronomer Royal.

The marriage arranged between Paymaster-Lieutenant W. E. N. Butcher, R.N.R., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. J. Butcher, of 9, Tregunter Road, South Kensington, and Antonia

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Josephine, daughter of Mr. H. C. Mortimer, of Malta, will take place on November 5 at the Oratory Brompton.

The engagement is announced of Major Hamilton Gardiner, M.C., Egyptian Civil Service (late Royal Field Artillery), only son of Major-General H. L. Gardiner, C.B., and Mrs. Gardiner, of Hilden, Rye, and Diana, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Patterson, of 25, Queen's Gate Gardens, S.W.7, and The White House, Rye.

A marriage has been arranged to take place in November, at Port Said, between David Graham, elder son of the Rev. Canon Evans and Mrs. Evans, of Knutsford, and Irene Maud, second daughter of the late James Moir, M.I.M.E., M.I.N.A., of Bombay, and Mrs. Moir, and grand-daughter of the late James Moir, surgeon, of Aberdeen.

The marriage was celebrated on October 25, at the Church of Our Lady and St. Joseph, Ealing, by the Rev. Father Dunleavy, between Claude Winstanley Elliott, of the Egyptian Civil Service, surviving son of William Elliott Tiddy, of Ascott-under-Wychwood, and Hilda Constance, daughter of the late William Ogden, Indian State Railways.

In celebration of the first anniversary of the restoration of independence to the Czecho-Slovak State, Dr. Ferdinand Veverka, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Czecho-Slovak Republic, held a reception on October 28 at 9, Grosvenor Place. Among those present were the Greek and Polish Ministers and the *Chargé d'Affaires* for Serbia, Roumania, and Russia.

A marriage is arranged between Captain Kenneth Herbert Metcalfe Davison, 106th (Hazara) Pioneers, younger son of Major-General K. S. Davison, C.B., and of Mrs. Davison, The Stowe House, Whitney-on-Wye, and Kathleen Lucy, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Collett-Mason, Nieuport Hall, Eardisley, and will take place on November 12 at Almeley Church.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in Malta, between Major W. H. Brooke, M.C., West Yorkshire Regiment (Leeds Rifles), A.D.C., only son of Mr. William Brooke and Mrs. Brooke, of Leafield, Moor Allerton, near Leeds, and Marjorie, youngest daughter of Field-Marshal Lord Plumer of Messines, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Malta, and of the Lady Plumer, O.B.E.

The King of the Hellenes, on the occasion of the conclusion of peace, conferred the following decorations upon members of the Anglo-Hellenic League in London:—To be Knight Grand Commanders of the Order of George I.: The Hon. Pember Reeves and Dr. Ronald M. Burrows, respectively chairman and acting chairman of the League; Sir Arthur Crosfield to be Knight Commander of the same Order; Mr. John Mavrogordato, honorary secretary of the League, and Mr. Harold Spender to be Knight Companions of the Gold Cross of the Order of the Redeemer; Mr. Nicolas Eumorfopoulo to be Knight Companion of the Gold Cross of the Order of George I.; and Lady Crosfield and Lady Meiklejohn to be Knight Companions of the Silver Cross of the Order of George I.

The arrangements for the visit of the Shah of Persia to this country have now been completed. It is announced that he crosses the Channel to-day in the Royal yacht Alexandra. His Majesty will be the guest of the King at Buckingham Palace. To-morrow the Shah will be entertained at the Guildhall by the City Corporation. He will be presented with an address of welcome in a gold box, and a luncheon will be given in his honour. On Tuesday, November 4, he will go to Manchester, where he will be received by the Lord Mayor and Corporation, and be conducted over one of the cotton factories and other places associated with the commerce of the City. On the next day the Shah will go to Scotland to see Edinburgh and Rosyth.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

It was announced last Friday that the King has been pleased to approve of the appointment of the Right Hon. Earl Curzon of Kedleston, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., to be Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in succession to the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, O.M., M.P., and of the appointment of the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, O.M., M.P., to be Lord President of the Council, in succession to Earl Curzon of Kedleston.

Lord Curzon received from the King at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday the Seals of Office, and took the oath as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and kissed hands upon his appointment.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Mr. R. S. Troup, Assistant Inspector-General of Forests, India, has been elected Professor of Forestry at Oxford.

Our Malta Correspondent writes (October 14):—Luigi Camilleri, Esq., LL.D., has been appointed one of his Majesty's judges in the island of Malta and its dependencies. The choice is a highly popular one.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of October 10 states:—"We are given to understand that Mr. A. D. Alban, O.B.E., H.B.M. Consul at Cairo, has been appointed Consul-General at Alexandria, and that Mr. Geary has been appointed to succeed him as British Consul at Cairo." Mr. Alban has had much Consular service in the Levant and Egypt. Mr. Geary's experiences cover Persia, Constantinople, the Balkans, the Levant, and Egypt.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on October 25, at Upton Leigh, Cheltenham, of Henry Strode Lemon, late Bank of Bengal, eldest son of the late Henry Lemon, of Exeter.

Colonel Hugh Wodehouse Pearse, D.S.O., late of the East Surrey Regiment, died on October 23 in his sixty-fifth year. He had the medal for the Afghan War.

The death has occurred at Brighton, at the age of 66, of Lieut.-Colonel George Boodric O'Donnell. He retired from the Indian Army in 1912, taking up his residence at Brighton. He was a frequent writer on Indian affairs.

General Sir Robert Macgregor Stewart, G.C.B., Colonel-Commandant, Royal Artillery, died on October 23. He served in the Hazara campaign of 1868, in the Kandahar Field Force in 1878, and in the Sudan Expedition of 1885. From 1887 to 1897 he was A.D.C. to Queen Victoria.

Colonel Arthur William Macnaghten, late of the Bombay Cavalry, died in London on October 24. He served during the suppression of the Indian Mutiny, with the Abyssinian Expedition of 1868 (when he was mentioned in despatches), and commanded the 2nd Bombay Light Cavalry in the Afghan War of 1880.

Mr. Wilmot Corfield, author and philatelist, died at Longton Grove, Sydenham, on October 27, in his 61st year. He went out to Calcutta in the early 'nineties, and there took an active part in the investigations of the Calcutta Historical Society. He wrote "Calcutta Faces and Places in Pre-Camera Days," and contributed largely to "Bengal Past and Present." Selections from his topical verse, which appeared in the Calcutta Press under the name of "Dâk"—the Hindi equivalent of post-office—were published in 1910, when the author was leaving India, under the title of "Dâk Dicta," and in 1911 under that of "More Dâk Dicta." A lifelong philatelist, he edited for three years the Calcutta *Philatelic World*, and collaborated with the late Mr. C. S. Crofton in writing "The Adhesive Fiscal and Telegraph Stamps of British India."

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1919.

THE ICHABOD OF PARIS.

No one among the Allies who during the grim conflict through which we have come felt buoyed up by the certainty of the ultimate triumph of right can view with any complacency the record of the Paris Conference. The war ended with the complete defeat of the enemy; the Allied Powers had only to come together to determine the settlement, which none could dispute. They had already proclaimed the aims for which the war was being waged and the terms on which peace would be made; they had fought for liberty and humanity, for the principle of nationality, for the right of self-determination for oppressed peoples. Among nations thus brought together in a life and death struggle for high ideals it seemed impossible that any serious antagonism could arise in the framing of a European settlement. A clash of interests in various regions was inevitable, but a just and equitable decision, it was thought, could be relied upon in view of the number of the Allies forming the tribunal and the clear enunciation of the principles by which they would be guided in drafting the treaties of peace. The mere delay in the conclusion of the task of the Paris Conference has proved how vain these anticipations were, while an insight into its workings can hardly fail to disgust any impartial and right-minded man. One of the British representatives, General Smuts, has described the Conference as "a seething cauldron of human passion and greed." The results of its deliberations bear witness to the accuracy of his description. As far as the outside public is aware, the work of formulating the conditions of peace to be imposed upon Germany was carried through in a fairly satisfactory manner; in every other direction, however, the Conference has resembled a rudderless ship on a storm-tossed sea, with an unquelled mutiny on board. The Allies were set to find a settlement that would conform entirely, or as far as was physically possible, to the principles of nationality and equity, and to secure its acceptance by all concerned; they had broken the most formidable military combination that could be brought against them, and there could be no question of any serious challenge to their verdict. The problem was complicated, but not new; throughout the war it had been the certain corollary to victory, and there had been ample time for agreement on the broad issues and on most of the important details. But when the Paris Conference met it became clear that the Governments of the Entente Powers, far from having taken steps to arrive at an understanding on controversial points, had made no attempt to master the rudiments of the different problems.

The chief sufferer by this neglect is the Near East, the former storm-centre of Europe, and the one region in regard to which it would have been expected that the Allied Governments would be at pains to ensure an acceptable and lasting settlement. Their contribution to such a settlement so far has been to enlarge the sphere of potential unrest, and, if possible, to increase the bitterness between the component elements. An elementary knowledge of the Near Eastern problem prescribed as an essential to any solution that it should be imposed from outside, and should be rapid in its enforcement. When the Armistice came the Allied Governments had no solution to impose; worse still, they abdicated their authority and repudiated the moral responsibility that they had incurred with the proclamation of their war aims by allowing their own Allies to fight among themselves. From that moment an evil genius has taken charge of the Allied settlement of the Near Eastern question. During the war the broad foundations of a working agreement between the Italians and the Yugoslavs had been satisfactorily laid; they have since been at one another's throats, and a mutual animosity has been fanned which will not die down for years. For centuries Montenegrins and Serbians have been brothers in race and interests; by allowing the Serbian troops to occupy Montenegro after the clear warnings that dynastic trouble was afoot, the Entente Powers have sown the seeds of intrigue and hatred, with every prospect of a bounteous harvest. History may be searched in vain for any controversy or strained relations between Roumania and Serbia; the Entente Governments allied to both of them have contrived to make them enemies to-day. In all the countries of the Balkan Peninsula the Paris Conference, which, by promulgating the considered verdict of the Entente Powers, ought to have won for itself the prestige and respect attaching to a wise and upright judge, even where cherished aspirations were doomed to disappointment, is anathema, and Europe must surely rue the day when such a grave and far-reaching trust was confided to such ill-equipped and inadequate hands.

To the ignorance and ineptitude which has set Italians, Yugoslavs, and Roumanians by the ears or allowed them to quarrel of their own accord has now been added the injustice of the Bulgarian peace terms. There was no call for any special tenderness on the part of the Entente Powers towards Bulgaria; but it was necessary that the whole position in the Near East should be understood, the lessons of the past taken to heart, and a serious attempt made to settle once and for all a problem that had been the most fruitful cause of war in Europe. Naturally the other Balkan States—Greece, Serbia, and Roumania—could not be expected to view the question as dispassionately as the Entente Powers; more or less evenly matched against Bulgaria, they had come to regard their traditional enmity as a life and death struggle, and they would feel compelled to take full advantage of any victory that they gained in order to safeguard themselves against the next challenge which they could only regard as sooner or later inevitable. In these circumstances peace could only come to the Balkans by a reasoned agreement, enforced, if need be, by the Entente Powers; the equity of such an agreement, all things taken into consideration, having been acknowledged, it would be left to the Powers to guarantee that its terms should never be upset. President Wilson must have had some such solution in mind when he stipulated in his Fourteen Points that the relations of the several Balkan States to one another should be determined by friendly counsel along historically established lines of allegiance and nationality, and international guarantees of the political and economic independence and territorial integrity of the several Balkan States should be entered into. Can the Paris Conference claim that it is in this spirit that it has formulated the Bulgarian peace terms? If we could persuade ourselves that the real interests of Greece, Roumania, and Yugoslavia had been consulted in the draft treaty, something might be said for it, and in the cause of peace and an early settlement the terms could be accepted without cavil. But the three Governments know, as well as anyone else acquainted with the history of the Balkans, that such a treaty imposed by force can only be prevented from being upset by the constant exercise of repressive force. It is neither our desire nor our concern to save any enemy country from its just deserts, but the interests both of Great Britain and of the Near East require that no further injustices should be perpetrated in the Balkans. A just territorial settlement turns on the principle of nationality; it cannot be influenced by Bulgaria's attitude in the war. Other methods than annexation of territory must be found as the penalty for waging an unsuccessful war. Yet in spite of the Allied indictment of territorial aggression the treaty openly enforces the annexation of Bulgarian territory. There is no need on this point to rely upon Bulgarian claims; the question is beyond dispute. Yugoslavia has no stouter champion than Mr. R. W. Seton-Watson and no one writes more authoritatively on

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the Near Eastern question. In 1914 in "The War and Democracy" occur the following passages:—

"If Southern Slav unity is to be achieved, a binding promise, under the guarantee of the Entente Powers, must be given to Bulgaria that, in proportion as the work of Serbo-Croat unification is achieved, the Macedonian frontier will be revised in favour of Bulgaria" (p. 281). . . . "By far the thorniest problem is provided by the future ownership of Kavala, which the Treaty of Bucharest assigned to Greece in August, 1913, but which, from an economic point of view, is Bulgaria's port on the Ægean, and as vital a necessity for her future development as it is a superfluous luxury to Greece" (p. 282). . . . "Who is to replace her (Turkey)? Bulgaria will, it is to be hoped, recover Adrianople and the Enos-Midia line, of which she was so cruelly robbed last year."

Such was the settlement proposed by an acknowledged authority, who could not be accused of impartiality in dealing with Balkan affairs, but is a confessed Serbophil in the accepted sense of the word, which implies "ante-Bulgarism." In May, 1915, the Allied Governments accepted Mr. Seton-Watson's solution of the Balkan problem, and offered it to Bulgaria. The offer, as we all know, was neither accepted nor rejected, but months passed before the Allies could prove to the Bulgarian Government that they were able to enforce the terms they offered, and by the time they had secured Serbia's consent the opportunity, of which probably King Ferdinand had never intended to make use, had passed. In the light of all that is known of the Balkan question, in the face of the Allies' declarations, and of the eleventh of President Wilson's fourteen Points, can it be maintained that the Bulgarian peace terms conform to the Allies' standard of honour and justice? Just in so much as the Bulgarians realise that the terms fall short of that standard and have been dictated by the "human passion and greed" that has prevailed at the Paris Conference, so will they be prompted to work and scheme for the cancelling of the treaty, and by these means will unrest be kept alive in the Balkans to the prejudice of Greek, Serbian, and Roumanian interests and of European peace.

THE TRUTH ABOUT INDIAN REFORMS.

(From a Correspondent.)

It has become more or less common knowledge that some members of the Joint Committee on the Indian Reforms Bill have been greatly impressed by the artificiality of much of the proceedings, and by the difficulty of ascertaining the real sentiments and aspirations of the people whose future they have to determine. To meet the wishes of these members, the Chairman recently decided that, for one day only, the Committee should move from the Palace of Westminster to the Palace of Truth, in the hope that the change of atmosphere might conduce to a clearer revelation; for obvious reasons no official report of this session has been issued, but the following summary gives a fair idea of the line taken by the various witnesses, who, it will be seen, were unusually representative.

The first witness said that he was not only Moderate but modest, and for this reason desired to withhold his name. As regards constitutional matters in general, he observed that the advantages of democracy had been dinned into his ears ever since he went to college, and, though he had no practical experience, he supposed they must exist. He was therefore in favour of an Indian democracy, but he urged strongly that the British should retain sufficient powers to prevent the democracy from making respectable people uncomfortable. As to the details, he hoped the fundamental Statute would provide for a progressive rise in salaries and for a reduction in the price of food.

Mr. Jang Bahadur, who followed, said he was an Ultra-Extremist, and consequently had to be careful in his public utterances, which necessarily failed to represent his real views. He pointed out that for forty or fifty centuries, or perhaps more, India had been the paradise of small oligarchies, and he insisted that these conditions should now be restored. The British should keep the coasts and land frontiers, so as to prevent the system being disturbed by such accidents as had occurred so often in the past, but the interior should be handed over to him and to his friends, who were, he admitted, few in number, but with the aid of British bayonets would be able to hold the people in check. All that was needed was a liberal paper constitution with a closely restricted franchise, but this boon should be conferred at once, before the masses had drunk more deeply of the dangerous ideas which were spreading to them from the West. Some of them, he said, were already beginning to talk of their rights, but if only he and his friends were put in charge at once, they could stop this nonsense before serious harm was done; if action was delayed, he could take no responsibility for the consequences.

The next witness, the Moulvi Abdul Wahabi, said he was concerned only with one point: that the new constitution should ensure the effective supremacy of Islam; given that essential, the particular form of government was immaterial, but the fundamental Statute should ensure to every Moslem entire freedom to slaughter cows when and where he pleased. Asked whether he recognised that Hindus would object to this provision, he referred in picturesque language to the ultimate destination of all infidels, and said that such wretches deserved no consideration whatever.

Bechu, Gossain, who came next, took somewhat different ground. He said he lived chiefly between Hardwar and Benares, and constantly talked politics with the ablest and saintliest men in all India. They cared nothing for formal provisions so long as they were assured of predominating influence inside the Government; the early British rulers, acting in ignorance, had curtailed this influence very seriously, but it had been largely restored of late by the efforts of their generous supporter, Lord Morley, and they asked for nothing more than a continuance of this enlightened policy. Questioned regarding the Moslem claim for liberty to slaughter cows, the witness pointed out that, since anyone who killed a cow had to visit 333,000 hells in succession, it would be the truest kindness to prohibit the practice altogether.

A small group of peasants then entered together, and their spokesman, who gave the name of Ram Prasad Kurmi, said they represented three-quarters of the population of India. They were ready to govern the country if the Emperor ordered it, but they were poor men, and they had to look after their fields. What they really wanted was an order to keep up the price of grain and to lower rent and interest; if the Emperor would do that, and would forbid any town-bred officials to come into the villages, they could get along fairly well. Questioned about the position of agricultural labourers, the deputation, speaking in chorus, said the labourers were getting utterly intolerable, and must be taught their place; the proper wage was twopence a day, and anything more was sheer robbery.

The next witness was Ganga Pasi; he was very nervous, and gave his evidence mostly standing on one leg, but his views were quite clear. He said he was an agricultural labourer, but burgled and robbed on the highways in his spare time. He objected strongly to the police, and also to Excise restrictions, but otherwise approved of the present administration: if power were given to the

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN.

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peasants, they would reduce his wages, and then he would have to steal more, while if it were given to the upper classes, they would make him work for nothing, as his fathers had always worked before the British came. In reply to a member of the Committee, he said he could now earn threepence a day, and would be satisfied with fourpence; he explained his nervousness by saying he had noticed two policemen in the corridor.

The Chairman now announced that there had been an unfortunate contretemps. He had arranged for the presence of two witnesses belonging to the lowest of the depressed classes, but one of them had been arrested that morning for obstructing traffic. It appeared that he had tried to walk across Westminster Bridge in the middle of the roadway, shouting "Pollution!" at the top of his voice, and members would understand that he was only doing what immemorial custom required in his home in Malabar, but an ignorant policeman had taken him into custody, and though his release had now been ordered, and he would be handsomely compensated, he could not reach the Palace in time for that session. The Chairman added that the remaining witness desired to give evidence from the doorway, so as to avoid the risk of polluting any member of the Committee.

Bhawani, sweeper, then took his place in the doorway, carrying the broom and basket emblematic of his functions. He said his community strongly supported the present administration, but if any change was to be made, they claimed a predominant position for themselves; they were the most necessary caste in all India, and by a three-days' strike they could bring the country to its knees; their communal organisation was practically indistinguishable from that of the Soviets, and they were quite prepared to assume political responsibility. He wished, however, to protest against the new-fangled systems of sewage disposal, which took the bread out of honest men's mouths, and he suggested that at the present juncture a rise in wages would not be out of place.

No more witnesses being in attendance, the Chairman closed the proceedings by remarking that it had been a most interesting day, but that, while much new evidence had been given, he was more than ever impressed by the fundamental unity of Indian sentiments and aspirations.

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A Council meeting of the above Society was held on Wednesday, October 15, at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, Mr. S. G. Hough (Vice-President) in the chair. The following new members were elected:—Aldridge, Denis, Sketchley Hall, Hinckley, Leicestershire; Armitage, Mrs. T. C., The Oaks, Chorley, Lancs; Bird, J. Harington, 82, Belsize Park Gardens, N.W.; Clegg, Henry C., Bibsworth House, Broadway, Worcestershire; Eliot, General Sir Edward Locke, K.C.B., Naval and Military Club, Piccadilly, W.; Jones, Lieut.-Colonel R. Godfrey, Bry-y-Mor, Island Estate, Newquay; Jones, Walter, Morgan Hall, Fairford, Glos.; Lewis, Sidney W., Nowell House, Stocksfield-on-Tyne, Northumberland; Lyon, Miss M. C. E., Harwood, Horsham, Sussex; Mackenzie, Major-General Sir Colin, K.C.B., 94, Piccadilly, W.; Sampson, C. C. W., Longhurst, Haigh, Wigan; Snowball, Lieut. G. N., Summerhill, Berwick-on-Tweed; Tabet, Constantine N., Beyrout, Syria; Tabet, Gabriel P. H., Beyrout, Syria; Timmis, Major F. Woollaston, Las Minas de Rio, Tinto de Huelva, Spain.

The Council received further entries for the Stud Book, the entries closing on November 15 next. Preliminary arrangements were then made for the classes for Arabs and Arab-breds in 1920. The offer of Messrs. Horsburgh and Snowball to be honorary auctioneers was accepted. The Council then adjourned until their next meeting on December 3 at the Grosvenor Hotel, London.

SMYRNA REFUGEES.

We have received from Lausanne a copy of an "Appeal to the Great Powers and to the World's Opinion in Favour of the Refugees of Smyrna," signed for the permanent Bureau of the Turkish Congress of Lausanne by the President, K. Essad, and by the Secretary, H. Alitcher. The document cannot, owing to its length, be reproduced here, but its matter consists of a burning appeal for the end of the Greek occupation of Smyrna. It protests that peace is impossible while the Greeks remain at Smyrna; it states that all impartial observers condemn the Greek landing; and finally it proclaims that Turkish independence "they will never give up, to submit to the Hellenic yoke—never so long as the last Turk has not fallen by the eastern shores of the Ægean Sea will the Greek reign there in peace."

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Territorials in India.

Oct. 23.

Viscount PEEL, Under-Secretary for War, asked by Lord Harris what arrangements were being made for the relief of the Territorial officers and men serving in India, said the Forces in India under demobilisation on October 1 amounted to about 2,900 officers and 48,000 of other ranks. In these figures were included the Territorials in India, but it was not possible to extract from the return their precise numbers. In order to provide reliefs for these troops, 24,391 officers and men of the Regulars had already been embarked; 20,159 more were to be embarked during the present month, and 4,182 in November, making a total of 48,732. Only the small number of 2,168 were left to complete the demobilisation.

Peace Treaty with Afghanistan.

October 28.

A debate took place on Afghanistan, but one too long for reproduction here. Lord CURZON said, in replying to Lord Sydenham, that the treaty with Afghanistan was only the first stage of the negotiations between the Ameer and ourselves. The old subsidy, amounting to 20 lakhs of rupees per annum, was refused altogether, and there was no guarantee of protection against an unprovoked attack on our former Ally. We were waiting to see how the Ameer would conduct himself.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Egypt's "Nationalists."

October 23.

Captain W. BENN asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether his attention had been called to an appeal made by the Egyptian Nationalists to the United States Senate, and what steps, if any, he proposed to take in consequence.

Mr. HARMSWORTH: The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. It is not proposed to take any action in the matter.

The Army in Egypt.

Mr. FORSTER, Financial Secretary to the War Office, answering Lieutenant-Commander Kenworthy, said: The monthly cost of the British Army of Occupation in Egypt and Palestine is £2,400,000. I regret I cannot at the moment give separate figures, but I hope to be in a position to do so early next week.

Lieutenant-Commander KENWORTHY: How much is recoverable from the Egyptian Government, or does the total come from the Imperial Exchequer?

Mr. FORSTER: This goes on the Imperial Exchequer.

Mr. FORSTER informed Lieutenant-Commander Kenworthy that in September the number of white troops in Mesopotamia was 21,000 and the number of Indian troops 79,000. Of the British troops 501 had voluntarily enlisted for the post-war Army.

British Mission in Yemen.

October 28.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary for War whether the British Mission to the Imam of Yemen, which was stated to have been captured by independent Arabs on the road from Hodeida to Sanaa, had been released.

Mr. HARMSWORTH (who replied) said that three or four British officers, headed by Colonel Jacob, were on the way to visit the Imam of Yemen, when they were intercepted and detained by a small section of independent Arabs who did not recognise the authority of the Imam. The members of the Mission were being well treated, and all were in good health and in uninterrupted communication with friends. It was hoped that their release would shortly be effected.

Topics in Parliament.

(*The subjoined headings are those given in the official report.*)

INDIA: Waterways (Bengal and Assam).—PERSIA (TARIFF). EGYPT. INDIA: Chaplains (War Gratuity and Leave)—Persons Interned. (October 22.)

EGYPT: Nationalist Appeal to United States.—Army of Occupation (Cost). DEMOBILISATION: Mesopotamia.—Wiltshire Regiment. (October 23.)

INDIAN QUESTIONS. DEMOBILISATION: Troops in Mesopotamia: TROOPS IN EGYPT, LEAVE. INDIA: Army Reserve (Service Gratuities). EGYPT (LORD MILNER'S MISSION). (October 27.)

INDIA AND THE KHALIFATE.

We have received from the Islamic Information Bureau a copy of the following telegram from Seth Haji Mian Mohammed Chotani, president of mass meeting. It is dated Bombay, October 17, 1919:—

"Fifty thousand Mussalmans of Bombay, assembled in mass meeting, held in Jumma Masjid after Friday prayers, passed the following resolution, which I beg to forward:—This public meeting of the Mussalmans of Bombay, assembled in the Jumma Mosque, and held after solemn Friday prayers for the continuance and permanence of the temporal power of Khalifat ul Muslim, expresses its greatest anxiety and indignation over the threatened dismemberment of Turkey and the removal of the Holy Places of Islam from the Khalifa's control, and trusts that his Majesty's Ministers will secure fulfilment of the pledges of the Right Hon. Lloyd George, given on behalf of the British Empire, regarding Turkey, and thereby restore the confidence of the Mussalman subjects of his Majesty. This meeting approves of the proceedings and adopts the resolutions passed by the All-India Moslem Conference held at Lucknow on September 21, 1919."

Numerous telegrams to the same effect as the above have been received from other Moslem centres.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company propose this year to place the amount of the usual bonus of 6 per cent. on the Deferred stock of £200,000 to the reserve fund, and instead they propose to make a distribution of £200,000 of Deferred stock to the Deferred stockholders. The Deferred shares of £100 stand at about £650, so that it will be realised that a 6 per cent. stock distribution, which is what the proposal amounts to, will mean a very substantial bonus for shareholders. For the rest, it may be noted that the directors, after providing for the usual dividend on the Preferred shares, recommend a dividend of 6 per cent. on the Deferred stock for the six months, making 12 per cent. for the year.

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To provide for developments, it is understood that an increase in the capital of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company is to be expected. In outlining the programme of the company at the annual meeting in March, the chairman, Sir Charles Greenway, indicated that a further issue of capital would be required in due course for its fulfilment. The company has, of late, greatly enlarged its interests. Its most recent acquisition has been the Scottish shale oil companies, while it holds concessions for oil lands in Mesopotamia, Canada, and elsewhere, and has commenced the construction of a very large refinery at Swansea. Obviously, the development of new oilfields would give abundant scope for the employment of fresh capital, to say nothing of other enterprises connected with the transport and distribution of oil. The company's latest issues were 1,000,000 Participating Preference shares at a premium of 2s. 6d, and £1,800,000 of Five per Cent. Debentures, but in view of the wider prospects now before the company a much larger issue may be looked for this time.

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While the result of the Athens Exhibition has not been in doubt, in view of the extraordinary interest aroused in that important undertaking, not only in Greece, but throughout the Near East, it seems possible that its success may be even greater than was anticipated. It is, at any rate, quite clear that through the exhibition British traders will have been given an opportunity in the Near Eastern markets such as they could not have hoped to enjoy through any other medium, and as the Federation will be permanently represented in the most important Near East centres there are special grounds for hoping that the fullest advantage will be taken of this favourable position. First (telegraphic) news of the exhibition received is highly gratifying.

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During the twelve months ended April 30, 1918, there was a great improvement in the earnings of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., and this position has been practically maintained during the past year, the net profit amounting to £33,200, as compared with £33,700. With the balance brought forward the disposable balance is £36,100, and after making provision for the payment of the arrears of preference dividend it has been found possible to propose a dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent., leaving £10,400 to be carried forward, as against £2,900. This is the first distribution to the ordinary shareholders for a number of years, and in view of the improved prospects of the company there seems no reason why this should not at any rate be maintained.

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The general meeting of Harrison's and Crosfield, Ltd., was notable for an important review by the chairman, Mr. George Croll, of the prospects of the rubber and tea industries. As regards the former, he recalled that at the annual meeting of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust in 1918 he estimated that the production of plantation rubber would be 314,000 tons for 1919, 354,000 tons for 1920, 381,000 tons for 1921, 403,000 tons for 1922, and 430,000 tons for 1923, and that if the 1919 production was to be consumed there would have to be an increase in consumption of about 100,000 tons over 1917. His revised estimate of production for the present year is about 320,000, to which have to be added some 40,000 tons of wild rubber, making the total production 360,000 tons, while he anticipates that in 1920 the production will be between 360,000 and 370,000 tons. As regards consumption this year, he estimates the imports of the United States at 220,000 tons, of the United Kingdom at 40,000 tons, and the total at 350,000 tons; in other words, practically the same as production.

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In Mr. Croll's view consumption in the two following years will also take care of production, and he expressed the opinion that those who are interested in the producing end of the industry need not be apprehensive of production outpacing consumption. As regards the future, he pointed out that while the uses of the commodity are manifold and ever increasing, the great future of the industry is bound up with the development of motor transport. In this connection he remarked that the recent railway strike had probably been the means of awakening in this country a determination to have at the earliest possible date adequate facilities for road transport, and he expressed the conviction that in view of the impetus which had already been given to this means of conveyance, the rubber industry was more likely to be faced with a shortage of the raw material than with any prospect of over supply.

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As regards tea production, attention was drawn to the possibility of a world shortage in the future. They were approaching the period, said Mr. Croll, when it was highly probable that there would not be sufficient tea produced to meet adequately the world's requirements. The more profitable returns from rubber and the impossibility of extension during the war had resulted, he pointed out, in very small additions to the planted acreage in recent years; and he expressed the view that when America had liquidated the abnormal shipments of Java and Sumatra teas, and Russia was able to buy more freely, "the consumer in this country will in all probability have to be more economical in the use of this cheapest and best of beverages." In this connection it is interesting to note that while the figures for production in India were practically stationary from 1915 to 1917, the figures for 1915 being 372,000,000 lb., as against 370,000,000 for 1917, those for Ceylon show a progressive decline from 1915, when the total was 211,000,000 lb., to 1918, when it was 180,000,000 lb. The exports from Java also show a marked and continuous decrease, though in this case difficulties arising from the war are no doubt largely responsible for the reduction from 101,000,000 lb. in 1915 to 62,000,000 lb. in 1918. However one regards the position, it cannot be said that the outlook is at all satisfactory, and it is at any rate obvious that the prospects of a decline in the price of tea through increased production are of the slightest.

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One of the most important factors in regard to the development of British trade with Morocco is the question of adequate shipping facilities. Before the war the position in this respect was most unsatisfactory, and while the service at the present time is certainly improving, it will clearly have to be largely developed if British interests are to meet with proper support. Unfortunately, circumstances have not favoured the establishment of shipping services to Morocco. Reference is made in the report of the British Merchants' Morocco Association (which will be found on another page) to the restrictions in the export of produce from Morocco, which, it is pointed out, "have undoubtedly added to the difficulties of providing an increased and regular cargo service." Once these restrictions are removed, British companies will have every inducement to arrange services to Morocco, but the fact that until that action is taken they might have to undertake services at a loss naturally has a deterrent effect.

COMMENTATOR.

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Conditions in Persia.

Oil and Agriculture.

At a meeting of the Persia Society on October 22, an address was given on "War and Post-War Developments in the Persian Gulf," by Mr. C. A. Walpole, who has spent many years in the country. He began by describing conditions in Mohammerah as he found them in 1909, and went on to speak of subsequent developments up to the outbreak of the war.

The Anglo-Persian Oil Company's pipe-line was completed, he said, in August, 1912, and its kerosene appeared upon the local markets some ten months later. A certain amount of competition was met with from Roumanian and American oil. The former, which was marketed by the German firm of Wonckhaus and Co., soon disappeared, though the latter (Standard Oil, of course) of which there were very heavy stocks in the Persian Gulf, continued selling to a small extent. Owing to the war and the ultimate exhaustion of stocks, this source of competition also eventually ceased, and it was to be hoped that their American friends would not revive their "coals-to-Newcastle" policy, which, apart from its doubtful financial success, must be regarded as a serious waste of tonnage, seeing that their oil had to be transported in cargo ships all the way from America, whereas Persian oil was actually produced on the spot.

Exclusive of oil, the largest item of the export trade was the date business. It was a regular, straightforward business, and in so far as Mohammerah was concerned, was chiefly in the hands of the native, the groves being entirely owned by the Sheikh of Mohammerah. In the Busreh district the position was different—the trade was handled to a very large extent by European firms, though this was only after the crop had been *picked;* in other words, the native attended entirely to the cultivation and picking, handing over the picked fruit to the merchant, who attended to the packing, shipping, marketing, etc.

Next in importance came the grain business, i.e., wheat and barley. Though the cultivation of this was also at present carried out entirely by the native, this business was of far greater interest, in that it introduced such important questions as irrigation, the scope for the introduction of agricultural machinery, the improvement of land and river transport, etc. Moreover, the quality of Karun wheat was particularly good, the demand for it in Europe was always far in excess of the supply, and it was therefore clear that on this particular line of export much of the future prosperity of Arabistan depended. That the soil of the Karun Valley was particularly well suited for the growing of cereals, there could be no doubt: of this the native was fully aware, and that his profits in this respect were very considerable was proved in that he would at the particular seasons of the year throw up all other work, however remuneratively he was being paid, in order to do his ploughing and harvesting. At the present time the procedure in respect of grain was as follows: When the first rains fell (about the second or third week in November) ploughing and sowing commenced, thereafter rain fell at intervals during December, January and February, there being no cause for anxiety until late March—early April, by which time the sprouts made their appearance. It was then that the all-important "Nao-raz" rain was essential, and the measure of success of the crop depended almost entirely on the amount and date of arrival of this rain. Should no rain fall after early March (this happened not infrequently) the crop was practically an entire failure: should heavy rain fall about March 20 ("Nao-ruz," or the Persian New Year's Day) a good harvest was assured. The benefits of artificial irrigation were therefore patent, and in this respect there were, of course, two expedients: (1) The installation of pumps worked by oil engines; (2) irrigation from the rivers by means of dams and canals. The first expedient was practised with much success, but only on a small scale, on the Tigris in pre-war days, since when, however, through the encouragement and assistance of the British Government, this method of irrigation had greatly increased. On the Karun, however, though strenuous efforts had been made to introduce it, nothing had been done, owing partly to lack of enthusiasm on the part of the native landowner, and partly to the dislike of the Persian of any innovation, more especially one involving capital expenditure. He was speaking now of pre-war days, when the native was poor and the advantage of modern machinery almost unknown. He might say that he thought matters were now very different, and that granted satisfactory terms of credit could be arranged with the native, this method of irrigation would be readily adopted. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company had recently instituted a model farm near Shuster worked on these lines which was fully illustrating its advantage to the native. Also, many native merchants of Ahwaz and Shuster had during the past five years purchased mechanical flour mills and rice-shelling machines, which were running most successfully.

Use of Agricultural Machinery.

On their farm the Anglo-Persian Oil Company were also using up-to-date agricultural implements, and the economy in time and labour thereby effected was not being lost on the native. It should not be difficult to popularise the use of such machinery, more especially reaper-binding machines and thrashing machines, the introduction of which should prove of the greatest benefit, not only to the cultivator directly but to trade generally, in that, by its use, more labour would become available for other work—a point of the utmost importance in Arabistan and Mesopotamia at the same time. But the Karun Valley, of which he had been speaking, was not of nearly as great importance as a potential producer of grain for export as Central Persia, that rich and extremely fertile portion of which could, with direct and cheap rail transport to the Gulf, produce millions of tons of wheat and other cereals at a price which would enable it to compete in the European markets with the grain now imported from India, the Argentine, and other countries, and possibly even with grain grown in Mesopotamia.

While on the subject of farming, he might say that the Anglo-Persian Oil Company had also made small, but very successful, experiments in the growing of vegetables and cotton. The latter, namely, cotton, could, he thought, be grown on a large scale, and made to pay well, and this would also apply to Central Persia, which already grew considerable supplies for the Russian market. In fact, almost all branches of farming could, he thought, be successfully carried out. Even with the very inadequate pasture at present existent, sheep did very well indeed, and were farmed on a large scale by the natives. There was also a good opening for chicken and dairy farming which, if taken in hand by experts, and good breeds of birds and cattle introduced, should pay well.

Regarding the other method of irrigation, namely, by means of dams and canals, here, again, they have an illustration of its success in the Irak. He referred, of course, to the Hindieh barrage, the first of a series projected by Sir William Willcocks, and completed by Messrs. Sir John Jackson in 1914. On the Karun nothing of the sort has been attempted in modern times, with the exception of a small experiment by the British political authorities to revive an old canal system on the Mian-ab, the piece of land immediately below Shuster lying between the two branches of the Upper Karun, the Shat-Ait and the Gurger. Though, as just stated, the experiment was carried out on a small scale only, the result was satisfactory and economical, and would have opened the eyes of the native to the advantages of this method of irrigation.

Apart from the great initial expense of any extensive irrigation scheme in the Karun Valley, the point arose as to the effect which such a scheme would have upon the navigability of the Karun River. In the late summer months the Upper Karun was only navigable with difficulty, it being unsafe to load craft much below 2 ft. 3 ins. to 2 ft. 6 ins., and, with a large quantity of water diverted for other purposes navigation would, unless a very complex and expensive system were adopted, become impossible. A suggestion had been made not to tap the Karun, but that water might be obtained from the River Kerkeh, a fair-sized but unnavigable river some 25 to 30 miles west of the Karun, but whether or not such a scheme would be feasible, technically or politically, he was not in a position to say.

A further alternative was to utilise the water of the Karun for irrigation, and to construct a railway to replace river transport. Such a scheme, of course, brought up many outside considerations, which could not be dealt with here, but adhering simply to the point under review, the issue would seem to depend mainly on the relative cost of transport by river and transport by railway. Notwithstanding the flat nature of the ground between Mohammerah and Dizful, it might at first sight appear questionable whether rail could economically be substituted for river transport. But a closer study of the question showed conclusively that the former was by far the more economical method of transport, given a sufficiency of traffic. Among the direct advantages of rail transport would be the regularity of service—the time saved in transit—the elimination of transhipment from the Upper to the Lower Karun River (a most expensive item), and the greater security against loss and damage; whereas river transport must always necessarily be costly owing to the fact that only vessels of very shallow draught, and consequently of small cargo-carrying capacity, could be employed.

As regards Central Persia they might almost say that the problem of irrigation had been solved since the days of the Medes and Persians, by means of wooden and other aqueducts, which brought water down most efficiently from the surrounding sources to the cultivated lands, and this system could doubtless, were there a remunerative outlet for the crops, be extensively amplified at moderate cost.

Railway Projects.

In any case, now that Persia had at last determined to put her house in order and develop her undoubtedly large natural resources railways must come at no distant date. That a railway connecting Central Persia with the Persian Gulf and thereby short-circuiting the present enormously roundabout and expensive route, via Baghdad and the River Tigris, or even the contemplated lorry and rail route to the Mediterranean, via the Baghdad Railway, was of primary importance, there could be no doubt, and that such a line should, at the same time, tap the fertile district of the Karun Valley, would seem equally desirable. As already stated, and as could be seen by a glance at the map, the alignment Mohammerah-Dizful presented no great difficulties. This alignment was surveyed in detail by the Persian Railways Syndicate on behalf of the Persian Government as long ago as 1913, and a reconnaissance of the country northward as far as Khoramabad and Hamadan was also made. The map here showed the country as extremely mountainous, but, as a matter of fact, by following certain valleys and gorges, a good and perfectly feasible alignment was found, which it was the intention at once to survey in detail, had not war interrupted the Persian Railways Syndicate's operations. Such a line besides serving the Karun Valley and the grain-producing districts around Dizful, Jerrahi, etc., would tap one of the richest and most fertile parts of Persia, namely, the country round Burujird and Kermanshah, and enable the produce therefrom to be shipped in the Gulf at a cost even less than that of the grain shipped from Bombay or Karachi.

(To be continued.)

The Roumanian Press Bureau states that Mr. William Cozens Hardy, M.P., is now in Bucharest for the purpose of entering into negotiations with the Roumanian Government regarding the development of Roumanian natural resources.

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Administration of Palestine.

The Budget Statement for 1919-20.—II.

The main activities of the Agricultural Department have lain in reparation and in planting for re-afforestation. The total number of trees planted during 1918-1919 was 369,000. A large number of these were on Government waste land and where private owners used their own lands for afforestation the house and land tax was remitted. The number of trees estimated to be planted during 1919-1920 is 1,820,500 exclusive of private undertakings. Forest nurseries are maintained at Jerusalem, Beersheba, Beth Jemal, Gaza and Haifa, and a definite programme of afforestation has now been drawn up, dealing primarily with the hill tracts in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem, and with the planting of eucalyptus in malarial districts and of grasses and shrubs for the treatment of sand encroachment on the coast. In addition veterinary provision has had to be made for the elimination of cattle disease, which had been very prevalent under the previous regime, and in connection with which constant vigilance is necessary in view of the import of animals from O.E.T. (East) and their transit to Egypt.

It has been found necessary for the economic revival of the country to give direct assistance to the people by means of loans for agricultural improvements as was done by the Turks. Already some £E40,000 has been paid out on easy terms (6½ per cent. on the security of the land repayable over a period extending up to 5 years) to cultivators whose lands were ruined by the war, or were so heavily encumbered that they could not be worked. The greater portion of these loans so far has gone to save the orange gardens at Jaffa, and to tide over the temporary embarrassments of cultivators owing to the suspension of all land transactions. It is estimated that some £E100,000 in small sums will be required during the current year.

As regards the State Domains, owing to the fact that the Turkish records no longer exist, and to the want of a survey and a record of rights, considerable doubt exists in certain cases as to the exact limits of the State Domains, and cases have recently occurred where private proprietors have produced the title deeds to land which previously had been assumed to be public property. The greater part of the privately owned land in the territory is in the hands of small proprietors, but there is a number of large estates regarding which information is now being collected, and in which the peasants have occupancy rights and the proprietor is held responsible for the due payment of the taxes.

Police.

The police force has been reorganised and the estimated expenditure this year is for a slightly smaller force on higher rates of pay. Police duties last year were provided for throughout the territory on the European model, Egyptian military units being employed to make up for the deficiencies of the locally recruited force, but the general principle now followed is to improve the quality of the regular police and to resuscitate so far as possible the old Oriental system of local responsibility for watch and ward, a small highly trained regular force being held in reserve for emergency. The strength of the police force is still relatively high especially under a military occupation, but the special character of the country and the relative smallness of the military force at the disposal of the authorities, also the possibility of fanatical or nationalist outbreaks during the present period of uncertainty, are factors that cannot be neglected.

Public Works.

A Public Works Department has now been formed. Its expenditure has been confined to the maintenance of the necessary roads and buildings occupied by the Administration: beyond that it has not been possible to do anything to develop the country, though there are many works to be undertaken such as irrigation in the Jordan valley and Beisan, and the construction of new roads on an organised plan. The improvement of the water supply of towns and villages throughout the territory has been the subject of close attention, whilst the total lack of a proper drainage system in Jerusalem and elsewhere is a cause of great anxiety, as until this deficiency has been remedied most careful restriction of the water supply is necessary. The temporary nature of the Administration has precluded the initiation of any scheme in this connection, and has delayed the inauguration of an Archæological Department, for which a credit of £E10,000 was proposed and the scientific work of which was to be controlled by a Board consisting of the director of the Public Works Department, and the heads of the French, Italian, American, and British Archæological Schools working in Palestine.

Public Health.

Expenditure under Public Health has been directed to anti-malarial measures, general public health and hospitalisation. Vital statistics and the general condition of the population indicate clearly that anti-malarial measures are an essential preliminary to all other steps for the moral and material improvement of the country. The disease occurs everywhere and affects every class of the inhabitants though the percentage is highest among the exotic Jews. It is due largely to the cistern system of water supply in vogue throughout the country, to the want of proper drainage in swampy land and to unsuitable irrigation in certain areas. The measures in hand are the oiling of cisterns and use of gold-fish and the drainage of certain agricultural areas, whilst it is proposed to increase the prophylactic use of quinine by the sale of this drug at the Post Offices.

Medical inspection and sanitary organisation of every town and village have been provided for. Unhealthy trades have come under regulation, and three regular epidemic staffs have been maintained at convenient centres to provide against the occurrence of epidemics. The departure of the American Red Cross Commission and a reduction of the assistance formerly rendered by the Zionist organisation have entailed a considerable increase of hospitalisation, whilst analytical and bacteriological laboratories have had to be established, and proper provision for quarantine at the ports to meet international conventions has had to be made.

Education.

Expenditure on education has been confined to the continuance under more efficient administration of the provision made by the Turks before the war with the addition of two new normal colleges, one for male and one for women teachers. Subject to inspection from headquarters the management of the schools is relegated to local educational committees. The number of children provided for in this way is 10,000, boys and girls, mostly Mohammedans. The Christian and Jewish communities maintain their own schools, the former, providing for 7,000 children, being open to all religions alike, the latter providing for 10,000 children, being confined to Jews. The Christian Schools are generally self-supporting, whilst the Jewish are maintained by funds from outside sources. A small provision has been made in each district for technical instruction in the industry most prevalent there.

Relief Measures.

Relief measures have had to be carried on during the year owing to the continuation of the abnormal economic conditions produced by the war. In Jerusalem alone there are approximately 10,000 persons or 1-6 of the total population in need of relief, and in most of the towns of the territory the burden has been greater than the local community could bear, and grants have therefore had to be made by the Administration, endeavours always being made to provide work rather than gratuitous relief. Special measures have also had to be estimated for to relieve particular elements of the population, such as in the case of the failure of the Beersheba cereal crop from want of rain, repair of war damages of certain villages which were in the firing line, and obligations due to the withdrawal of the American Red Cross Commission, the Syrian and Palestine Relief Fund and other charitable institutions.

Municipalities.

The number of town municipalities remains unchanged, but rural councils in addition are now being formed for the self-government of village circles as prescribed by Turkish law. It is hoped that before the end of the year all purely local services throughout the country will be provided and administered by these bodies. A new group of local corporations, exercising an important influence, has now developed itself in the revival of the chambers of commerce, which collect their own funds and are recognised by the Administration as semi-official representatives of commercial communities. The municipalities' Budget is excluded from the central accounts and, largely as a result of financial co-ordination and advice from the Administration, their revenues have made considerable progress, the total income this year being estimated at £E89,239, as against £E34,604 during the preceding year.

The report points out that the idea of local self-government and financial responsibility has been assiduously fostered by the Administration, and that there has also been a very marked improvement as regards efficiency. The majority of the municipalities are Mussulman in composition; some are entirely Christian, and in the towns where there is a Jewish element this is also proportionately represented. They have succeeded in rendering themselves financially independent, and except in the case of a few of the poorer bodies no grants in aid or loans from the Administration had been necessary. It is not thought that the assistance required in this respect during the current year will amount to more than £E2,500.

ROUMANIAN TRADE NOTES

Oil Production and Export.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, October 16.

The daily production of petroleum in Roumania before the war averaged about 5,000 tons daily. This figure has not been reached since the destruction of the oil wells in 1916, and the recent strike of workmen on the oilfields hindered the production considerably. Since the settlement of this dispute, however, the production has reached the figure of about 3,000 tons per day, and considering the present lack of material this production is as satisfactory as could be expected. Furthermore, the limited shortage of accommodation for oil and products at present available has also an influence on the growth of production, and the recent decree suspending the consolidation laws will have the effect of stultifying fresh enterprise for some time to come.

The contract made with the Standard Oil Company by the Government through the Export Bureau "Birex"—in which are grouped together for export purposes the largest producing companies in Roumania—provides for the export by February 28, 1920, of 70,000 tons of oil products. A further contract has been recently concluded with Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Boyle—acting on behalf of the British Government—for the sale and export of 50,000 tons of oil products.

Control of Prices.

The Craiova Chamber of Commerce has created a department for the purpose of combating profiteering. With this object in view it will control the invoices of the merchants and stabilise selling prices. The price lists which the shopkeepers are legally obliged to affix in their shops will be visèd by this department. It is stated that the Ministry of Industry and Commerce considers this a practical measure, and has under consideration the advisability of making its application general throughout the country.

As the result of proposals made by the mixed commission working in connection with the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce, it is suggested that a Superior Council shall be set up by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for the purpose of advising on all questions relating to the reduction in the cost of living and to deal with the fixing of prices, branches of this Council to be set up in connection with the various Chambers of Commerce in all parts of the country.

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THE BRITISH MERCHANTS' MOROCCO ASSOCIATION.

The second annual report of the council of the British Merchants' Morocco Association states that many matters of varying degrees of importance have been dealt with, and the labours of the council, more especially in connection with the safeguarding of British interests in Morocco, are likely to prove of permanent benefit to the members of the association. The preservation of British treaty rights, in regard to Moroccan trade, continues to engage the attention of the council. Germany, by the peace treaty, relinquishes all her rights within the Shereefian Empire. No information is, however, available as regards the application of the terms of the peace treaty by Spain to the Spanish Zone. As regards the other signatories to the Act of Algeciras, France now desires to be relieved of the obligations of the Act of Algeciras and the Franco-German Treaties of 1909 and 1911, as also of the system of the Capitulations. There is every reason for hoping that, in any event, British interests will be adequately safeguarded, and it is understood France is morally pledged, subject to the surrender of the international servitudes, to the principle of the "open door" in the French Protectorate—*i.e.*, commercial, economic, and industrial equality for all the Allied Powers who were signatories to the Act of Algeciras. The council have continued to press for the appointment of a British Commercial Attaché to Morocco, and it is hoped that an appointment will be made. A special Commission, consisting of Mr. E. H. Mulock and Mr. L. N Barker, was despatched to Morocco in October, 1918, by the Department of Overseas Trade. These gentlemen made an extensive and lengthy tour in Morocco, and, it is understood, were impressed with the opportunities presented for the development of British trade—both present and prospective. Their official report, which will shortly be available, is eagerly awaited.

Shipping Services.

In the meantime, by the courtesy of the Department of Overseas Trade, conversations have taken place between the council and Messrs. Mulock and Barker, and matters of interest to British traders have been discussed. Messrs. Mulock and Barker lay great stress on the necessity for greatly increased cargo steamship services between the United Kingdom and Morocco. It will be of interest to members, as evidence of the desire on the part of the Department of Overseas Trade to develop British trade with Morocco, to know that arrangements have been made whereby members of H.M. Consular Service returning from Morocco to this country are to be put in touch with the association. The council is advised that a branch of the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., will shortly be opened at Rabat. Notwithstanding many difficulties encountered by the steamship companies during the later stages of the war, the steamship services between this country and Morocco were, if not adequate, at least reasonably maintained. Steps were taken by the association in September last, in support of measures instituted by the British Chamber of Commerce for Morocco, with a view to obtaining the release of the Bland steamers, Gibel Hamam and Gibel Derif, from requisition. The representations made by the association resulted in expediting the restoration of the s.s. Gibel Derif to Messrs. Bland. Representations were made to the Ministry of Shipping in January last in support of an application by the Power Steamship Company for permission for the steamer Pangbourne to resume loading homewards. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company also took steps to obtain permission for the steamer Arzila to load on the homeward berth. Permission was obtained in the case of both steamers, to the benefit of British trade. The restrictions on the export of produce from Morocco have undoubtedly added to the difficulties of providing an increased and regular cargo service, but it is hoped that the British steamship companies will in the near future take active steps to cater effectively for the Moroccan trade, and thus render it unnecessary for British merchants to look elsewhere The council realise that the question of transport between the United Kingdom and Morocco is of vital importance to members of the association, and, now that the war is over, the council will make every effort to secure an adequate steamship service. It is understood that the P. and O. Steam Navigation Company intend to resume, as soon as possible, their passenger service with Tangier. The facilities obtained by the association from the War Trade Department in October, 1917, for a specified period, for the import of China green tea into England for transit to Morocco, were renewed by the authorities, enabling a continuance of the trade without a break, limited only by the freight space available. The association was also instrumental in obtaining a modification of the restrictions on the export of green teas in warehouse in London. Permission to export reasonable quantities of dyes to Morocco was obtained in November.

Restrictions on Exports.

Steps taken by the association in December, 1918, were successful in expediting a modification of the restrictions on the export of candles in January. Whilst on this side exports to Morocco are no longer restricted by Orders in Council, the operation of the high French rate of exchange is considerably curtailing orders from the French Protectorate; the low rate of pesetas, on the other hand, is in favour of exporters from this country to the Spanish Provinces and Zone of Morocco. The position in regard to the export of produce from Morocco to this country continues, so far as the French Zone is concerned, to be very unsatisfactory to British merchants. The restrictions on exports were instituted as a war measure, with the object of maintaining the provisioning of Morocco and of supplying, as far as was possible, the needs of France, and His Majesty's Government acquiesced in these measures as being necessary for the successful prosecution of the war. So soon as the Armistice was signed, the council at once renewed its efforts to secure greater freedom of export, and the restrictions on the export of certain classes of produce were gradually removed. Wheat, barley, maize, oats, sorgho, beans, and lentils remain up to the date of this report under prohibition of export, and are being purchased by the French Protectorate authorities in order to ensure the provisioning of the French Army in Morocco and the civil population, any balance remaining to be sold by the French authorities. Eggs may only be exported to France. These regulations operate against British trade rights in the French Protectorate, and H.M. Government are being pressed to obtain the early restoration of freedom of export of all produce under British Treaty Rights. The question of the teaching of the English language in Morocco is now engaging the serious attention of the council of the association and of the British Chamber of Commerce for Morocco. Active steps are being taken by the chamber as regards a British school at Tangier. British schools are required in all the principal towns in Morocco, and correspondence is being exchanged between the association and H.M. Government, who are being appealed to for official support. Members are asked to follow the example of the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., by promising their definite financial support and encouragement. The continued neglect of the provision by the Spanish authorities of good roads between the International Zone of Tangier and the French Protectorate is deeply regretted by all desiring rapid means of communication. Great Britain has a warm friend in Senor Merry del Val, the Ambassador in London, and British trade enterprise in the Spanish Provinces and Zone of Morocco is cordially welcomed by the Spanish authorities. Representations have been made to the Colonial Office on the subject of the pilfering of goods shipped to Gibraltar in transit to Morocco, and the association was advised in April that official measures had been instituted for checking the evil. Messrs. Bland advise that they are co-operating in every possible way with a view to the protection of cargo under their control.

PALESTINE AND ITALIAN COMMERCE.

L'Esplorazione Commerciale of Milan in its September issue draws the attention of its readers to the commercial possibilities of Palestine. According to our contemporary, while before the war the value of all Ottoman exports and imports amounted to about £2 per capita, those of Palestine attained £6—that is, £750,000 and £1,310,000 respectively for a population of 375,000, and showed a steady increase from 1886 onward. The Ottoman Government fully appreciated that Palestine was the millenary old highway between Asia Minor, Arabia and Egypt and dowered her with a greater railway mileage than any other portion of the Empire. To this is now added the Cairo-Gaza railroad. Apart from very favourable prospects for stock-raising, the Palestinian industries that have a certain future are wine and spirit making, marmalade, soap, tobacco, cigarettes, and fisheries. The country has abundance of water for both irrigation and hydraulic power. There is, moreover, the tourist traffic, which may vie with that of Switzerland, as it attracts Christians, Jews, and Moslems, and must now notably enrich this land of natural and historic beauty. "It would be unpardonable," adds our contemporary, "if the statesmen, churchmen, merchants, industrialists, and agriculturists of Italy, the nearest of the great Powers, were not alive to the great importance that without doubt Palestine has for us."

An Italo-Greek Committee.

Under the auspices of the Italian Colonial Institute an Italo-Greek Committee has been formed in Rome to further the economic and intellectual relations of the two countries. The president is Dr. Giacomo Guiseppe Mondello, member of Parliament, and the Greek Consul-General at Rome is among the councillors. There are four vice-presidents. Development of the exchange of artistic productions, of technical and commercial students and teachers, and of ideas between the professional classes of the two countries is a chief plank in the programme of the committee.

"DELAYS IN SERBIA."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—With reference to the paragraph "Delays in Serbia," published in your paper of October 24 (page 444), the Press Bureau of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in London is authorised to make the following statement:—

1. The Government of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes decided some time ago to take measures of reprisal against the Roumanian Government by stopping goods and luggage destined for Roumania. These measures are the result of the Roumanian Government's decision forbidding the export of material manufactured at the Recisa (Resitza) factory, near Temesvar, and ordered by our Government for the reconstruction of a bridge across the River Save, near Belgrade, the reconstruction of which is in the interests of European communications.

2. Small luggage was not detained by our authorities, but heavy luggage was stopped and stored in the railway warehouses at Szabadka. In order to help travellers, the heavy luggage, which had been confiscated up to September 12, was returned to them through their respective Consuls at Bucharest, by the decision of our Minister of Finance.

3. The measure of reprisal will be removed immediately upon the removal of the sequestration of material for the bridge by the Roumanian Government, as the sequestration is utterly unreasonable and the material greatly needed.

Thanking you in anticipation for the publication of the above,—Yours truly,

L. SMODLAKA.

The Serbian Press Bureau,
115, Gloucester Road, S.W.,
October 24.

A Reuter message states that the imports into India for the month of September amounted to £11,201,000 and the exports to £20,644,000. The imports have increased by £1,625,000 and the exports by £7,729,000 as compared with the corresponding month last year. The exports surpass all previous records.

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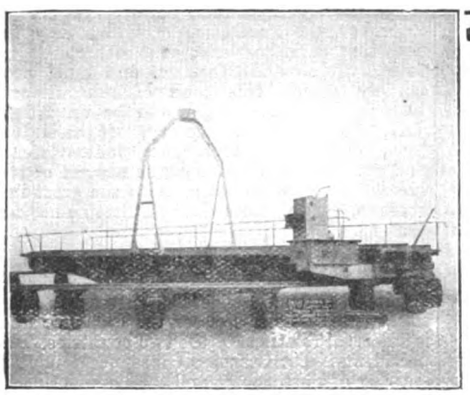

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Engineering.

POWER GAS.

As power gas is likely to come more largely into use in all parts of Europe in the near future it is interesting to recall that its first appearance as a commercially possible power producer was not on an experimental or small scale, but the inventor was so confident of its success that he spent a fortune in the laying down the equipment necessary on the strength of the results of a few laboratory experiments and his unbounded confidence in his own accuracy and ability.

His faith justified itself, and the plant, as soon as it was completed, began to turn out power gas on a bigger scale than any gas works had previously turned out the specially rich gas used for lighting purposes. The apparatus required has changed very little since the day it was designed; few departures have been made from the ideas of the original inventor, and the simplicity of the apparatus required for the manufacture of power gas from almost any material of a carbonaceous nature is one of the chief sureties of the continued popularity of the process.

It does not matter what material is available, whether it be good coal, ordinary brown coal or lignite, peat, sawdust, old and rotting timber; in short, any combustible rubbish. It can all be dealt with in a gas producer and turned into power gas which can be used in any modern gas engine or in other ways. The apparatus is not costly, and no skill is required to work the apparatus—in fact, it may practically be said that it works itself!

The advantages of using power gas have been summarised, and are as follows:—The cheapest kind of fuel can be made use of, and consequently ample supplies of power can be obtained at a very low cost. Very little labour, and that only of an unskilled quality, is required, and the heating value of the gas is equal to, roughly, about 86 per cent. of the total heat energy contained in the fuel from which it is produced, and it can be obtained on a large scale at a price of rather less than one penny per 1,000 cubic feet. What this means will be realised when it is mentioned that one ton of rough coal dust will provide upwards of 150,000 cubic feet of power gas having a heating value of at least 140 British thermal units per cubic foot. The quantity of gas required to produce an indicated horse power hour in a large gas engine varies, but it may be taken as being between 50 and 60 cubic feet. One ton of ordinary low-grade fuel, then, will produce at least 2,500 horse-power-hours, if gasified in a proucer and used in a gas engine. This means that it will produce 2,500 horse-power for one hour, or 1 horse-power for 2,500 hours, or any other combination, as 25 horse-power per 100 hours. That is to say, that one ton of low quality fuel, turned into power gas and used in a gas engine, will give out 300 per cent. more power than it would were it used in one of the finest furnaces in the world for steam-raising purposes.

It has been pointed out, and rightly, by those engineers who so strongly advocate the use of power gas, that in every steam plant working with a variable or intermittent load a considerable amount of the power is absolutely wasted. Of course, some loss under this head is quite unavoidable, as the plant has to be ready when at work to supply any sudden demand that may be made upon it. It was soon realised that the use of the large gas engine, in conjunction with a power gas producer, reduced the stand-by losses, as they are termed, to a minimum.

In connection with the most modern forms of power gas producers a regenerator is used by which a very large proportion of the heat that would otherwise be wasted is used to full advantage. This heat is transferred, as a matter of fact, to the air-blast which is so essential a part of the apparatus. This transference of heat cools the gas before it is passed to the cleaning portion of the apparatus, and so has another advantage which it would not otherwise possess. In the washer a fine stream of water meets the gas and washes any dust from it and cools it still further. After being washed in this manner it passes, if the production is on so large a scale as to merit this addition to the apparatus, to an acid tower, where the ammonia present in the gas is removed and changed to sulphate of ammonia. As everyone is aware, this is one of the most valuable fertilisers known to modern science, and where the plant is on a large enough scale the recovery of the sulphate of ammonia will more than pay for the fuel and establishment charges, and so allow of the power being obtained for nothing.

A REMARKABLE ENGINE.

For many years engineers have sought to design an engine which should be more efficient than the locomotive used for railway purposes, the big steam engine as used for driving factories and workshops, and even the internal combustion engine as fitted in the most modern and up-to-date motor-cars. Until recently it was believed that the latter type represented the utmost limit of efficiency in the improved form in which it is being used for the biggest aeroplanes. At the same time it was known that the steam turbine and the heavy oil engine of the Diesel and semi-Diesel types ran it very closely in most essentials.

A point about both the internal combustion and the Diesel engine which is worthy of notice is that they only develop their full horse-power at what are known as their critical speeds. That is to say, that if an engine of this type gives, for example, twenty horse-power at 1,000 revolutions per minute, it will not give out ten horse-power at 500, but at that speed would perhaps only produce about one or one and a-half horse-power. With the steam turbine this advantage was not found to exist to the same degree, and in the ordinary steam engine it was found that a fair standard of efficiency can be maintained irrespective of engine speed.

Further disadvantages connected with the internal combustion engine, of whatever type it may be, are that it cannot start itself from rest and that it cannot carry an appreciable overload for more than a comparatively short time. It is also necessary to keep the cylinders as cool as possible; in fact, the heat generated during the working stroke actually tends to impair the efficiency of the engine, and it is necessary for this to be removed as quickly as possible.

It has always been known to engineers that this removal of heat, necessary though it is in the present state of our knowledge, actually represents a waste of power; in the perfect engine every atom of heat should be utilised in producing pressure on the piston and consequent power. In fact, in the steam engine, of whatever type, one of the first considerations of the engineer is to save as much heat and prevent as much wastage as possible. It is for that reason that he covers bare steam pipes, cylinders, and boilers with some substance which is a non-conductor of heat.

There were some serious steps taken about half a century ago to make some use of this heat wasted during the working of engines of the internal combustion type. At that date gas engines, working from ordinary coal gas, were the only engines of the kind in use, although some years before a scientist had devised an engine which ran on gunpowder, introduced in the form of small charges at each downward stroke into the cylinder. The method suggested and tentatively adopted was to force a tiny jet of water into the explosion chamber at each stroke, to cool it and at the same time to add to the power by being converted into steam. There was very little in the idea as at that time carried out, and it gradually became forgotten.

Now, however, a far more scientific method of utilising waste heat has been devised by a British scientist, and it is claimed that the 'Still" engine is not only more efficient than any other engine at present on the market, but that it constitutes a revolution in engine design—a revolution of which the far-reaching effects cannot as yet be estimated.

The new engine can use in its main cylinder any of the known forms of liquid or gaseous fuel. That is to say, that it will run on alcohol, benzol, petrol (essence), paraffin, petroleum, naphtha, coal gas, acetylene gas, uncleaned producer gas, gas from the distillation of wood, peat, coal, lignite, oil gas or heavy or fuel oils. It will not only work perfectly on these fuels, but it will make full use of every atom of the heat which in other types of explosion engines, as they were once called, was lost in the process of cooling the cylinders and in the exhaust gases.

The power thus gained is used in each upward stroke of the piston, and since in the ordinary internal combustion engine only one stroke out of four is used for power purposes it is obvious that the addition of what is, in effect, two more working strokes per cycle must increase not only the efficiency but what is known as the flexibility of the engine. It also adds greatly to its smoothness of running.

The heat hitherto lost in the manner mentioned is used for raising the temperature of the water which is used, in this as in the earlier types of engines, for cooling the cylinders during the explosion stroke. This water is arranged to work in a circulating system which may be either part of the engine or of an ordinary steam-raising system outside.

A secondary advantage of the uniform cooling which is obtained in this way is that the temperature of the cylinder is kept constant, and is consequently not called upon to withstand the tremendous strains and stresses met with in internal combustion engines of the ordinary type; strains and stresses which are sufficient, where the design is not good, not only to distort the cylinders and valve pockets, but even in extreme cases to crack the latter and so to do considerable damage. But the chief advantage of the new engine, which renders it epoch-making in the history of engine design, is the great increase in efficiency obtained.

There have been ample proofs given that by the new design the quantity of steam generated from the jacket or water-cooling device alone averages over 3¼ lb., and from the jacket and exhaust combined 6 lb. per brake horse-power. These figures in themselves do not convey much impression of the great increase in efficiency to the mind of the reader who is not possessed of great engineering knowledge, and so it may be said, to make the matter clear, that this hitherto wasted, but now utilised, heat gives an additional pressure of 14 lb. per square inch of piston surface during each return stroke of the piston.

Tests show that the average pressure during the explosion, or power producing stroke, of an internal combustion engine of the most improved and efficient type is about 90 lb. per square inch of piston surface, and we see, consequently, that from the new method of working, without any addition to the fuel being required or any further attention being necessary; in short, without any further cost whatever ex-

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cept the standing charges (establishment charges, overhead charges, as rent, rates, taxes, interest on capital, depreciation, etc.) an effective working pressure per complete cycle is gained of 90 plus 23 or 113 lb. per square inch. This represents an increase in efficiency of no less than 31 per cent., a result which amply justifies the small additional cost necessary to fit the water circulating and steam utilisation system.

In some forms of this engine, as has been mentioned above, an external boiler can be used. It is the usual practice for this to generate steam at a pressure of 72 lb. per square inch, and when this is the case we get the remarkable result of 90 lb. (the pressure generated by the gas explosion) plus 72 plus 72 or 234 lb. of useful pressure in a cylinder in which by the ordinary internal combustion engine method only 90 lb. of pressure would have been available. Such an engine could be started up from cold on steam raised by the outside boiler, and it would then commence working on its liquid or gaseous fuel as an internal combustion engine as soon as the first cycle was completed.

A further point, and one in which this engine possesses a decided advantage over an engine working on heavy oil, such as a Diesel or semi-Diesel engine, is that the first charge of fuel injected into the explosion chamber can be fired with a compression only one half of that previously required.

It is perhaps too early to say exactly in what direction the new engine will prove most useful. It does not appear as though it could be adapted as yet for small high-speed automobile engines, but it is certainly one that should prove superior to any other existing type for stationary work, whether for driving mill or agricultural machinery, for pumping or for generating electric power. It should also prove specially useful for marine work, and in that connection it may be mentioned that it is already considerably developed. There is no doubt that it will ultimately either decrease the initial cost of power equipment in industrial and manufacturing work or greatly increase the power obtainable from engines occupying the same space as the less efficient units of present-day type and design. In locomotive work, for both passenger and goods transport, it should give splendid results, either enabling trains to travel more quickly with engines of the same size as at present, or by allowing more goods or passengers to be hauled by engines of the present size and weight.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

Land Cultivation at Night.

Owing to the scarcity of labour and machinery during the latter part of the war, a resourceful Lincolnshire agriculturist decided to continue the work of ploughing at night by the use of flares placed at various points in the field. The experiment apparently gave satisfactory results, for others soon followed his example, and the news reached certain landowners in the Near East, who, it is said, have recently been making inquiries as to the kind of lights used, and how they were used. Ploughing at night is not a novelty, however, for it has been practised in New South Wales first by a British farmer some years ago, and, we believe, has been popular since, among large farmers there. It is probable that the use of "flares" was a temporary arrangement for the occasion, but in New South Wales the lighting was more systematic. In that case two powerful acetylene headlights were attached to the traction engines, or tractors which were drawing the ploughs, and the ground was so well and brilliantly lighted that the operator could work over the field quite as well as by daylight. It seems that the practice is likely to spread, and in view of the climatic conditions in the Near East, where the hurrying on of field work is very often necessary, we think that landowners and farmers using either steam traction engines or oil tractors for ploughing and other field work would welcome this practice of working at night. Acetylene is very much in use there, even in rural districts, and the fixing of the head-lights, which it is advisable to provide from a British maker, is the work of an ordinary mechanic.

Mining in Syria.

In last week's issue reference was made in these columns to the high qualities of Syrian bitumen. Apart from bitumen, Syria possesses great mineral wealth, and just a year before the war a company was formed locally to procure mining concessions, and had five or six projects in hand including prospecting for petroleum, etc., in the Yarmuk Valley at about 118 miles distance by rail from Damascus on the Haifa-line, and also in the Ghor el Arbian vale, which is rather nearer, and at Kafraniye, and again for iron in the district of Salt and near that town. In the vicinity of the Dead Sea it was proposed to prospect for iodine, bromine, asphalt, and bitumen. As to the coal or lignite at Erni on Mount Hermon, no mining is now going on, but a concession for the term of ninety-nine years has been applied for.

Condensation of Milk.

With the exception of a few of the larger towns, there is generally a great scarcity of milk in the East during certain months of the year, while at some periods it cannot be obtained at all, and only during the summer is there an abundance of it everywhere. It cannot be a matter of surprise, therefore, that condensed milk should be coming more and more into use in that region, in spite of its present high price, which is the consequence of the recent war and the heavy import duty, condensed milk being classed in some countries as an article of luxury. At present only the "European provision stores" and local chemists sell condensed milk.

Apart from this scarcity in the East, it is a well-known fact that the consumption of condensed milk is on the increase everywhere, and only the difficulty of obtaining small milk-condensing plants has hitherto prevented the establishment of such enterprises in the colonies or abroad, where milk is abundant and cheaper than in Switzerland or Holland. But now, with the invention and introduction of small plant of this description, such discouragement disappears, and we hear that already in Australia there are about twenty or thirty condensed milk factories of various sizes. In the East, and especially in the Balkan States, Asia Minor, Greece, etc., the establishment of such factories would herald a new era for the pastoral and agricultural classes.

A Small Condensing Plant.

The plant that is most adapted for a beginning in the East is a small one, simple in construction and handling. By it the superfluous fresh milk during the summer can be economically used and put aside ready to be placed on the market when a favourable opportunity occurs. The condensed milk produced by this plant could easily compete with the brands imported. The machinery consists of an engine and a vacuum pump, a sugar-melting pan, a condenser connected with a vacuum pan by a vapour pipe, a couple of scalding pans, a cooling tank, tin churns, and other accessories for air suction, water circulation, etc. The new milk is first turned into either of the scalding pans, and after being heated to the required temperature is drawn by a pipe into the vacuum pan, where it is reduced by continuous boiling, but at a temperature not exceeding 120 degs., to somewhere about one-quarter of its original bulk. It is next drawn off through another pipe into the tin churns, and placed in the cooling tank, which is provided with agitators or stirrers, the condensed milk, after being cooled in this tank, being then ready for packing into the well-known small tins for retailing. This plant is made in various sizes for dealing with from five up to 300 gallons of new milk per hour.

Petroleum Motors for Egypt.

In Egypt power gas motors or semi-stationary steam engines are mostly employed where great power is required, whilst motors using crude petroleum are favoured where medium or small power is sufficient. The latter are widely used by cultivators for working irrigation pumps, mills, etc. Motors of from 10 to 50 h.p., burning mazout or petroleum residues, are said to have a great future in Egypt on account of the low price of petroleum residues imported from Sumatra and Roumania and the presence of petroleum deposits in the neighbourhood of the Red Sea.

MACHINERY AND RAILWAY PLANT FOR SOUTH RUSSIA.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Rostov-on-Don, under date of September 15, reports that several of the Railway Companies and Government, Industrial and other establishments in South Russia have formed an association, with a capital of 50,000,000 roubles, for the purpose of making purchases abroad of the various machinery, railway plant, and other goods required by the subscribers. It is proposed to work the scheme on the barter principle, and as some of the members are very influential they may succeed in obtaining the necessary goods for transport. The temporary address of the head office is as follows:—The Buying Committee of the Economic and Technical Association of the Liberated Provinces of Russia, 116, Bolshaya Sadovaya Street, Rostov-on-Don.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.

The outstanding feature of interest is the new schedule of maximum prices for dried fruits which allows an increase of 4d. per lb. for currants at 1s. 2d. The Government has purchased a large quantity of currants, and the distribution for the Christmas trade is on the point of being made.

Sultanas.

An increase of 6d. is allowed for in the new schedule, which raises the price to 1s. 6d. per lb. The alterations as regards this commodity and currants are viewed with satisfaction by the trade.

Coffee.

This week 3,674 packages were offered at auction, and met with a fair demand. Costa Rica good bold greenish was done for export at 155s. to 155s. 6d., and for home consumption at 146s. Uganda bold greenish came to business at 138s. for export, while medium fetched 129s. for home consumption. The present position is that supplies are ample, and quotations are, therefore, steady. There is unfavourable news of the Ecuador crop, which is reported to be the smallest on record. This country cannot be affected directly thereby, but it would obviously mean an increased demand for the South American product. The futures market has been quiet. Quotations are: December, 122s.; March, 117s. 3d.; May, 112s. 10½d.; July, 110s. 6d.; and September, 108s. 9d.

Sugar.

The raw market has been steady but quiet, with a moderate demand on the part of manufacturers. The American beet sugar production is expected to amount to 953,000 tons, compared with 765,000 tons. It is further estimated that there will be a surplus for export of beet sugar in Slovakia, Moravia, and Bohemia of 881,000,000 lb.

Oilseeds.

Linseed has been very firm. Calcutta to London, November-December sold at 42s. 6d. per cwt., Bombay do 44s., while the quotations for Calcutta to Hull is 43s., and for Bombay to Hull 44s. 6d. Rapeseed has remained firm. Real bold Ferozepore October November is quoted 36s., while Toria is 37s. Egyptian cotton seed has been exceptionally firm.

Oil Cakes, etc.

Cottonseed cake has been done at from 10s. to 22s. per cwt., while rapeseed cake has fetched 18s. There has been a marked demand for fine soya-bean cake at 500s. per ton. Decorticated arachis cake has been done at from 480s. to 500s., but there has been a poor demand for palm kernel cake at 340s. Oils are quiet, linseed is 90s. spot, and the same rate for November-December.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following particulars are taken from the C.E.B. report for August :—

Gum.

The exports during August were, via Port Sudan, 535,089 kilos of Hashab gum of the value of £E24,279, 5,083 kilos of bleached of the value of £E212, and 101,369 kilos of Talh of the value of £E3,298; and via Halfa 78,646 kilos of Hashab, of the value of £E3,103, and 97,485 kilos of Talh of the value of £E2,387.

Kordofan Province.—3,336 kantars were sold in the El Obeid market during the month, as against 10,240 during the same month of 1918. The average price was £1.485 m/ms. per kantar of 100 rottles. 2,085 kantars arrived from Nahud, compared with 617 kantars last year. There were no arrivals at Rahad during the month. In the Um Ruaba two kantars were sold at an average price of £1.000 m/ms. per kantar, as against 1 kantar last year.

Sennar Province.—697 kantars of Hashab and 258 kantars of Talh gum were exported from Singa out of store. There has been none on the markets.

Cotton.

Red Sea Province.—Tokar.—Two excellent floods watered the Delta about the 8th and 16th. The first one seems to have been of considerable volume and irrigated many hods in the east central portion of the Delta. Sowing began on the western side (which received some irrigation with the first of the two floods) about the middle of the month. Considerable areas are still reported too wet for sowing. As far as one can tell at present the prospects for next season are good.

Berber Province.—Crops on the pumps have continued to do well except at Kitiab, where the formation of a sandbank under the pumps stopped the pumping for some fifteen days. The cotton has lost a good many bolls owing partly to climatic conditions and partly to shortage of water. Maize also has done badly at Kitiab, but the damage is due more to stem borer than water shortage.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in September :—

Cotton.

Lower Egypt.—The improvement noted last month has continued, and the notation figure now stands at 93. The first picking was general by the middle of the month. Yields are uneven this season; in many cases well above the average of recent years, in other cases disappointingly low. The prospects of the second picking are rather poor. It is becoming increasingly frequent for cultivators to delay the first picking, so as to take all the cotton in one picking.

Middle and Upper Egypt.—The crop is about normal. Picking is well advanced.

The weather has been favourable and the water supply sufficient. The attack of the pink boll-worm has, over the whole season, been less serious than in the last three years, and this fact has no doubt been partly responsible for the increase in the first pickings. The percentage of bolls attacked, however, during the last week of the period under review has rapidly increased.

Maize (Nili).

The weather has been favourable to the growth of the plant, and water supply ample. Slight attacks of cotton worm, green worm and stalk-borer were reported from various provinces.

Millet (Nili).

The crop is well advanced and promises an average yield.

Millet (Sefi).

Weather favourable and water supply ample. Harvesting has just come to an end, and the yield is reported as satisfactory.

Rice (Sefi).

The crop has improved considerably in Daqahlîya. Rice worm was noticed in Beheira, and stalk borer in Daqahlîya. The crop is a little below the average.

Rice (Nili).

Rice Nili in Faiyûm is growing satisfactorily, but some fields have suffered from the scarcity of water.

Sugar Cane.

Weather favourable and water supply ample. The crop is satisfactory.

MALTA TRADE NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, October 1.

The coal restrictions preventing holders of stocks of coal from selling or transferring them have been repealed.

Local discussion to-day as far as foodstuffs are concerned centres round the potato crop, the lack of rain to date causing matters to look serious.

October 8.

Owing to a shortage in certain articles of food, chiefly butter, tea, lard, and sugar, the Army and Navy Canteen Board has decided upon rationing, and customers have been notified to this effect.

TRADE WITH YUGOSLAVIA.

Free Import of Goods for Reconstruction.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a translation of a circular Order issued by the Director of Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance to all custom houses in the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (and published in the *Official Gazette* for October 5), providing for the total exemption from customs duty for the period of one year of certain goods required in the reconstruction of the country, and for the application of the "minimum" (conventional) customs rates of duty, for a fixed period, on certain other goods irrespective of their country of origin.

The provisions of the circular, which came into effect on October 5, are as follows: The Ministry of Finance of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Directorate-General of Customs, by Order dated September 26, has made the following arrangements with a view to facilitating the importation of certain goods required in the reconstruction of the country. These arrangements are applicable throughout the whole of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes :—

(1) The following goods are exempted from the payment of import duty for the period of one year, irrespective of the country of origin: Steam boilers with all accessories for fixed and portable steam engines, machinery and parts of machinery, fixed and portable engines, agricultural and artisans' tools and implements, raw materials and half-manufactured goods which are not obtainable in the country or are not obtainable in sufficient quantities, auxiliary chemical materials and dyes required by the manufacturing industry, all lubricating oils, anthracite and brown coal, and coal briquettes, naphtha and other mineral oils—except kerosene—which are used as fuel for the production of energy.

(2) Import duties at the rates of the "minimum" (conventional) customs tariff are to be levied, for the period of one year, and irrespective of the country of origin, on the following articles: All building materials as far as they are not obtainable in the country, electro-technical articles, printer's type of all kinds, envelopes, paper for printing and writing, printing ink, pencils for writing and drawing, black or coloured, drawing charcoal and indian ink (solid or liquid), pen nibs, writing ink, rubber erasers, wood for fuel, wooden or tin boxes for packing purposes, pharmaceutical and other jars and bottles used as receptacles for goods, bottles for beer and mineral waters, scales and balances, instruments, and accessories for laboratories, cotton, cotton wool, cotton yarns and plain cotton textiles, tulle, bobbinet, point-net, and other like tissues (cotton), hosiery (cotton), cord, twine, and string made of cotton yarn, flax and hemp, jute, manila hemp, New Zealand hemp, coconut fibre, and yarns and textiles made of flax, hemp, jute, manila hemp, New Zealand hemp, shoddy, yarns, and textiles of coarse or combed wool or of animal hair, worsted above No. 16, yarns of carded wool, underwear, collars, and cuffs, men's felt hats, leather footwear of all descriptions.

(3) As soon as the manufacture of any of the articles enumerated in paragraphs (1) and (2), at present not produced or manufactured in the country, is commenced, the customs authorities will take into account the country of origin of such articles when imported.

Bulky objects enumerated in paragraphs (1) and (2) above are exempted from the payment of porterage charges for the period of one year.

(4) For the period of six months, import duties at the rates of the "minimum" (conventional) tariff, and without regard to the country of origin of the goods, are to be levied on the following, viz., chemicals, medicines, and all products used for healing disease.

When importing products for healing disease, which may also serve for other purposes besides industrial, apothecaries and druggists who are the only authorised importers of such products, shall submit to the Minister of Health a certificate stating that the products in question are to serve solely for healing disease.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd.

The eleventh annual general meeting of Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd., was held on October 24 at 38, Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. George Croll (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. H. P. Church) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, referred to the fact that, after thirty-eight years of strenuous work in the business of Harrisons and Crosfield, Mr. Heath Clark had resigned the chairmanship of the company, but retained his seat on the board. He also referred to the accession of strength which the board had received in the persons of Mr. Eric Macfadyen and Mr. A. McGregor MacColl, and to the fact that two of the directors, Messrs. Welch and Macfadyen, are at the present time making a tour of the company's branches and those of the affiliated companies in the East. After reviewing the position of the company as disclosed by the balance-sheet, the Chairman said: The net profits shown by the accounts are £200,271 8s. 3d. This is a somewhat smaller balance than we were able to point to a year ago, but, taking into account all the difficulties which we have encountered during the past twelve months, it is a result of which we have little cause to complain. Including the balance of £37,530 8s. brought forward from last year, the total credit balance is £238,101 16s. 3d. Out of this we have already paid the entire dividends for the twelve months on the preference and preferred ordinary shares, amounting respectively to £36,165 and £37,500. We have also paid the fixed dividend of 10 per cent. on the deferred ordinary and management shares, and have divided a further sum of £30,823 14s. 8d. between the holders of shares of those two classes. The balance of profit now available is £115,701 4s. 6d., and the directors propose to transfer £14,024 of it to the general reserve, £15,000 to the reserve for income-tax, and £3,000 to the staff special reserve. They also propose to utilise £9,000 for payment of a bonus to the staff. After these allocations, there will remain a balance of £74,677 4s. 8d., out of which it is proposed to distribute a further £36,529 13s. 4d. among the holders of the deferred ordinary and management shares, leaving £36,147 11s. 4d. to be carried forward.

After paying special tribute to the loyal co-operation of the members of the staff, both at home and abroad, the chairman proceeded: As the outcome of war conditions, much of the import trade of eastern countries went to Japan and America, who had unique opportunities of introducing their manufactured articles to take the place of those previously supplied by this and other European countries. It is now up to the British manufacturer to recapture the lost ground, and it is to be hoped that before long the industrial situation in this country will permit of an effort being put forward in this direction. An extensive and lucrative market awaits British manufacturers when they are able to meet the market requirements at competitive rates.

In previous years you have allowed Mr. Clark to make a few general remarks on the two great industries of rubber and tea, with which the business of this company is so closely associated, and, with your permission, I should like to follow the same course to-day. (Hear, hear.) During the past twelve months the plantation rubber industry has emerged from the somewhat difficult position which it found itself in after four years of war, during which time the production increased from 1,000 tons in 1914 to about 250,000 tons in 1918. Up to the early part of 1918 the growing production was readily absorbed, but the world's shipping position then became so acute as to necessitate drastic restrictions, and there was a consequent large accumulation of stocks in the producing countries, with a considerable decline in prices there.

In October last year, when Mr. Clark addressed you shortly before the Armistice, the price of first grade plantation rubber in the Singapore Market had recovered 6d. per lb. from the lowest point which was reached in August, 1918, when the value there was the equivalent of 1s. 3d. per lb. London landed terms. After the Armistice, the Singapore price improved further, to a London equivalent of 2s. per lb., and this was fairly well maintained, until the middle of this year. Movements of the London market during this period were very different. The freight shortage of 1918 kept the supplies available here at a low level, and prices ruled firm until after the Armistice, when gradually improving shipping facilities enabled stocks accumulated in the East to be brought to the London market for realisation. As a consequence the price here declined steadily until the bottom was reached in June, by which time it was realised that the requirements of rubber—particularly in the United States—were sufficient to absorb readily the accumulation of 1918 crop, which rapidly passed into the hands of the large manufacturers of rubber goods, whose stocks had been seriously depleted by the necessary restrictions on imports during the concluding stages of the war.

Supply and Demand.

When addressing the shareholders of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, at the annual meeting of that company in 1918, I dealt with the question of supply and demand in the light of the information which was then available to me, and I should like to-day to refer to some of the figures I then gave. I estimated that, on the basis of certain figures which I had quoted, and assuming that there was no artificial restriction of output, the production of plantation rubber for 1919 would be 314,000 tons; for 1920, 354,000 tons; 1921, 381,000 tons; 1922, 405,500 tons; and 1923, 430,000 tons. I further stated that in 1917 the world's consumption of rubber was, approximately, 255,000 tons, 52,000 of which were derived from sources other than the Middle East, and that if the 1919 production, which I estimated for was to be consumed, an increase in consumption of round about 100,000 tons over 1917 would have to take place. I went on to say "It is commonly supposed that there has been a great war consumption of rubber, but this is not my view. . . I believe that if we had had no war, the consumption of rubber would have been very much greater, and, provided that normal conditions of shipping and trade are quickly established, I do not see any reason why the large increase in production probable in 1919 should not be easily absorbed."

I have recently had the figures of production and consumption carefully examined, so far as they are available (and I may say, in parenthesis, that there is room for considerable improvement in statistical information regarding our industry). After making allowances for the accumulation of 1918 crop which was exported from Eastern countries during the first half of 1919, I now estimate the production of plantation rubber for this year at about 320,000 tons, to which have to be added some 40,000 tons of wild rubber, making the world's production of rubber this year 360,000 tons. I do not propose to revise the figures I gave in 1918 for the succeeding years, beyond saying that I have now reason to believe that they will be somewhat in excess, and that 1920 will probably be somewhere between 360,000 and 370,000 tons, in place of the figure of 354,000 tons which I then gave.

Current Year's Consumption.

With regard to consumption for the current year, the United States of America have imported over 150,000 tons in the first eight months, and I expect to see their total for the twelve months somewhere in the neighbourhood of 220,000 tons. Against this, the net imports of the United Kingdom of 40,000 tons make a poor showing, particularly as the stock at June, 1919, was 13,500 tons more than it was twelve months before. Making allowance, for this, I estimate the consumption in the United Kingdom during 1919 will be about 40,000 tons; France took 14,500 tons in the first six months, and may take 30,000 tons for the twelve months; Italy I estimate at 15,000 tons; Canada is taking upwards of 10,000 tons; Japan a similar amount, and allowing 25,000 tons for the rest of the world—including late enemy countries—we have a total consumption of 350,000 tons, against 360,000 tons produced. The difference of 10,000 tons does not represent a free surplus of supply over demand, but is the small net increase in the quantity afloat, which rises automatically in ratio to the larger annual turnover.

No Fear of Production Outstepping Consumption.

Those of us who have been closely associated with the plantation rubber industry have always looked to the years 1919, 1920, and 1921 as the critical ones, from the point of view of the possibility of over-supply. I have shown by the figures I have given you, which are at least approximately correct, that the consumption during 1919 will take care of the production, and I have every reason to believe that the same will apply to 1920 and 1921, so that those who are interested in the producing end of this great and growing industry need have no fear of production outstepping consumption, provided, of course, that we have no great industrial upheavals in the consuming countries. As you are no doubt aware, British capital owns, approximately, 80 per cent. of the plantation rubber industry, and I wish I could say the same with regard to the consuming end. In this connection I wish to draw your particular attention to the relative increase in the net imports of the United States of America and the United Kingdom. In the twelve months July, 1914, to June, 1915, the United States of America took 74,000 tons, while in the twelve months July, 1918 to June, 1919—notwithstanding shipping difficulties and the Government restrictions which were in force for a part of that period—they took 180,000 tons—an increase of 140 per cent. In the same periods the United Kingdom's net imports were 21,000 and 50,500 tons respectively, but, as this country has a large transit trade, part of the increased stocks, which are destined to be re-exported as raw rubber, must be deducted. I have accordingly estimated 40,000 tons as the net imports for our own use, which shows a net increase of 90 per cent. in the four years. While the uses of rubber are manifold and ever-increasing, the great future of the industry is bound up with the development of motor transport, which, I think you will all agree, is destined to play a vital part in the solution of the world's traffic problems. We could have had no more graphic illustration of this than the recent unfortunate railway strike, which has probably been the means of awakening in this country a determination to have, at the earliest possible date, facilities for road transport on a scale adequate to our needs, and I am convinced that, in view of the impetus which has already been given to the utilisation of this means of conveyance, the rubber industry is more likely to be faced with a shortage of the raw material than with any prospect of over-supply.

Tea.

As on a comparatively recent occasion I gave a somewhat full survey of the position of the tea industry, I propose on this occasion to deal very briefly with the ground then traversed. The contracts between the Ministry of Food and producers in India and Ceylon have now practically terminated. Some of the teas delivered under the Ministry of Food contracts are still coming forward in public sale, but the bulk of the tea now being offered is on behalf of the actual producers, the prohibition of private imports of tea into this country having been withdrawn at the close of last year. The tea trade has now been practically freed from control. In December last, the Government intimated that the export of tea from the United Kingdom could be resumed under certain restrictions, but the total shipments for the 9 months from January to September were only 22,000,000 lb., compared with 41,000,000 lb. for the corresponding periods of 1914 and 1913. It will be seen that exports have been confined within smaller dimensions than was anticipated. This is largely attributable to the heavy loss in exchange involved by purchases of tea for countries affected by very adverse exchange rates on London. This applies particularly to Russia and the newly established States on the Western frontiers of Russia; to Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, and Turkey; and in a lesser degree to our Allies, France and Belgium. Purchases of tea for these countries are affected by the loss in exchange between Eastern currencies and

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sterling, and also by the heavy loss between sterling and the local currency of purchasing countries; and consequently tea can only be imported there at a very high cost, which tends to restrict consumption to small dimensions.

British Preference a Mistaken Policy.

Under the Finance Act of this year, British-grown tea was given a preference of 2d. per lb., the rate of duty payable being reduced to 10d. per lb., whilst foreign-grown tea continues to be liable for 1s. per lb. in all cases, even where produced by British capital as the result of British enterprise. As I stated on another occasion, I consider the granting of this preference a mistaken policy. In my opinion, the preference granted will afford no real benefit to the producer of British-grown tea, seeing that a large proportion of the British crop will necessarily be disposed of in outside markets, in keen competition with foreign-grown tea, which will be compelled to depend more largely upon those markets, where it can be realised in competition with British-grown tea without any handicap. From the consumers' point of view, a disadvantage of the preference is that it will undoubtedly tend to cause a certain quantity of foreign-grown tea to be diverted from the United Kingdom, and consequently raise the retail price in this country. During the past 9 months, duty has been paid on approximately 12,000,000 lb. of tea from sources other than British India and Ceylon. This quantity is composed mainly of tea from the Dutch East Indies, and it has been possible to sell these teas in this market at a satisfactory price to the producer mainly owing to the fact that the loss in exchange in the case of India and Ceylon is much greater than the loss in exchange on tea produced in the Dutch East Indies.

Increased Consumption.

Throughout the war it was evident that the consumption of tea was on the increase in all countries which were able to secure supplies, and, with the removal of rationing in this country, a similar increase has apparently taken place. During the nine months ended September 30, duty was paid on 292 million pounds, or an average of 3½ million pounds monthly, against a pre-war average of rather less than 27 million pounds. Taking the last six months, April to September inclusive, the increase is even more marked, the monthly average being 36½ million pounds This increase has been partially caused by distributors buying more heavily than usual in order to replenish depleted stocks, but the figures are no doubt inflated as the result of long delays which occur in the handling of tea, both in the port and warehouses and on the railways. Apart from this, however, the large scale on which duty payments have continued for months past indicates fairly conclusively that consumption has increased very considerably, and no doubt this is partly attributable to the higher wages which large sections of the working classes now receive, and to some extent to the liquor restrictions.

Stock in Bond.

Stock in bond throughout the United Kingdom at the end of September was 156 million pounds, compared with a normal pre-war stock at the end of September of approximately 100 million pounds. Compared with pre-war ideas, this stock is large, but, owing to the innumerable delays in landing and handling tea, which up to the present appear to have been insurmountable, the stock does not seem to be by any means beyond the actual requirements of buyers. Freight from the East is still far below requirements, and there is a large accumulation of tea awaiting shipment from all the countries of production. With freedom from Government interference, the tea trade is gradually assuming normal conditions, and, with the law of supply and demand now becoming operative, a considerably higher level of prices has been established, and, in my opinion, is likely to be maintained.

The Price of Tea.

Recently the Ministry of Food has shown some anxiety in regard to the rise which has taken place in the price in public sale, and they have no doubt been influenced to some extent by the ill-informed criticisms which have appeared in different quarters, with the result that there has been some talk of Government control being reinstated. I sincerely hope that no such foolish step will be taken. Under the scheme of Government control, all tea was retailed at 2s. 8d. per lb., it being illegal to sell below that price. On the removal of control, free competition led to a considerable decline in retail prices, and the consumer has been able to buy freely at 2s. 4d. per lb. and under. At present, notwithstanding the fact that public sale prices are on a high level, tea is still being freely retailed at 2s. 6d. per lb. This price is, of course, much higher than that at which the poorer qualities of tea were obtainable before the war, but in considering this it is essential to remember that since the commencement of the war the duty on tea has been raised from 5d. to 1s. per lb., with the exception that this year the duty on British-grown tea has been reduced to 10d. per lb. In addition, the estate cost of production, including the heavy loss which is now being made on the supply of rice to the labour force, is fully 2d. per lb. higher, while the loss in exchange, with the rupee standing at slightly over 2s., as against 1s. 4d. in 1914, further increases the cost by 3d. to 4d., according to the extent of the funds which it is necessary to remit to the East. Added to this, the heavy increase in freight, landing, and selling charges in this country accounts for a further 2½d. per lb.

It will, therefore, be seen that, on the basis of the present duty, there has been a rise of approximately 1s. per lb., and, when this is borne in mind, it will be seen that the present retail price to the consumer compares very favourably with what he paid in pre-war days. (Hear, hear.) Any attempt to interfere artificially with the law of supply and demand will be prejudicial to the interests of the industry as a whole, for tea is not produced in this country, neither is this the only country in which it is consumed. We are approaching the period when it is highly probable that there will not be sufficient tea produced to meet adequately the world's requirements. In recent years there have been only small additions to the planted acreage, owing to the more profitable return obtained from rubber and the impossibility of extension during the war years. The conditions prevailing during the war years have obscured the real position, and when America has liquidated the abnormal shipments of Java and Sumatra teas made necessary by their exclusion from this country, and when Russia—a very large tea-drinking country—is again able to buy more freely, the consumer in this country will in all probability have to be more economical in the use of this cheapest and best of beverages In support of this contention, the following figures may be of interest:—

Production in India reached its maximum in 1915, when nearly 372,000,000 lb. were produced; in 1916, production declined to 368,000,000; and in 1917 the crop was 370,000,000 lb. According to the latest advices, the North Indian crop at the end of August was 21,000,000 lb. below the crop of the corresponding period for 1918, and unless this shortage is made good during the next month or two—which is improbable—the total production for 1919 may be as low as 350,000,000 lb. In Ceylon, the maximum production was attained in 1915, with a crop of 211,000,000 lb., and has successively declined to 202,000,000 lb. in 1916; 193,000,000 lb. in 1917; and 180,000,000 in 1918.

In the case of Java, figures of actual production are not available, but the exports reached their maximum in 1915, with a total of 101,000,000 lb., declining in 1916 to 98,000,000 lb.; in 1917 to 80,000,000 lb; and in 1918 to 62,000,000 lb. This rapid successive decline was due to the difficulty of shipping Java tea, and the prohibition on its importation into the United Kingdom, and for a time, into Australia. The decline in production, however, was not so marked as it would appear from these figures, as, at the end of December last, it was estimated that the stock of tea in Java approximated to 20,000,000 lb. It is, therefore, quite possible that in view of this accumulation, the shipments from Java this year will exceed their previous maximum. Sumatra is still relatively a small source of supply, but, from exports of half a million lb. in 1914, the figures have steadily grown until in 1918, five and a half million lb. were exported, while this year, during the first five months, 3½ million lb. were shipped. From the foregoing figures, it will be seen that, under normal conditions, with the law of supply and demand freely operating, there is little prospect of the price of tea declining.

He concluded by proposing the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Charles Heath Clark seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the dividend recommended was declared.

The retiring directors (Mr. Eric Macfadyen, Mr. A. McColl, Mr. H. J. Welch and Mr. H. F. Church) were re-elected, and Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co. were re-appointed auditors.

A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and directors, as well as to the staff both in London and in the East, terminated the proceedings.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Egyptian Hotels.

The report of the Egyptian Hotels for the year ended April 30 states that after charging all expenses the profits of the hotels were £35,540. After providing for the charges payable in London and Cairo the accounts show a profit of £33,179, to which must be added the balance brought forward, £2,928, making together £36,107. Debenture interest took £3,392 and depreciation of plant, fixtures, and fittings at hotels £4,581, leaving an available balance of £28,133. The directors recommend the payment of two years' dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, thus completing the payment to 1919, and a dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent. for the year, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £10,383 The directors recommend that the vacancy on the board should now be filled by the election of Mr. H. M. Snow, director du Chemin de Fer de la Turbie.

Dejoo Tea.

The report of the Dejoo Tea Company for 1918 states that the net profit amounted to £7,649; £3,609 was brought forward, which with interest on deposits gives a total of £11,351. The directors recommend a final dividend of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year (less income-tax), to transfer to reserve for equalisation of dividends £2,000, and to carry forward, subject to excess profits duty, £4,993. The larger balance proposed to be carried forward is to provide for the expenditure which has to be incurred for labour, machinery, and buildings to replace depreciation during the war. Estimate for 1919 provides for a crop of 800,000 lb., but owing to drought and sickness among the coolies the directors are afraid that this estimate will not be realised.

The revised final jute forecast estimates the current crop to be 8,486,234 bales.

The India Office announces that up to October 18 Indian Treasury bills were issued to the following amounts:—October 16, 1917, to March 31, 1919, Rs.136,39,05,000; April 1, 1919, to October 18, 1919, Rs.53,23,75,000; total, Rs.189,62,80,000. Bills discharged amounted to Rs.124,70,90,000, leaving bills outstanding on October 18, 1919, Rs.64,91,90,000.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

STAMBOUL, October 11.

The gradual freeing of the ports of South Russia from Bolshevist occupation has had the effect of increasing the commerce in transit from our port for Russia. Several shipments have been made this week, especially for Odessa, and one notes the presence here of a number of Russian buyers.

Mention may be made here of the passing of a Dutch vessel which, after having discharged a part of its cargo at Constantinople, continued its voyage to Russia with a direct shipment. It can be foreseen that if there is a development of these direct consignments the transit trade, at present so flourishing at Constantinople, will be affected in consequence.

Manufactures.—Business is favourable. Arrivals of the week, four steamers from England and two from Italy. Prices are maintained. Stocks here continue to increase.

Produce.

Sugar.—Market firm. The demand for Russia and for Roumania is maintained. Prices are high for fine produce. Quotations are £63-£64 per ton spot, and £58-£60 afloat. In our market, £T34 100 kilos. Offerings are few.

Coffee.—Market weaker, with a tendency to fall. Arrivals, 800 sacks despatched on consignment.

Oil.—Arrivals, 100,000 drums of American. Price, £T5.25 the drum. Shipments from Batoum are awaited.

Exports.

Opium.—Sales of the week have been eight cases fine Hadji Keuy at Ps.975 the oke. No transactions in druggist. Prices nominal: Ps.715-720 New Karahissar, Ps.750 Old Karahissar.

Mohair.—Arrivals of the week, 410 bales. Sales, 40 bales Eski-Chehir at Ps.82 the oke.

Wool.—Arrivals, 250 bales. Sales, 500 bales at Ps.47-48 the oke.

Silk.—Fifteen bales Broussa have been done up to £T13.50 the kilo, against £T13.10 last week.

Cereals.—Arrivals of wheat of the week being of little importance (some 50 wagons), the price has been firm. Quotations.—Wheat, extra fine, Ps.11½-12 the oke; 1 and 11, Ps.10 the oke; extra hard, Ps.13-14 the oke; 1 and 11, Ps.11-12 the oke.

Flour.—Large arrivals of American have caused a notable decline, which has led to a new decrease in the price of bread.

DAMASCUS, October 9.

Imports.

There has been a marked improvement in the position since our last report. The town of Damascus, which was overstocked with goods, has been able to despatch a part to Aleppo, and even to resell to Beyrout, which normally supplies our market. On this account prices have improved, and importers are more ready to undertake transactions, especially in cloth manufactures, which are in demand in view of the approaching winter season.

Exports.

Wool.—The season's yield has so far been only 1,500 bales, of which 500 have already been despatched. The exports are going particularly to America.

Cereals.—Considerable consignments have been despatched from Haman for Palestine and Egypt. The crops of 1918, very good, and those of 1919, satisfactory, leave a large surplus for export. Prices of cereals have risen from 20 to 30 per cent., and it is more than probable that during the winter the rise will be pronounced.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended October 16 were:—Cattle market, £561; general markets, £595. Total, £1,156. Total for year, £44,705. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918 ended October 17 were:—Cattle markets, £562; general markets, £549. Total, £1,111. Total for year, £40,683.

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Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

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Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Further Advance in Prices.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

Prices throughout the market have continued to go against buyers, and the general tone has been stronger than ever. Conditions prevailing in Lancashire at the present time are most remarkable. Producers are in a position to dictate terms of fresh contracts to their customers. Demand in practically all sections exceeds supply, and there is a scramble for goods. Rather violent fluctuations have transpired in Egyptian cotton futures. After a substantial fall, as a result of profit-taking, the decline has been recovered. News relating to the crop shows scarcely any change. Owing to the shortage of supplies of the higher grades of American cotton, there has been an active demand from spinners for the Egyptian staple. Some Liverpool importers are said to be experiencing much difficulty in fulfilling their contracts. A substantial advance has again occurred in Egyptian yarn prices. Spinners are extremely busy, and when business negotiations take place they have matters all their own way. Quick delivery of numerous counts and qualities is quite out of the question. In piece goods for Egypt and the Near Eastern markets generally inquiry has continued on a considerable scale, but perhaps on the whole the turnover has been rather smaller, owing to increasing difficulties in arranging terms of fresh contracts. Very few buyers, however, anticipate being able to purchase at lower figures in the near future. A rather irregular business has been done in cloth for India. Most offers from the other side remain low, but a certain amount of speculative buying has been done by Manchester merchants. A persistent demand has been met with for China, Java, and Singapore in grey staples and miscellaneous fabrics. Manufacturers have strengthened their position, and some firms have closed their order lists for the time being. American yarns have advanced in price with a healthy undercurrent of demand. Favourite marks are getting very scarce. India shippers have bought bundles on a freer scale, and fair lines have been put through for China. Producers of coarse counts are deeply sold for the Levant.

Egyptian Cotton Crop.

Details have just been received relating to the Egyptian cotton crop for last season. The growth amounted to 4,826,342 cantars, the acreage being 1,315,572 feddans, the yield per feddan being 3.68 cantars, or about 25 per cent. less than in the previous season. The smaller output is due to the restriction of the acreage by the Government. The total shipments from Alexandria to all parts during the twelve months were 655,158 bales, against 685,295 bales in 1917-18. The takings of Great Britain amounted to 408,943 bales, as compared with 493,295 bales in the previous season. The total to the Continent was 143,724 bales, as compared with 94,609 bales in the year before. The United States took 78,454 bales, against 76,640 bales in 1917-18. The prospects for the new crop in Egypt are generally healthy, and there is an expectation of an output of about 6,000,000 cantars.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news, received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated October 24:—

Weather dry everywhere except in Lower Burma and South India. Rain required for winter Paddy in parts West Bengal and Bihar and Orissa.

During the week ending Saturday, October 11, preparations and sowings spring crops continued except in Bombay, where just commencing. Harvesting autumn crops continued Central India and Bihar and Orissa. Winter rice crops practically over Burma and Bengal. Harvest progressed Southern India, out-turn fair. Plucking tea continued Assam. Jute harvesting nearly completed Assam. Steeping and washing continued Bengal. Cotton picking commenced United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and North-West Frontier Province, continued Burma, Punjab, and Behar. General crop conditions good, but rain badly needed unirrigated crops Punjab.

All India first indigo forecast:—Acreage, 208,100; yield dye, 27,300 cwt. (Last year's corresponding forecast:—Acreage, 300,700; yield, 44,100.)

Bombay cotton market irregular. Fully good Broach April-May, Rs.525 As.8. Piecegoods market active, demand encouraging, with improved prices. Calcutta jute market dull, nothing doing Gunny market steady. Hessians, improved tone. Heavy goods steady.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The directors of the Ouvah Ceylon Estates have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax at 6s., payable November 15.

The directors of the Spring Valley Ceylon Estates have declared an interim dividend of 7½ per cent., less tax at 6s., payable November 15.

The directors of the Telbedde Ceylon Estates have declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent., less tax at 6s., payable November 15.

At a court of directors of the Royal Exchange Assurance it was decided to pay, on November 6, an interim dividend of 7 per cent., less income tax, on the capital stock of the corporation, in respect of the half-year ended June 30.

The registered address of the Dunlop Rubber and Clipper Tyre Companies will, after October 31, be removed to Dunlop House, 1, Albany Street, London, N.W.1. The registered address of the Parent Tyre Co. will still remain 150-152, Clerkenwell Road, E.C.1.

East Indian Railway Company. — The register of the company's 4½ per cent. debenture stock, 1935-1955, will be closed from November 10 to November 29, both days inclusive, for the purpose of preparing warrants for the payment of interest for the half-year ending November 31.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation. —Dividend on the deferred stock of 6 per cent. free of income-tax, making a total distribution on the deferred stock of 12 per cent. for the year. Instead of paying the usual bonus of 6 per cent. the directors recommend that the amount of this should be added to the reserve fund. They also propose to make a distribution of £200,000 of deferred stock at par to the deferred stockholders. Warrants will be posted on December 16.

CEYLON AND INDIA.

The Talaimannar Route.

In the report of the Principal Collector of Customs, Ceylon, for 1918, it is stated that the goods traffic service, which was opened on the Talaimannar Route in September, 1914, has continued to demonstrate its usefulness and importance. While the amount of import duty collected during the year was somewhat less than that of 1917, the decrease was entirely due to the prohibition of the export of rice from Southern India in September following the crop failure.

While reliable figures as to the annual value of trade by this route with India are still unavailable, it may be pointed out that the approximate weight of goods carried over it increased from 3,216 tons in 1915 and 4,791 tons in 1916, to no less than 25,378 tons in 1917, there being a set-back, however, to 16,046 tons in 1918. The route proved of incalculable service in the conveyance of mails and parcels to and from Europe in 1917 and 1918, when the mail steamers had ceased calling at Colombo, besides serving as a means for the importing of food during the shortage of tonnage.

The most urgent necessity for the development of trade by the route is the provision of additional warehouse accommodation, and there is room for improvement in Customs facilities for the examination of goods and the collection of duty. The public works completed or in progress during the year included the construction of export and shipping offices, two sheds for additional storage of coconut oil and plumbago, and the erection of a 5 ton crane for unloading barrels.

DISTRESS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agriculture Department, dated October 24:—Our telegram dated October 17. Tests works in Bihar and Orissa, relief works in Manila District of Central Provinces and Ahmednagar District of Bombay Presidency, and some camps in Hyderabad, have been closed. Numbers relieved:—Bengal: Works, 4,319; gratuitous, 4,914. Bihar and Orissa: Works, 2,632; gratuitous, 45,844. Feudatory States of Orissa: Works, 5,819; gratuitous 20,027. Central India: Works, 3,000; gratuitous, 7,100. Central Provinces: Works, 7,827; gratuitous, 5,754. Bombay: Works, 2,685; gratuitous 15,113. Hyderabad: Works, 15,000; gratuitous, 20,000. Madras (incomplete figures): Works, 56,688; gratuitous, 85,794. Prospects are everywhere favourable except that the rabi area in the Punjab may be below normal owing to the early cessation of the rains. Prices still remain high, but show a downward tendency. Difficulties as to supplies appear to be at an end everywhere, except in Bengal and a few isolated areas such as Coorg and Hyderabad.

INDIAN BANKS AMALGAMATION.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, replying to Sir J. Rees, said:—Subject to the settlement of some important matters of detail the Government of India have been authorised to proceed with legislation for enabling the three Presidency banks to be amalgamated. It is contemplated that under the proposed scheme the amalgamated bank would be the custodian of the Government balances in India, and would undertake to open 100 new branches in five years.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

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Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

With one or two exceptions there has been a rather easier tendency this week both for Egyptian and for Greek securities; in the former case owing to the various telegrams regarding unrest in Egypt, and in the latter owing to some Continental selling in connection with the present depression in the value of the franc.

In Government securities Egyptian Unifieds have been dealt in to a fair extent in the neighbourhood of 78¼, and finished ½ down at 78. The 3½ per Cent. Prefs. are unchanged at the ex div. price of 66¾, and some business has been done. City of Alexandria bonds are 2 points down at 78.

In Bank shares there is no change in Agricultural Ordinaries, but the Prefs. are ⅛ lower at 7. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have receded ¼ to 18, and Land Banks are ⅛ down at 6⅞. There has been some quiet buying of National Banks round the current level.

In Railways, Delta Lights have dropped back ¼ to 6⅝.

As regards Land shares, Aboukirs have been an exceptionally strong spot, and, on local buying, have improved 3s. to 32s. Small transactions have taken place in Béhéras, but, at the close, the price is ¼ lower at 14. Egyptian Consolidated Lands are fractionally easier at 2s. 3d. Union Foncières, after receding to 3½, close unaltered at 3⅜. Sudan Plantations have been a good spot, and, after rising to 8⅝, finish 9-16ths higher on the week at 8½.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are ⅛ down at 11½, and Salts and Sodas finish 1-16th easier at 2 15-16 in spite of a large business during the week.

In Greek securities the 1881 and 1884 loans are 1½ down at 64; Monopolies have remained firm, closing unaltered at 56, after business up to 57. Rentes and the 1890 Loans are 1 point down at 53 and 64½. The 1902 Loan has also dropped a point to 64. The 1914 Loan has been very firm, and, after business up to 73, closes about 72½. The "Currant" bonds have been in demand, with small business at existing level. Bank of Athens have dropped ¼ to 3¼.

Amongst the Oil shares Anglo-Egyptians close ⅜ up at 5⅞. Roumanians are 6d. better at 24s. 6d., and Traians have improved a like fraction to 12s. 6d.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

ENGLISHMAN (30), demobilized officer now in the East, big organising and local experience, speaks French, Arabic, own motor car, desires to represent British firms in EGYPT, PALESTINE, SYRIA, &c. Address, Represent, care of Editor, NEAR EAST.

MR. JOHN KIRSOPP, M.I.M.E., F.G.S., Offers his services, home or abroad, on Mine Management, Supervision of Prospecting or Diamond Boring Operations or Mineral Reporting work; practical experience Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire and Lancashire coalfields, and extensive experience in coal, oil, etc., Canada, Alaska, United States, West Indies and Spain. First-class colliery manager's certificate endorsed with Surveyor's qualifications. Mr. Kirsopp will undertake technical or research work anywhere.—Address, 36, Gladstone Terrace, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

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THE LADIES' LEAGUE (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, W. Successfully recommends Lady Housekeepers, Companions, Secretaries, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Lady Nurses, Nurse Companions, Secretaries, etc.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Oct. 22	Price Oct. 29
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	50	50
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	80	78
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	78½	78
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	65½	66⅞xd
Greek 5%, 1881	65½	64
Do. 5%, 1884	65½	64
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	56	56
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	54	53
Do. 5% 1890	65½	64½
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	64	64
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	65	64
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	60	60
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	72⅝	72⅝
Do. 5% Currant	94	94
Montenegro 5% Loan	70½	70½
Persia 5% 1911	82	82
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	64	64
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	75	74½xd
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	64½	65½
Do. 4% Unified	49	49
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅛	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	7
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	18½	18
Bank of Abyssinia	35/-	35/-
Bank of Athens	70/-	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	8	8
British Trade Corporation	10½	10½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	10½	10½
Imperial Bank of Persia	10⅜	10⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	6½	6½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅜	6⅜
London County and Westminster	16½	16½
National Bank of Egypt	19⅞	19⅞
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅞	6⅞
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	13	13
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	65½	65½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	65½	65⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4%	66xd	66xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	29/-	32/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	14½	14
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	2/4½	2/3
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	13/3	13/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	13/6	13/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅛	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	23/-	23/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅛	2⅛
Sudan Plantations	7½	8
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	3⅜	3⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	11⅜	11⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	1⅜
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	3	2⅞
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5½	5½
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅛	3⅛
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	99½	99½
Chinese 4½% 1898	78	74
Do. 5% 1896	88	87
Argentine 5% 1890	86½	86½
Do. 5% 1907	87	85½
OIL.		
Anglo-Egyptian B	5⅛	5⅛
Anglo-Persian	26/6	26/6
Anglo-Roumanian	12/3	10/3
Roumanian	21/-	24/6
Traian (Roumanian)	12/-	12/6

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Oct. 22	Oct 29
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	64⅝	63½
Various dates	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	63½	62½
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. rust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		82	83
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		73½	73½
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		75½	75½
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		80	80
Eastern		9½xd	9½xd
Mercantile of India A		36½	37
National of India		55	56
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		5/6	4/6
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		⅝	⅝
Burma Corp.		11⅞	11⅞
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		15/-	15/-
Champion Reef Gold		4/-	4/3
Mysore Gold Mining		1⅞xd	1⅞xd
Nundydroog		15/9	17/9
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		16/-	15/9
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		1⅛	1⅛
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		¾	¾
OIL.			
Assam Oil		2⅜	2⅛
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		2xd	2⅞
Brit. Burmah		2⅞	2⅞
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		14⅞	18
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		1⅛	1⅛
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		10⅛	10

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES

Continued—

RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	54	55
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	138½	139
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	60	60
Bengal-Nagpur	117	118½
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	106	108
Burma Railways	112	113
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13	13
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	12⅞	12⅞
Gt. Indian Pen Ann. "A," 1948	13	13
Madras and S. Mahratta	107	109
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	129½	130½
Nizam's Guaranteed State	76	77
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	11⅛	11⅛
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	9⅜
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	92½	92½
Do. Deferred	625	650
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	70	70
Bengal United Tea Ord.	16½	16½
British Indian Tea Ord.	9¼	9¼
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17	17
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	12/-xd	12/6xd
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	6⅞	6⅞
Consolidated Estates	6⅜	6⅜
Darjeeling Co.	19/3	19/6
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	60/-	60/-
Dooars Tea Ord.	3¹¹⁄₁₆	3¹¹⁄₁₆
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	⅜	⅜
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est	3⅞xd	3⅞xd
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	35/-	35/6xd
Hewagam Rubber Co.	1	1
Jhanzie Tea Association	10⅜	10⅜
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	22⅛	22⅛
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	20/-	1⅛
Lanka Plantations Ord.	22/3	26/-
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	57/-	57/-
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	44/4½	50/-
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14⅛	14⅜
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	31/3	32/6

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at August 31, 1919, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

	£E.	£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)		2,925,000
Reserve Fund:		
Statutory Reserve		1,462,500
Special Reserve		487,500
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts		15,647,094
Mixed Tribunals		2,637,168
Egyptian Government		8,562,631
Bankers' Accounts		2,218,945
Sudan Government		17,736
Cheques and Bills payable		196,036
Sundry other Accounts		909,493
		£E.35,064,103
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		20,752,482
Sundry Securities		229,888
Advances on Merchandise		170,729
Advances on Securities		692,049
Advances otherwise Secured		363,803
Sundry other Advances		417,552
Bills of Exchange		3,076,092
Local Bills Discounted		104,548
Buildings and Furniture		235,670
Money at call and at short notice		2,510 625
Bankers' Accounts		1,901,737
Sundry other Accounts		307,624
Cash—	£E.	
Notes	3,182,363	
Gold	50,931	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	1,088,010	
		4,321,304
		£E.35,064,103

Issue Department.	£E.	£E.
Notes issued		39,900,000
		£E.39,900,000
		£E.
Gold	3,309,191	
*British Treasury Bills	16,640,809	
		19,950,000
Securities:—		
Egyptian Government Securities & Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	536.322	
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds	19,413,678	
		19,950,000
		£E.39,900,000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasur Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

GENTLEMAN with considerable experience (Mesopotamia) as Political Officer, who contemplates travelling (would leave end December) in Asia Minor and Caucasia, where is prepared transact any business relating commercial development or report on conditions for such, is, nevertheless, open to offer employment now by firm controlling or about have interests in Near East. Sound business man. Organiser. Small salary acceptable provided good prospects held out.—Write to Box No. 146, THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 444.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It is announced that the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference has approved the text of the Treaty to be concluded by Greece and the Allied Powers for the protection of minorities in Greece. The Greeks, who have had a wide and painful experience of the persecution to which minorities can be subjected, will probably raise no objection to anything in the Treaty; or if they object to any detail, they will not resent the Great Powers' intention to keep an eye upon them in this matter, as the Roumanians and Serbians have done. As for Roumania, at the time of writing it is understood that she has not yet replied to the Entente's Note of October 12, and consequently a telegram was sent on Monday, by M. Pichon, through the French Minister in Bucharest, asking for "a clear and positive reply" in the shortest possible time.

The further delay in the signature of the Bulgarian peace treaty has been occasioned by the necessity of returning a detailed reply to the points raised by the Bulgarian Delegation in its comments on the draft treaty. Certain modifications of the original document have been made, but they do not affect the delimitation of Bulgaria's frontiers. One of the concessions said to have been granted is power to create a special corps of frontier guards, volunteers, not numbering more than three thousand. At first sight this clause looks as if the Allies had placed their *imprimatur* on the Komitadjis the cause of most of the trouble in the past in the Balkans, and it is devoutly to be hoped that there is some other explanation of the concession. Frontier guards on each side of a boundary which satisfies neither country can hardly fail to be a fruitful source of armed collisions. If the Supreme Council imagines that in this way peace has been secured for the Balkans, it has placed a fitting climax on a lengthy record of blunders.

In replying to the Bulgarian objections to the peace terms, M. Clemenceau had no difficulty in drafting a scathing letter. In so far as a people is responsible for the acts of its Government the indictment stands: but the fierce denunciation framed in the name of the Allied and Associated Powers reveals no knowledge of the Balkan problem and less willingness to try to understand it. M. Clemenceau says that these Powers "wish merely to establish a peace which shall be just and, consequently, durable and fertile." The peace, however, is not just; it is doubtful whether it can be durable; it certainly can only be fertile of trouble. But the earlier the treaty is signed, the sooner can the work of repairing the mistakes of Paris and of introducing lasting peace and harmony in the Balkans begin.

It is as difficult now as it has been at any time since the Armistice to form a clear conception of the situation in Turkey. It looks as if various parties, but chiefly the "Committee" and the "Anti-Committee" groups, are manœuvring and struggling for position, with the representatives of the Powers looking on, helpless. This may be an utterly erroneous view, and it is difficult to believe that Paris can really be as inert as it looks in this matter But it is obvious that the world is paying quite heavily already for the indecision regarding the future of Turkey which, Mr. Lloyd George has told us plainly, is due to the delay of the United States in making up its mind about the mandate for Asia Minor. The trouble in Egypt, for instance, it is becoming daily more apparent, cannot be settled until the Turkish Peace Terms are at least made known. Again, the glimpses we get of events in Armenia are calculated to give us the impression that the Armenians would welcome almost any decision rather than continue to endure the present state of suspense, varied only by frequent guerilla fighting; while the situation in Western Asia Minor is bound to be full of risk until the Powers speak out firmly and clearly.

In these circumstances it is by no means astonishing to find Captain Ormsby-Gore asking in the House of Commons why we have to await the decision of America, considering that she had not been at war with Turkey. In reply, Mr. Bonar Law suggested that the House would not desire that we should do anything to give the impression that we undervalued American assistance in the general settlement. Judging by the past, such a possibility is extremely remote, the tendency being strongly in the opposite direction. But when the question cries so urgently for settlement, and when there seems to be a prospect that America may finally decide not to join the League of Nations, and may even decline to ratify the Treaty of Versailles, it is permissible to ask how much longer things are to be left in such an unsatisfactory and highly dangerous state.

Although the fact is unlikely to have much weight with the Peace Conference, the Turks themselves are

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undoubtedly suffering much by the delay. Rumours are current that a plot is afoot for the removal—some reports suggest the assassination—of the Sultan and the placing on the throne of Prince Mehmed Selim, the eldest son of Abdul Hamid. Apart from other considerations, which are not likely to influence Paris considerably, such a change would be very prejudicial to Entente interests, and it is much to be hoped that the Allies will let it be clearly understood that under no conditions whatsoever would any plot of this character be allowed to achieve its ultimate purpose. The relations between Sultan Mehmet VI. and Mustapha Kemal Pasha have always been friendly, and it is difficult to credit the rumour which has it that the latter sees eye to eye with the C.U.P. in regard to the desirability of a change of ruler. But, indeed, it is difficult to credit most of the rumours coming from Turkey, or purporting to convey information regarding Turkey at the present time, and it would be wise to take them all with a large amount of salt.

There have been further riots in Alexandria, and reports from other parts of Egypt indicate that the country is in a thoroughly unsatisfactory state. It looks as if the agitators had succeeded beyond the most extravagant hopes of some of them; and it is certain that many of the more responsible Egyptians have not yet realised how far the mischief has spread, or how bitter and unreasoning is the spirit of hatred that has been aroused. A traveller, with a wide experience of the Near East and a thorough knowledge of the language and customs of Egypt, who recently spent a considerable time in that country, declared that it was pitiful to see everywhere evidence of such rabid xenophobia, and especially of such intense hatred of the British, as had sprung up quite lately. The fact is that the lower class Egyptian, egged on by some of his semi-educated countrymen, has become dangerous; while many of the better class have not grasped the fact, and others, who are well-disposed towards the British, are—for reasons explained recently by our Cairo Correspondent—afraid to attempt to use their influence in any moderating way.

These points are illustrated by the account of a very ugly riot at Alexandria last Friday. "A delegation of lawyers, merchants, and notables" of that city, we are told, "prevailed on the Governor to order the withdrawal of the police and troops, giving an undertaking that there would be no demonstrations or disorders." Such an undertaking would certainly only be given in good faith, but subsequent events proved that the lawyers, merchants, and notables had failed to gauge the temper of their fellow-townsmen. After a service at one of the principal mosques, a "demonstration," of the kind beloved by the Egyptian, took place. It began quietly enough, but suddenly—as the result apparently of an Army ambulance colliding with some of the demonstrators—the mob lost its head and at once started looting. As a result of the representations of the notables, neither police nor military were available to deal with the trouble at once, and for over an hour the rioters had things all their own way. Then the police appeared, and succeeded in quelling the disturbance without military assistance. The most disquieting fact about the trouble is that it took place on the Moslem Sabbath, and immediately after the Friday Prayer. That the agitators have sought to stir up the latent fanaticism of the masses is not to be doubted; but so far the responsible leaders of Moslem opinion have behaved with a wisdom and restraint that have rendered such attempts far less dangerous than they might easily be. It would be a bad day for Islam if ever the counsels of moderation should go unheeded and the fanatics gain the upper hand.

An event which may prove to be of considerable importance to the Arab world took place on Thursday of last week, too late for notice in our columns. On that day, at Buckingham Palace, the two Missions from Arabia, which have been in England some time, were received by the King, who was accompanied by the Queen and Princess Mary. The first Mission came from Nejd and was headed by Ibn Saud's son, Sheikh Faisal ibn Abdul Aziz; the second was from Koweit, and was led by Sheikh Ahmed ibn Jabir ibn Subah, nephew and heir of the ruler of Koweit. Both came to offer congratulations upon the victory of the Allies, and bore handsome presents for the King, and the members of both parties are understood to have been much gratified by their reception by his Majesty. The occasion was significant, because it emphasises the increasing importance which Arabia and the Arabs are assuming in world politics. Before the war it was the rarest thing for any Arab of rank to visit England, but since the Armistice we have already been able to welcome several, and in the near future we shall probably welcome others. In the present case, the Nejd Mission has taken the opportunity of conferring with the India Office and the Foreign Office, and will doubtless have explained fully Ibn Saud's views on the development of Arabia. That is a point to the good. We must realise that the Arabs expect to be considered no less than our other Allies.

Two items of news brought by the last Indian mail indicate that some of the provincial Governments are moving in the matter of explaining their attitude and actions to the people whom they govern—a matter the importance of which has been urged on various occasions in these columns. Mr. Candler, a well-known journalist, has entered on his duties as secretary of the Publicity Committee in the Punjab, while the *United Provinces Journal*, originally a war effort, has now appeared in the more pacific guise of "a popular educator." The progress of these ventures will be watched with interest, not entirely unmixed with anxiety. There is much necessary work to be done, but there are pitfalls in the way, and we have only to glance at some of the "departmental" journals recently issued in this country to appreciate the danger hinted at by our Indian contemporaries, that the new organisations may sink to the position of blowers of official trumpets. That result would be disastrous, but we may perhaps trust to the vigilance of the unofficial Press to check any tendency towards undue adulation, and it is a promising sign that in the United Provinces special attention will be given to agricultural and industrial topics, in regard to which there is almost unlimited scope for the dissemination of useful knowledge, and—at the moment—but too little room for flattery.

Perhaps the occasion is appropriate for suggesting that the authorities at Whitehall and Delhi might with advantage bring their own publicity arrangements into some sort of order, to the extent, at least, of coming to an agreement regarding matters of fact. The Afghan Peace is a case in point. In August the world at large was told of a treaty all take and no give: a little later, on the 23rd of that month, England was told that there was give as well as take, but India had to wait for this information until the last week in September, and India is somewhat hurt by this apparent neglect. Or take the "mystery" of the Chief of the Indian General Staff: it was recently announced in England that General Jacob would succeed to this position when it becomes vacant next January, but in India it has been stated without contradiction that the vacancy actually occurred last September. Again, Mr. Montagu recently stated in Parliament that increased rates of pay for Army officers in India would shortly be announced, but the rates had been published in India two days before this statement was made. All this is bad administration, to say the least, and the authorities cannot complain if their statements, like some other forms of currency, tend to circulate at a discount.

The decision of the Government of India to appoint a commission on sugar production will meet with universal approval, tempered only by regret that the step was not taken twenty years ago, when the question first attracted public attention. Had action been taken then, it is

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possible that by this time India might have become an exporting country; but in any case she would not be such a serious competitor in the market for the world's insufficient supplies, and our present inadequate ration might be considerably larger than it is. Regrets are, however, useless, and the great thing is that the subject is now to be investigated by a body of experts charged with the duty of marking out a clear line of policy for the future. The task is no easy one, for at every stage, from planting the cane to selling the sugar, there are obstacles to be faced, and a great variety of prejudices or predilections to be taken into account; but we believe that the thing can be done, and that India can, if she chooses, develop from her present position the greatest sugar industry in the world.

It is a sign of the times that the Commission is instructed to examine the effect of protective duties, a degree of liberty, or licence, which, so far as we remember, has never hitherto been granted in India to any body of the kind. The extent of the change in atmosphere may be gauged by the fact that as lately as 1916 the tariff question was specifically excluded from the purview of the Industrial Commission, and if we look a little farther back, we must try to imagine what Lord Morley, for instance, would have said about such a proposal. We have not the least intention of anticipating the work of the new Commission by saying whether the Indian industry needs a protective tariff or not, and, indeed, we do not envy them the task of examining the question in all its ramifications, but we are glad that the examination is to take place; India is very nearly solid in favour of protection, and while her knowledge of economic science is not one of her strongest points, it is only right that her often-expressed wishes should receive a respectful hearing.

The question of Afghanistan has again been raised in the House of Lords, and Lord Curzon replied, but without adding, except in one particular, any definite information to what he had stated the previous week. The exception was the admission that the letter of Sir Hamilton Grant "which no doubt was composed by him in the first place, was previously seen and approved by the Government of India, and was telegraphed by them to the Secretary of State in this country for sanction." His Majesty's Government, Lord Curzon continued, "referring to the urgent representation of the Government of India that an assurance to the Afghans such as that contained in the letter was essential to the conclusion of the peace negotiations, and having regard to the conditions of the treaty itself, decided not to withold their assent." This admission is likely to confirm the critics in their opinion that, having lost the war, the Afghans won the peace by securing the one thing on which they chose to set any value at all.

INDIAN ARMY COMMITTEE.

The Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for India in July last, under the chairmanship of Lord Esher, have completed the taking of evidence in this country, and will leave to prosecute their inquiries in India on Saturday.

Lord Esher and Lieutenant-General Sir J. P. du Cane will remain in this country, and at the sittings in India the chair will be taken by Sir Michael O'Dwyer, as the member taking precedence in official rank. During the absence on the Committee of Lieutenant-General Sir H. V. Cox, the Acting Secretaryship of the Military Department at the India Office is filled by Lieutenant-General Sir Alexander Cobbe, V.C., lately acting G.O.C. in Mesopotamia. The members of the Army Commission leaving on Saturday, in addition to those named, are Sir Godfrey Fell, Lieutenant-General Sir C. W. Jacob, Major-General Sir W. Gillman, and the secretary, Brigadier-General C. M. Wagstaff. They will be joined in India by Lieutenant-General Sir H. Hudson, Adjutant-General in India, and Sir Malik M. Umar Hyat Khan, Tiwana, the representative on the committee of Indian officers.

The War Office states that since September 17 twenty-two vessels have sailed from Bombay, Basra, and Karachi, carrying 339 officers and 9,245 other ranks from Mesopotamia, and 1,018 officers and 7,518 other ranks from India. The total number of troops embarked since July 26 is 852 officers and 19,565 other ranks from Mesopotamia, and 1,347 officers and 8,217 other ranks from India.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

The Financial Debate.

The House of Commons ran away from its projected attack on the Government's financial policy, or lack of policy, last week. A White Paper issued two days before the debate showed that the position was even more serious than had been supposed, and the gap between revenue and expenditure greater than even that constitutional pessimist Lord Buckmaster had imagined. But Mr. Austen Chamberlain disappointed his critics by a closely-reasoned speech, and took all the sting out of the attack by promising that there should be no increase of taxation next year. How it is to be done nobody knows, but for the time being at least nobody cares. If there is one thing that is sufficient unto the day it is the taxes thereof.

The attitude of the Liberal and Labour parties in replying to the Chancellor of the Exchequer demonstrated once more the extreme feebleness of the Opposition. It is not so much afraid to strike as incapable of striking hard; its attacks are about as formidable as the "good hard knocks" of the curate in the play. On financial matters the Liberals have suffered an irreparable loss of debating power by the defeat of Mr. Asquith and Mr. McKenna; the Labour critics were not more ineffective than their rivals in Opposition—they could not well have been more ineffective had they tried—but equally incapable of driving a point home. The one constructive suggestion from that quarter was made by Mr. Clynes, who agreed that the bread subsidy should be taken off, but proposed that all wages should be increased by a shilling a week to make up for it—in other words, when we lose on the swings we are to charge more on the roundabouts. Mr. Lloyd George had no difficulty in securing his usual triumph; a good case could have been made against the Government for extravagance and waste, but it was not made. Nor was there any real attempt to make it.

Liberal and Labour Dissensions

One reason for the slackness of the attack on the Government is the fact that the Opposition are more busily engaged in fighting among themselves at the moment than in combining against the Cabinet. The Independent Liberals, whom some wit nicknamed the "Wee Frees," are weeer and freer than ever. The Whip is in open revolt against his leader, and the party is split from top to bottom. Sir Donald Maclean, the titular leader of the group, is one of the old school of moderate Liberals; he speaks with the restraint of Mr. Asquith, and one feels that he always has the feeling of responsibility engendered by the old tradition that the Leader of the Opposition is the heir-apparent of the Prime Minister. Mr. Hogge, on the other hand, is an irresponsible. In the old days of Liberal autocracy he would just as soon criticise Mr. Asquith as the Tories, and the habit survives to this day. In Mr. Hogge's eyes the proper function of a political leader is as a target for Mr. Hogge; which is vastly amusing to the rest of the world, but perhaps not quite so pleasant for Sir Donald Maclean.

While these diversions continue in the Independent Liberal camp, the Government have nothing to fear from that quarter; and the reiterated rumour that Mr. Asquith contemplates an early return to the House has again been formally denied. The ex-Prime Minister is fast becoming a prehistoric figure, a creature of myth and legend, to the new generation at Westminster; and his occasional speeches in the provinces do nothing to counteract the impression. He indulged in a little formal criticism of the Government this week, but what he said attracted less attention than the extraordinary fact that he should have thought it worth while to go to Aberystwyth, of all places in the world, to say it. One curious result of the speech, by the way, has been that the East Fife Liberal Association have delivered an ultimatum to their old representative, giving Mr. Asquith fourteen days to make up his mind whether he will stand again at the next election. So far his decision has not been made public.

The Labour party is in an even more ridiculous position. It has always consisted of firebrands and ex-

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tremists on the one hand and of moderate and rather stuffily conventional orators on the other. The last election kept the extremists out of the House, and let the moderate men in; only one man, a Glasgow member, could by any stretch of the imagination be called an extremist, for although Mr. Thomas, the railway man, occasionally says extreme things, any child in politics can see that he does not really mean them, and, like the chameleon, only changes his colours to be in conformity with his surroundings. The result is that the ordinary Labour member utters endless platitudes in the House, which nobody listens to except the official reporters, and they only because they are compelled; while the firebrands dance without in the wilderness, and utter incantations and imprecations in the *Daily Herald*.

The *Herald* is itself in rather a comical position. It is an entirely revolutionary organ, whose aim is to destroy capital and the "taint" of capitalism everywhere. It is always attacking "the capitalist Press" as unfair, dishonest, and prejudiced; but this week it has begun to appeal for more capital to carry on, announcing that it cannot go ahead as fast as it ought to on account of shortness of cash. The wicked capitalists do not seem to have responded in the proper spirit of forgiveness to this ingenuous request.

The City Boom.

As a matter of fact the City has other things to think about in these days. While the leader-writers in Fleet Street are shaking their heads over the appalling prospects of the Government and the country, and waxing eloquent over the universal insecurity of industry, it is a sober fact that trade is flourishing, and that new companies are issuing their prospectuses at the rate of a dozen a day. A few of these, no doubt, are of the wildcat order, but most are of the solid industrial kind which appeals to the steady investor. On Monday last over ten millions of new capital were asked for, either by well-established companies which are enlarging their businesses, or by entirely new industries; which gives the lie to the theory that the war has killed British enterprise. Most of these new issues appear to be successful in getting the money asked for; only one or two companies have failed to go to allotment in the last few months, and although in the case of one huge issue recently the underwriters were left with half the shares on their hands, the day-to-day dealings of that particular company on the Stock Exchange do not show any serious depreciation in the shares.

Apart from these solid undertakings, which make the banks and the issuing houses busy, the Stock Exchange is enjoying a boom of its own. As a reaction after the war, when everybody bought War Loan and locked it up in the safe with the internal confession that 5 per cent. for doing one's duty was not so bad after all, it is a relief to have a real gamble in the most speculative shares on the market. Oils and rubbers are the only favourites at the moment. Everybody buys them, but nobody holds them for more than a few days, and then sells them at a profit—or a loss; the idea of waiting for a dividend simply does not enter into the game at all. It is very amusing, and very exciting, and so far nobody seems to have burnt their fingers very badly; indeed, it has been almost impossible to go wrong for even rubbish has mounted to enormous prices and still finds purchasers.

The moralists and the pessimists deplore the boom, and declare that we are living in a fool's paradise, from which there will soon be a speedy and a sorrowful awakening. Their predictions may come true—even a pessimist is sometimes right by accident—but those on the inside declare that no serious harm is being done. In the aggregate the amount of business transacted is enormous, but the individual transactions are small. If a man with five thousand pounds to invest puts four thousand into a solid seven per cent. industrial, and has a fling with the odd thousand, he is not likely to commit suicide if he loses the latter so long as he keeps the former. And there is always the possibility at the present moment that the odd thousand may become two in a night.

There is the story, for instance, of the man who bought the wrong shares over the telephone. On leaving his office he was run down by a taxi, and taken to hospital with a broken leg. A week later he remembered the transaction, realised his blunder, and persuaded the nurse to ring up his broker to find out how much he had lost. The reply was that he had made two hundred pounds. The hospital got half as a donation, and one version of the tale says that the patient refused to prosecute the taxi-driver and married the nurse. But doubtless that is an exaggeration.

The American Strikes.

The Labour troubles in the United States are being watched with interest in England, but as the issue develops it is realised that no really effective parallel can be drawn. The idea of stopping a strike by a legal injunction, often practised successfully in America but apparently abortive on this occasion, could not be applied to a British dispute; nor is the warfare between Capital and Labour likely to proceed to such extremes at home as across the Atlantic. Both sides at the moment are threatening a fight to a finish, with results that may be serious for American industry, but still more grave for the social life of the country, which is threatened by a class war. The present difficulties are peculiarly repugnant to President Wilson, who is not only prevented by illness from attending in person to the dispute, but is also forced to see its unfavourable reaction upon his whole international policy.

Undoubtedly it was his hope that the United States should be the moral leader of the world in the League of Nations, standing above the battle of rival European interests, and either composing quarrels or dealing out impartial justice to the recalcitrant from the lofty height of Washington. He would be a bold man who cherished that expectation any longer. The politicians at Washington have no belief in America's moral leadership of the world. The general public either lacks interest or doubts the advisability of looking for trouble abroad when there is trouble enough and to spare at home. The cynical suggest that the American mandate should be confined to America. It may be surmised that many of the very vocal opponents of the League of Nations are not altogether sorry that the Labour troubles of America have diverted attention from that instrument, and that they will use the interval as a means of forging further arguments against their aversion.

The Home Labour Situation.

Official Labour is congratulating itself this week in England. Its candidates have won the bulk of the borough elections, more through the apathy of the Progressives, Municipal Reformers, and Ratepayers' Association candidates and supporters than for any other reason; Labour was the only party that could induce its followers to go to the poll, and therefore deserves its victory. It has been seized as a portent of the next House of Commons both by the victors and the vanquished—a fact which proves how short political memories can be. If the past is any criterion, the moral is precisely the reverse. The London County Council was consistently Liberal or Progressive while the Conservatives were in power; in 1907, a year after the Conservative downfall in Parliament, the L.C.C. for the first time returned a Conservative majority, and the Progressives have been in a minority ever since.

But Labour has another reason to be pleased with itself. As a result of the railway strike, the Government has been compelled to recognise by statute that wages shall not be reduced until September, 1920; apparently it has not yet dawned upon the triumphant politicians that this enactment also standardises the high prices against which they protest in every speech. Further, Labour has compelled the Government to omit from its Bill any real curtailment of the right to strike, which is always jealously guarded as the fundamental weapon of the worker. Perhaps it does not make much difference after all. There have been many attempts to stop strikes by enactment, but in effect if men choose to go on strike they go on strike, and the law which forbids them to do so under penalty is not enforced. The attempt to square that particular circle has been made again and again by optimistic politicians, and has always failed.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, October 16.

Accession Anniversary of the Sultan.

Last Thursday was the anniversary of the accession of Sultan Fuad. In the morning his Highness held a reception at Ras El Tin Palace, which was attended by the largest number of notables seen at such a ceremony for some time, and on the same afternoon his Excellency Mohammed Said Pasha, the Prime Minister, gave a very successful tea party at the Jardin Antoniades in honour of the occasion.

It is understood that the seat of Government will be officially transferred back to Cairo towards the end of the month, by which time Lord Allenby will have returned and Sir Paul Harvey will have taken up his duties as Financial Adviser.

Indemnities for Riot Damages.

In the Budget for the current year a sum of £E1,000,000 was set aside to meet claims arising out of the disorders which occurred last March. A Commission has now been appointed by decree of the Council of Ministers to examine and settle claims for damage suffered by the general public. The Commission will consist of H.E. Yehia Pasha Ibrahim, President of the Native Court of Appeal, as President; Sir Alexander Wood Renton, late of the Ceylon Courts, as Vice-President; and Mr. P. F. Sanderson, of the Native Court of First Instance; Mr. W. A. Betts, Director of Municipalities; Hussein Kamil Bey, of the Ministry of Interior; Rafla Tadros Bey, of the Ministry of Finance; and M. De Saint Plancat, of the French School of Law, members. It is authorised to receive and examine claims, and either to reject them or to fix the amount of the indemnity, there being no appeal from its decisions. No claims will be entertained for indirect damage or for the loss of specie, jewellery, silver articles, objects of art, antiques, stocks and shares, rents, or crops. At the same time, if any of these articles were warehoused for sale or pledged in security of loans, an indemnity may be accorded if written documents, stamped by the courts, can be produced as proof. Likewise, indemnities may be accorded to owners of crops stolen or destroyed while in barn or standing. Claims relating to buildings will be settled on the basis of the value of the buildings at the time they were damaged; those for loss or deterioration of goods forwarded through, or received by, the State Railways will be dealt with according to its regulations by that Administration; but with that sole exception, all claims for damage are to come within the jurisdiction of the Commission. It is expressly laid down in the decree that the Native Courts will not be competent to hear cases for compensation brought against the Egyptian Government, and that the institution of this Commission relieves the Government and its Administrations of all responsibility in regard to any claims for compensation whatsoever made by the public at any time in connection with the recent disorders. All claims have to be submitted to the Commission, or to the Egyptian State Railways, not later than November 15 next; and the credit of £E1,000,000 will be distributed *pro rata* between the claims admitted by the Commission.

The Alexandria Tram Situation.

An interesting development has taken place in connection with the Alexandria tram strike. At the last Council of Ministers correspondence which had been exchanged between the Prime Minister and the municipality on the subject of the concessions was submitted; and the Council approved in principle the proposal that the Government should cede to the municipality its right to purchase back the concessions held by the Alexandria Tramways and the Ramleh Railway Companies, and that it should agree to give its financial support to the municipality in this matter, provided that the scheme for the purchase be concluded without having been first submitted to the Government for approval. This sudden development came as a great surprise, and has aroused much comment.

It appears that although they hold separate concessions the two companies have for all intents and purposes amalgamated and have mixed up their accounts by transfers of shares and other transactions to such an extent that it is almost impossible to obtain an exact account of the revenue of either. It further appears that the Alexandria company cannot raise its fares without the permission of the municipality, but that the Ramleh company is free to do so. The municipality refused its permission to the Alexandria company, whereupon the Ramleh company announced its intention of doubling its own fares and of resuming the service. The service has so far not been resumed, but the company has requested the Courts to appoint a sequestrator to examine the books and control its accounts. Exactly what has led up to the sudden decision of the Government to intervene is not quite clear, but we can be certain that it would not have taken this step unless it had very good legal grounds for doing so. In any case, it is high time that something was done to bring about a resumption of the service, and it will be interesting to watch developments and see whether the municipality is able to run these services without any increase in fares and at the same time to meet the demands of the men.

The Students.

There is trouble once more in the Government schools, which opened a fortnight ago. The ringleaders are the the students of the school of enginering, who protested against certain regulations having to do with the syllabus and the examinations, and who refused to resume their studies unless their demands were immediately agreed to. They sent telegrams of protest to the Prime Minister; but his advice and the friendly efforts made by Egyptian officials to bring them to a more reasonable frame of mind proved unavailing, and the students have steadily refused to do any work, though they attend their school and eat the meals which are provided for them by the Ministry of Education, and part

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of the cost of which is included in the fees. Meanwhile, these students have been trying to get their comrades in the other higher schools to follow their example. In some cases they have succeeded, but most of the schools have confined themselves to a one-day strike to show their sympathy. The situation is far from satisfactory; for the students have not contented themselves with submitting demands directly connected with the administration of their schools, but together with their comrades in other schools, they have issued pamphlets and addressed telegrams to the Prime Minister, calling upon him to stand for independence, and telling him that he had better do his duty, and so forth.

There seems little doubt that this is all part of the campaign engineered by the Extremists to embarrass and browbeat the Cabinet, and the vernacular press is encouraging this lack of discipline by giving the fullest publicity to the actions and writings of these students and schoolboys. It is regrettable, to say the least of it, to find that their parents and those into whose hands the reins of government would presumably fall if independence were granted to Egypt, are unable—I might even go so far as to say unwilling—to control the strikers and make them return to the studies which alone can fit them eventually to take the part in the administration of their country to which they seem so to aspire. In no other country would such behaviour on the part of students and schoolboys be tolerated for one moment; nor would youths of such an age elsewhere dream of interfering in politics and endeavouring to dictate to those set in authority over them as these youths are doing.

CAIRO, October 23.

The Residency moved up to Cairo this week and the seat of the Government will be transferred back to Cairo in a few days' time. The staff and archives, etc., came up by special train, but their departure from Alexandria and arrival in Cairo took place with such a little fuss that the Extremists jumped to the conclusion that the train had brought the Milner Commission which—presumably owing to our fear of hostile demonstrations—we wanted to introduce secretly into Cairo. They accordingly spread the news round, and in Alexandria hostile demonstrations took place. It was not long, however, before they found out their mistake, but the excitement which was noticeable enables one to foresee what may happen when the Commission actually arrives.

The Milner Commission.

Indeed, the Milner Commission is the sole topic of the hour, and must be proving a godsend to the vernacular press, since it enables it to fill its columns with articles, telegrams, etc., and to command an extraordinarily large and ready sale.

The phase which is at the present moment most interesting the Press is an interview which the Prime Minister is understood to have given last week to some Egyptians who went to interrogate him on the question of his attitude towards the Milner Commission. These gentlemen, although Extremists, were, as far as can be gathered, delegated by no particular section of the Extremist element, and, apparently, took it upon themselves to put the question to the Prime Minister. It is interesting to note, however, that one of them disappeared on the way down to Alexandria. Important business seems to have detained him at Tanta, and he left the task of confronting the Prime Minister to his colleagues. They succeeded in drawing from him a statement to the effect that he had asked for the postponement of the Commission because many problems remained to be settled in Europe, among them the status of Turkey, and he considered these problems should first be settled; that if the Commission came in spite of his representations, he should regard it as a sign on the part of the British Government of its lack of confidence in him and his colleagues; that in the course of a recent interview with the Mudirs in the presence of the Adviser to the Interior he had forbidden them to take any hand in politics; he had ordered them to occupy themselves solely with the administration of their provinces and especially with the maintenance of public security for which he held them personally responsible, and had told them that if any one endeavoured to bring pressure to bear on them or the people in political matters they were to report at once to him. (The reason for the latter injunction was that there has been of late much talk in the vernacular press of propaganda carried out on behalf of the Milner Commission by Government officials. This allegation has been proved to be without foundation, particularly in connection with certain mysterious blank forms which, it was definitely stated, the Omdas and fellaheen were being forced to sign, and the statement with regard to which has had to be denied by the Press Bureau.)

The account of this interview which has been circulated by the Egyptians who interviewed him has been published by every paper, and has been accompanied by such comments and has been given such complexion as have evidently been thought best to suit the views of their readers. It has, as stated, aroused considerable discussion amongst the Egyptians, who are divided in their opinion as to whether they should have confidence or not in the Prime Minister. On balance, however, opinions seem to incline to give him support.

Recrudescence of Demonstrations.

With the return of the cooler weather Egyptians appear to be reverting to more active means of expressing their feelings, or, rather, the agitators are finding it easier to persuade the rank and file to fall in with their suggestions in this connection. Lately there have been one or two minor demonstrations in the provinces, and on several Fridays the usual mid-day prayer in Alexandria has been followed by small manifestations. On Friday last, however, quite the largest crowd that has been seen for some time assembled outside one of the principal mosques in Alexandria, and on the conclusion of the service, when its ranks were swelled by worshippers from within, it moved, with banners at its head and amid the usual Nationalist cries, towards the European quarter of the town. The demonstrators reached the American Consulate, outside which they shouted "Down with the Milner Commission," "Long Live Independent Egypt," etc. They were driven off by Egyptian troops and police, and tried to reach the Italian Consulate for the same purpose, but were stopped and forced to disperse on reaching the European quarter. There were very few casualties, and none of them serious, but it looks as if from now onwards we may expect a repetition of popular demonstrations.

The Tram Strikes.

Since my last letter the Alexandria and Ramleh trams have resumed their services on the suburban lines with doubled fares. Residents objected very strongly to the

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extra charge, and most of them declined to pay, their names being taken by the conductors with a view to possible action against them by the company. It is understood that the company has taken legal advice on the matter, and has asked the Government if, in the event of its re-establishing the old tariff, the former will indemnify it for any loss it may incur. The Government reply has been that until the company takes proper measures to ensure collection of fares such a proposition cannot be entertained for one moment, and the general opinion is that if the company were to establish a more efficient control it would substantially increase its receipts—it is, indeed, notorious that hundreds of passengers travel daily without ever paying a millieme—and would quite possibly cover the extra charge entailed by the improvement in pay and service conditions which it has had to grant to its staff. As regards Cairo, the position has improved considerably, and not only are tram services working normally, but the Heliopolis Metropolitain has succeeded in converting its one month's compromise into a permanent agreement with its men.

Trouble on the Railways.

Meanwhile, however, trouble is threatened on the State Railways. For some time there has been a certain amount of unrest amongst the men, but they have been kept quiet by promises that their demands were receiving consideration, and by the knowledge that a special commission is sitting to deal with the question of wages. Of late, however, they have become more restive; and the climax came a few days ago, when they threatened a general strike throughout the service unless their demands were immediately granted. The general manager personally interviewed them, and went thoroughly into the points of issue. These personal interviews showed that these points were but minor grievances susceptible of easy adjustment, and an understanding on the subject was arrived at with the men, who agreed to continue at their posts. The railway officials labour under no delusions, however, and have made all arrangements to carry on the service in the event of a sudden general strike.

The reason that they are taking all these precautions is that it has been for some time common knowledge that the extremists had planned a wholesale and simultaneous cessation of work throughout the country as a popular demonstration against the Protectorate and the Milner Commission, and that a general railway strike naturally formed part of their plan of campaign. Personal contact with the State Railway men has made it perfectly clear that outside influences have been at work, and that without those influences they would not have contemplated their present step. It is because of the increased activity of political agitators throughout the country, and the conviction that they have been tampering with the railwaymen, that there is reason to fear that the trouble is not at an end; and those responsible for the transport arrangement, on which, apart from anything else, the feeding of the towns depends, are quite rightly taking their precautions.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, October 23.

The Political Situation.

The general situation appears on the surface to have remained much the same during the last fortnight. The voices that were raised in some of the local papers against the Military Ministry are now inclined to turn against M. Bratiano, who, it appears, is generally singled out for such attentions when other attractions fail.

The elections have been postponed again, and prefects are touring the country preparing for the great event. The mass of the people show indifference, real or feigned, to politics, and declare that they will abstain from voting; a smaller section, including most of the Socialists, has decided not to vote on the ground that they do not trust the whole arrangement. Nosidered that they will return M. Bratiano to power. doubt the Liberals will vote, and it is generally conAll the talk about abstaining from voting may be but a cover to some deep design of other party leaders; there is certainly some discontent abroad, and an outbreak, if not probable, is always possible. In fact this country, like every other, is getting weary of diplomatists and politicians, and wants to get on with its business. There is a vast amount to be done, and there are none too many hands to do it.

Hungary: A Rumour.

Concerning Hungarian affairs, a report has got into the papers that that country is to have an English peer as Governor, a well-known administrator. His name figures with v. Moltkes, Borgias, and others, in a quaint little publication called "Semi-Gotha." This entertaining work came out in the winter of 1913-1914, and professed to give traces of Semitic origin or connection amongst the noble families of Europe. The book was promptly suppressed by the German Government, but not before it had achieved a considerable circulation. The suggestion, therefore, coming at a time when the Hungarians are said to be seriously thinking of taking to the pogrom habit, affords considerable amusement in certain circles here, and is regarded as further evidence of the Supreme Council's tact and discernment.

CYPRUS

The Question of "Union." OCTOBER 14.

The Pan-Cypriot meeting was duly held on October 12 (September 29, O.S.), in the courtyard of the Greek Archbishop's palace at Nicosia, under the presidency of the Bishop of Papho. It was addressed by that prelate, by M. A. Liassides, Mayor of Nicosia, and by M. E. Zeno, a member of the Legislative Council. A resolution was then passed and signed by the representatives of the towns and of 475 villages, as well as by the bishops and higher clergy. It records the aspirations of the Greek community for the incorporation of the island in the Greek Kingdom. One of the clauses says: "We also give assurance on this official occasion that we consider it a question of honour that, under the free institutions of Greek rule, we shall live in harmony and in equality of civic rights with the co-inhabitant Mussulman minority."

The Bishop then wrote to the acting High Commissioner, asking him to appoint a time at which he could hand to His Excellency a copy in triplicate of the resolution. The High Commissioner replied verbally that before he could say whether he would receive His Eminence or not he must take cognisance of the resolution. The Greek leaders appear to have taken umbrage at what they considered "an unusual and unprecedented mode of reply in the Government annals of Cyprus," and the Council thereupon decided to express their surprise at the "paradoxical tactics," and sent copies to the High Commissioner, with a request that he would forward them to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. On the following day telegrams were sent to the Prime Minister, the Colonial Secretary, the leaders of the Houses of Parliament, M. Venizelos, and the Foreign Minister at Athens. The telegram was as follows:—

A Pan-Cypriot meeting was assembled yesterday at Nicosia under my presidency. There were present 914 representatives of the entire Hellenic people of the island, who unanimously approved a resolution in favour of union with Greece, appealing to the liberal English nation and the Government of His Majesty for the speedy fulfilment of their just aspirations, which they have submitted through their legal representatives now in London, and declaring that any other solution not in accordance with their aspirations would cause them bitter disappointment and despair. The resolution has been duly submitted to the High Commissioner for transmission.

(Signed) JACOBOS.
Metropolitan of Papho, Acting Archbishop.

30/9/1919 (O.S.).

The object of the meeting was, of course, to show more convincingly, as the time for a decision regarding Cyprus draws near, that the desire for union is shared by the whole "Greek" community. Whatever the truth may be, it must be borne in mind that such a resolution could be obtained at any moment through the machinery, elaborated during forty years, which is controlled by the Committee. Also, as regards the term "Hellenic," that in respect of nationality, there are but a very few individuals in the island who are Hellenic. The Cypriot Greeks were *rayahs*—*i.e.*, Ottoman subjects—until they became, during the war, British subjects. But the ties of language and religion have been brought into prominence. No one blames genuine Greek aspirations, though the manner of expressing them in Cyprus may have been often lacking in judgment. It is to be hoped that, whatever the "solution," the present injurious state of suspense may lead to a more prosperous future for the island.

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Miscellaneous News.

There have been some light rains, and farmers who sow early are already busy in the lowlands.

The officer administering the island and Mrs. Malcolm Stevenson have been holding fortnightly receptions on Wednesday afternoons.

Canon F. Newham, Inspector of Schools, has returned from leave in England, and taken up his duties.

MALTA.

MALTA, October 14.

Findings of the Riots Commission.

The Report of the Royal Commission on the recent riots is now available. There is little to be gleaned from it, but certain of the findings are creating the usual "pros" and "antis," an attitude no doubt due chiefly to the scarcity of stirring events in the island. To give some idea of the report, we cannot do better than go to the document itself. From it we cull the following facts of interest:—Twenty-six sittings were held, and 150 witnesses were examined on oath; all buildings associated with the British, including the Governor's Palace, during the riots had to be closed; the Union Jack was burnt in the public street; the police, if not actually siding with the rioters and looters, played the part of spectators. It is the fashion in Malta for anybody who wishes to make himself known to clamour against everything that is English; Dr. E. Mizzi is generally supposed to be the leader of the Italian Party, members of which party are dubbed in the report as semi-imbeciles or hot-heads. Dr. E. Mizzi, the Dante Alighieri, and the Giovine Malta, it is laid down, should be carefully watched, especially if foreigners or persons of foreign origin hostile to England become the followers of this Dr. Mizzi or members of the above associations. "The lack of initiative and the unsoldierly spirit of the officers and men of the Royal Malta Artillery before Colonel Francia's house on June 8 was deplorable"; the students who attacked Mr. Azzopardi and who damaged the property of the University could easily have been identified, and should have been punished as an example. The causes of the riots are put down to certain local facts, each and all of which have been made capital of not only by the Italian Party, but by a certain section of the Italian Press; these causes are set down as labour unrest, the high cost of living, violent articles in the Press, the grievances (more imaginary than real) of the University students, the constitutional question, the religious question ("certain members of the clergy have made capital out of expressions used by the Society of Protestant Truth or some other Bible Society," says the report), Mr. Azzopardi's unpopularity, hurried and misunderstood legislation, the work of the Food Control Board, profiteering and the lack of social intercourse between the English and the Maltese—thus allowing the Italian element to creep in. So runs the report, and it will be easily seen that the causes enumerated are sufficient to set a small island of ninety square miles ablaze. What will happen now it is difficult to surmise, but that there will be no further riots goes without saying; for the authorities concerned have gained by their experience and are well on the *qui vive*. What is wanted are suitable remedies to be applied promptly and rigorously.

Emigration.

Despite the efforts of the committee which has recently visited the Continent in connection with the subject of emigration, there is little keenness shown locally in taking advantage of what has been done. This lukewarmness is attributed to the fact that the wages are not high enough, but it is more probably a desire on the part of those who ought to go away to remain at home. Nostalgia accounts for much here, but it seems a pity that so many prefer dry bread at home rather than buttered toast and marmalade a few miles across the Mediterranean. For a decade there has been a constant cry of "emigrate"; and this makes the local backwardness in the matter quite deplorable. There seems nothing in the way to prevent the young, strong, and sturdy trying their luck, but here again it is "Wait and see" which is the order of the day. It has been well said locally that what the country needs is a practical knowledge of the world.

A new series of provisional postage stamps arising out of the Greek occupation of Asia Minor emanates from Rodosto, where four varieties of Turkish stamps have been overprinted with a large cross, the words "Ellenika Dioikesis" (Hellenic Administration), and new values, all in Greek characters. Turkey is shortly to be provided with a new postage stamp issue, in place of the present Austrian product, which will be printed in London, like the handsome pictorial issue of 1914. The new design is attributed to Fuad Bey, who engraved those of the attractive stamps issued by the King of the Hejaz.

CENTRAL KURDISTAN.

On November 3, at the Æolian Hall, Major Kenneth Mason gave an address before the Royal Geographical Society on "Central Kurdistan." The subject of his lecture was, he said, the country mainly south of the depopulated Nestorian and Jilu belt, west of the Turco-Persian frontier, and north-west of the Suliemania district. The district has suffered much during the war. For instance, one section of a tribe, which in 1914 numbered 150 families, now numbered only seven. The Kurds were for the most part a warlike community; before the war they all carried arms and lived largely by raids. Very few tribes, however, now felt strong enough to give scope to their predatory instincts, and he believed they would now have to settle down to agriculture if they were to live.

Roads and telegraphs were necessary if the country was to be developed. Tobacco used to be produced largely in the country, and timber grown there would, he thought, be worth its weight in gold in Mesopotamia. He thought there was coal in more than one place, and there must be oil. The time would doubtless come when, somewhere in the Kurd highlands, hill summer stations would be erected, so that families of officials in Mesopotamia might escape the insufferable heat of the plains. Major Mason added that the process of taming brigands by League of Nations methods was not an easy one, and our political officers in Kurdistan had in front of them a very difficult task.

AUTONOMY FOR ALBANIA.

A well-attended meeting of the Balkan Committee was held on October 30.

Miss M. E. Durham, speaking on the question of Albania, described how the Powers had failed to set Albania on her feet after giving her independence by the Treaty of London in 1913. During the war, when the country was occupied and devastated by troops of nearly every belligerent, the sufferings of the people were harrowing in the extreme. Since the armistice Serbia, Italy, and Greece had been competing for the lion's share of Albanian territory. The Albanians themselves would not tolerate partition, and demanded full recognition of their national rights.

After discussion, the following resolution, moved by Mr. Nevinson, and seconded by Sir Arthur Evans, was carried unanimously:—"The Balkan Committee declares itself in favour of autonomy for Albania within frontiers not less extensive than those fixed by the Treaty of London of 1913, rectified where necessary in accordance with the wishes of the inhabitants, such autonomy to be controlled by a High Commissioner under the League of Nations with a view to complete independence for Albania within a term of years."

ARMENIA.

Viscount Gladstone presided on October 29 at a luncheon given by the Armenian Bureau in connection with the first presentation in this country of a film founded on Mr. H. G. Gates's book "Ravished Armenia," and also to a considerable extent on the official report prepared by Viscount Bryce on the atrocities perpetrated by the Turks during the war.

Lord Bryce observed that history contained no such record as that of the crimes carried out by the Turkish officials and soldiery in Armenia. Confirmation of these iniquities had come from German missionaries, who unsuccessfully had made representations to their own Government to stop them. Not only had the German Government stood aloof and allowed the Turks to do their fiendish work, but they had suppressed facts and prevented the truth from being known in Germany. It was impossible, he declared, ever again to allow the Turk to rule in Armenia, and it was the duty of the Christian Powers to step in and aid the remaining inhabitants in the task of establishing a competent government.

RESCUES FROM LEPROSY.

The Mission to Lepers (formerly the Mission to Lepers in India and the East) held a public meeting on October 30 at Sion College, Sir Alfred Pearce Gould in the chair. The Mission is now working at ninety-five stations in twelve countries, entirely supporting forty-six asylums, containing about 5,000 lepers, aiding with money grants or Christian teaching forty-four other asylums or settlements containing about 9,000 lepers, and supporting and educating nearly 600 untainted children of lepers in its twenty homes and other associated institutions.

Six large submarines have arrived at Bombay en route for the Far East. They are the first seen in Bombay.

At a recent auction held by Messrs. Walter Bull and Co. a set of eight unused 1916 Salonika stamps were sold for £28.

A petition has been delivered to the Prime Minister in the name of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugees Fund, asking the Government not to withdraw the British troops from the Caucasus before provision has been made by the Peace Conference for the protection of the people from the Turks.

Reuter's Johannesburg correspondent, writing on November 4, says:—At a Jewish reception here to-day General Smuts mentioned that Mr. Lloyd George had asked him to take command in Palestine during the war. He added that he had declined, feeling that he had had enough of fighting and that he would be more useful at the centre of things.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Egypt.

Sir Valentine Chirol commenced in *The Times* of November 5 a very important series of articles on Egypt. In the first article he comments on the extraordinary danger of the present situation, and then examines the causes of the grave position, the chief of which he finds in the absence of a clear Egyptian policy. And so, he says, the Anglo-Egyptian bureaucracy has strayed after "the false gods of superficial efficiency and easy opportunism."

In the meantime, a new generation of Egyptians was growing up who had known neither the days of the oppression nor those of the deliverance. They are largely the product of a slipshod system of education, as ill-conceived as it has been clumsily carried out, for the results of which, however, we have ourselves mainly to thank. It is generally admitted to constitute our one great failure, and the one which it will be most difficult to make good. A modicum of ill-assorted intellectual training, almost entirely divorced from moral discipline, has engendered a turbulent spirit of revolt against all parental authority at home as well as against every form of political control, especially at the hands of foreigners, who are accused of denying to the Egyptians, out of sheer selfishness, the right to apply the lessons of freedom and independence which are taught by every text-book we have imported into their schools. The conflict of a new and in itself not unreasonable sense of nationhood, with the restrictions of a foreign tutelage, even when disguised under the form of a "Veiled" Protectorate, was further exaggerated by the religious susceptibilities of a Mohamedan people who watched with growing alarm the rapid decay of the Ottoman Power, the last great Mohamedan Power in the world, under the powerful impact of the West.

But so long as foreign tutelage preserved the form of a "Veiled" Protectorate, even the most advanced Nationalists felt that the future was not definitely prejudged against them nor the door irrevocably closed upon their ultimate aspirations.

He concludes by exposing the folly of changing the "veiled" Protectorate into an open Protectorate without explaining the meaning and purpose of the transformation.

England and Turkey.

The Islamic Information Bureau have recently issued a small weekly paper called the *Muslim Outlook*. The following note, taken from the issue of October 30, will give some idea of what the paper stands for:—

It is astonishing to note how little change the fall of Czarist Russia has produced in British policy till now. The English attitude towards Turkey and the East in general had some colour of expediency while Russia overshadowed everything. It is suicidal now. With a word the English could have disarmed Turkey and regained the fervent loyalty of many millions of Eastern people at the moment when the Russian Czardom fell. That generous, hearty word was never spoken. But one small change was made. It was announced in Parliament that Great Britain, when required by Russia to transfer the Caliphate away from Turkey, had refused, declaring the question of the Caliphate to be the concern of Muslims only. The announcement came too late, unfortunately. If it had been made three years before it might have saved us from a little of that bitter indignation against England which the anti-Turkish propaganda roused in Muslim minds. As it was, the demand of Russia and refusal of Great Britain were derided as a fairy-tale by people who for three years had experienced the propaganda. How many a chance to win again the old enthusiastic loyalty of Muslims was thrown away for lack of one good man! The Muslims cannot reasonably be blamed for holding fast to an opinion which everybody who knew anything about the matter knew they held with fervour. England is to blame for wantonly assailing that opinion to please Russia! What wonder if they drew together for defence. They feel that in the historic Muslim Empire their religion and their hope of progress is attacked. Let England make a generous gesture towards the Turkish Empire, and the present awful strain would be relieved. The Turks have been more sinned against than sinning for two centuries; England herself has used them badly in the last ten years. But the statesmen in this country are tied up in their own war-time propaganda, with the result that they concede grudgingly, under pressure from events, even the fulfilment of their own most solemn promises. That, alas! is not the way to regain the confidence of the East.

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Persia.

The *Newcastle Chronicle* of November 1 devotes, on the occasion of the Shah's visit, a leading article to future British relations with Persia. Our responsibility to Persia, it says, is no light one, but one that we are quite capable of justifying.

So far as the merely internal conditions are concerned we are well placed. We have on the spot a sufficient military force for the maintenance of the order that has been so conspicuous by its absence of late years in Persia. There is no reason to suppose that the work of reconstruction can be hindered by political troubles—in spite of the fact that a good many people are willing to try to make them—but the business of reconstruction is immense. . . .

Externally the imminent history of Persia may well depend upon the development or decay of Bolshevism. The Bolshevists to-day are on the whole of the northern frontier between the Caspian and Afghanistan. We have seen something of their handiwork in the Afghan rising, and all experience of their methods teaches that a helpless State—for without our assistance Persia is helpless—could not easily have worse neighbours. They are better, perhaps, than the Turk whom they have superseded, if only for the reason that their infamies are apt to be somewhat less artistically complete in their manifestations. But it is a poor choice, and if it were only for such security against outrage and pillage as our presence affords, the bulk of Persian opinion—that opinion which is spontaneous, as opposed to that which represents a mingling of the philosophies of Lenin and Enver Pasha—would be as satisfied as is our distinguished guest with the alliance. It brings us, incidentally, a fresh and vital interest in those adjustments of the nearer Middle East which the League of Nations will have to make. We shall have to watch, for instance, on behalf of ourselves and our Persian friends, the future of the very dubious Republic of Azerbaijan. That community is one of the plague spots of the region—avowedly pro-Turk and reactionary—and occupies territory which is properly a portion of Persia, and contains the second town, Tabriz, in point of size. So that in taking over the responsibility for Persia's future we have provided ourselves with many problems that we could well have done without. At the same time, we may, and probably will, have the means of facing and countering directly many other problems which would have become more formidable had we taken a less heroic course.

Islam.

The *Glasgow Herald* of October 29, in an article called "The Menace of Islam," tries to find a way out to the problem of the future of Turkey. It enumerates some of the disquieting signs now visible in the Moslem world, and endeavours to find out which and to what degree pro-Turkish contentions are justified. It refers to Turkish oppression of Christian races, and says:—

It is only by bearing in mind and bringing fairly into play such elementary facts as those we have just noted that even a beginning can be made towards counteracting the influences now at work in favour of giving Turkey much more than is her due in the coming settlement. We are far from saying that it would be desirable to make Turkey pay the full penalty for all she has done and sought to do to the detriment of Christianity and civilisation. This country is itself a great Mohammedan Power, and in the war the Mohammedans of India helped us against their co-religionists in a manner and to an extent which we cannot and would not forget. In deference to their susceptibilities, our representatives have, we sincerely believe, already done a great deal towards averting from Turkey that destruction which Mustapha Kemal falsely declares we are trying to achieve. But between this and positively championing Turkey's cause, as we are asked to do, there is a distinction with a difference which we cannot allow to be wholly obscured, either by passionate pleas or half-veiled threats. We are told by Mr. Justice Ameer Ali that the Turks "will not submit to the cruel persecution of enemies who have yet to undergo years of pupilage to fit them for governing virile races possessed of long traditions of rulership." Has Turkey been guilty of no "cruel persecutions," and have her long traditions of rulership produced any enduring movements in the way of good government and contented and prosperous subject peoples? As for the menace of a militant Islam, with its back to the wall, that is real enough, and rendered all the graver by intrigues which are spreading throughout India, Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Egypt. But Islam is divided, and the indifference of many of the Young Turks to religion, save as a political weapon, may prove an insurmountable obstacle to any such union of Islamic interests as pessimists have foreshadowed. There is no doubt that the prospect before us with regard to this problem is not alluring; but it will not be improved by an exhibition of weakness or surrender of principles. We can appreciate the intensity of Moslem feeling in India, and should be unwise not to make such concessions to it as are fit and practicable; but it is not sufficiently realised by Indians that there are intense feelings on the subject of Turkey outside Islam, and that these, too, have a backing of moral and material force.

Articles to Note

"A Serbian Anglophil: Dositheus Obradovic," by Prof. P. Popovic; and "Turkish Rule and British Administration in Mesopotamia," in the *Quarterly Review* (October).

"Two National Martyrs of Croatia," by Dr. Feodo Chichitch; and "The Greek Exchequer During the War," by Ch. I. Lecatzas, in the *New World* (November).

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Afghanistan. November 4.

A debate took place on this subject, which is referred to elsewhere in this issue.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Future of Syria. October 29.

Answering MAJOR GLYN, Mr. BONAR LAW said: No final statement in regard to the future government and administration of Syria and Palestine can now be made. The settlement of the future of these territories rests with the Peace Conference, which has not so far been able to consider the question of peace with Turkey, because the United States of America have not as yet defined their attitude in regard to the responsibilities they may be prepared to undertake. So far as Syria is concerned, the British Government announced to the Peace Conference last March that in no circumstances would Great Britain be prepared to undertake a mandate for Syria. Owing to the delay in the conclusion of the Turkish peace, already mentioned, we are making arrangements with the French Government and the Emir Faisul for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Syria and for the assumption of the duties of occupation by the French and the Arabs pending the conclusion of the Turkish peace. I should like, further, to add that, if the Peace Conference grants to Great Britain a mandate for any of the territories of the ex-Turkish Empire, it is the intention of his Majesty's Government to introduce forms of administration which will give every encouragement to the growth and development of local governments and institutions.

An Armenian Republic.

In reply to Mr. A. WILLIAMS, who asked whether the Government was aware of the grave reports as to the position of the Armenian Republic at Erivan, and whether they would even now send these people means of defending their lives,

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH said: While his Majesty's Government have received similar reports to that referred to by the hon. member, other reports of a much more reassuring nature and of very recent date are also reaching them. Colonel Haskell, Allied High Commissioner for Armenia, who is at present on his way from the Caucasus to Paris, if he has not already arrived there, is expected to report on the whole situation in these districts, and the most serious consideration will doubtless be given by the Peace Conference to any recommendations which he may make for securing the safety of the Armenians.

Montenegro. October 30.

Mr. RONALD MCNEILL asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the De Salis Report on conditions in Montenegro had yet been received; and, if so, whether he would lay it upon the table of the House?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: The report has been received, but the publication has not been considered desirable in present circumstances.

Mr. MCNEILL: Is the hon. gentleman aware that it is generally believed that this report is very condemnatory of the action of Serbians in Montenegro, and under these circumstances does he not think that the House of Commons is entitled to have the report?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: I have the report, but I think I can assure the House that it will not be convenient to publish it at the present time.

Mr. MCNEILL: Can my right hon. friend give any reasons for that decision?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: I do not think I could do so in answer to a question.

The "Goeben." November 3.

Mr. LONG (First Lord, Admiralty) informed Sir A. FELL that the "Goeben" had been surrendered partially repaired. She was in charge of a Turkish skeleton crew, in accordance with the terms of the Armistice. Every precaution was being taken to prevent her being scuttled and sunk.

Turkish Peace. November 4.

Replying to Captain ORMSBY-GORE, Mr. BONAR LAW, Lord Privy Seal, said:—I can assure my hon. and gallant friend that the Government fully realise all the evils resulting from the delay in settling the peace terms with Turkey, and are doing everything in their power to hasten a settlement. Captain ORMSBY-GORE asked the right hon. gentleman to say why we had to wait for the decision of America, considering that she had not been at war with Turkey. Mr. BONAR LAW did not think that that was quite conclusive. After all, America was in the war, and he was sure that the House would not desire that we should do anything that might appear to under-value the assistance that America might give in the general settlement. Answering a supplementary question, the right hon. gentleman said that he did not think it would be desirable to have a discussion upon the subject. The Government was in the hands of the House in a matter of that kind.

Armenia.

Captain ORMSBY-GORE asked what steps had been taken by the Allied Powers in Paris to ensure against further massacres of Armenians pending the decision of the American Government as to the future part they might or might not play in protecting the remnants of the Armenian nation.

Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH: I would refer the hon. and gallant member to the reply given to the hon. member for Consett on October 29. There is a British force at Batum, and certain of His Majesty's ships are available for use in these waters if required. The protection of the Armenians is, however, only one of several objects served by these dispositions, the cost of which is borne by His Majesty's Government. Captain ORMSBY-GORE asked whether they were to understand that none of our Allies were contributing in any way to the protection of the Armenians. Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH said that he should not like the hon. member to assume that.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—ROUMANIA (PETROLEUM RESOURCES). DEMOBILISATION. Troops in Mesopotamia and India.—Troops in East. BLACK SEA ARMY. PUNJAB INQUIRY COMMISSION. (October 28.)

INDIA: Tibetan Boundaries.—Punjab Riots.—Oil Products (Export).—Proceedings against Newspapers.—Calcutta University Commission.—Army Officers' Pensions.—Locomotives.—Army Furlough and Retirement.—Government of India Bill.—International Labour Conference.—British Officers Medically Unfit.—Officers' Medical Aid.—Government Control of Rice (Burma). SUDAN GOVERNMENT LOAN. DEMOBILISATION: Signal Company, Mesopotamia. MESOPOTAMIA (MEDICAL SERVICE). INDIA: Civilian Services (Pensions).—Regular Army Officers (Distinction).—Educational Service (Pay).—Income Tax Offices (Gratuities). (October 29.)

PALESTINE. EGYPT: Lord Milner's Commission.

TURKEY. (PEACE TREATY). WILTSHIRE REGIMENT.—(RETURN FROM INDIA). EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. (November 3.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

SERBIAN CLASSES FOR ENGLISHMEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I wonder how many people are aware of the many educational advantages procurable in London.

A course of teaching has been started at King's College recently, with the idea of making those aspirants to commercial relationship with the Balkans familiar with Serbian, one of its most important languages.

A well-known professor from Belgrade has recently been appointed, with the object of cementing the already existing entente between Serbia and ourselves, to give a course of instruction in the Serbian language, which should prove as useful to those whose business may lead them to the Near East as to all students interested in a language full of philological interest.

The secretary of the University will supply all particulars.—I am, etc., LOUIS CAHEN.

Hook, Hampshire, October 24, 1919.

Appointed in 1914 to settle international disputes arising in Morocco, the Arbitration Commission on Mining Claims in Morocco has resumed its labours under the presidency of M. Gram, the Norwegian Minister of State.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

The most prominent feature at the present time is the winter season of opera, which commenced at Covent Garden on November 3. In studying the list of operas selected by Sir Thomas Beecham for performance, one is naturally interested to see whether or how the war has affected the British public in this popular form of music. Wagner we have, inevitably; Verdi, Puccini, Bizet, are apparently still indispensable; the Russians—Borodin, Moussorgsky, and the rest, for whom Sir Henry Wood really achieved the superficial miracle of popularity, are there; and of the two British composers represented Delius is the most important. It is, when the deplorable and increasing commercialism in music is considered, a good list, though not a representative one—that probably will not arrive until the world possesses real peace again—but one which will attempt to persuade the public to wear clothes other than those (*e.g.*, "Carmen" and "Faust"), which are now worn threadbare. In the *répertoire* are the names of unfamiliar works by familiar composers; it will be interesting to notice whether the public, which before the war was far more kind than discriminating, still is under the spell of a fancied name, or whether it has gained some power of independent judgment.

There are two other matters, the main interest of which is musical—I mean the Russian ballets at the Empire Theatre, and the revival of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas at Princes Theatre.

In the first, the staging and the dancing are extraordinarily good, increasing greatly the effectiveness of the music. The orchestra is admirably conducted by Adrian Boult, who in many ways, and for some composers, is the best British conductor.

The second, the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, is a matter the musical merits of which are still very stoutly maintained in this country, though outside this island (and its colonies) the opinion is all the other way. There is no doubt, however, that these operas are well inside the heart of the British public, and there appears to be no prospect of their being dislodged. No purpose will be served by discussing their merits and demerits here—the issue is decided, and the verdict of the past thirty years has been confirmed by the present generation. So far "The Gondoliers," "Iolanthe," and "The Mikado" have been played at Princes Theatre, and all have been enormously popular. The vitality of these pieces seems inexhaustible, and the present company, excellently conducted by Geoffrey Toye, exploits this freshness to the full. Yet in these operas we have received no more than we deserve, and it is improbable that, however well done, they will retain with the next generation their present popularity. Though it is by no means certain, it is possible that the new sense of values created by the war will condemn the bad patches (that is, the sugary sentimentality and trivial prettiness) of Sullivan, and that his operas will fall into an undeserved oblivion. The question will be whether his excellent humorous music will or will not save him.

ANDANTE.

The Georgian Information Bureau denies that the Georgian Government is placing an embargo on the importation of any war material through its territory into the Armenian State.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

SWITZERLAND IN WAR-TIME.*

During the war one heard little of Switzerland, and knowledge of its attitude towards the war and of its treatment of the various warriors was not common. In this simple yet moving narrative, Colonel Picot dispels this ignorance. He explains the life and activities of British prisoners of war in Switzerland, and recounts, with a modesty which unsuccessfully attempts to conceal the very great part he himself must have played, the arrangements made for alleviating the discomforts of the suffering prisoners. Of the Red Cross organisation, of the Swiss medical arrangement, and of the methods of employment and training of the interned, an illuminating account is given. A final chapter deals informingly with the artistic, musical, and social impressions gained at Berne during war conditions. One very interesting point Colonel Picot makes incidentally in his book—he shows, while insisting upon (and amusingly illustrating) the divergences between English and Swiss mentality and customs, the immense generosity to and pity for the sufferers of the war shown by the Swiss. Fundamentally, he thinks there is a common ground on which the various races may stand, and in this attitude of the Swiss people he finds a striking demonstration of a possible all-world brotherhood. Another point in this book, which is full of bright incidents, is the great service which British women rendered in Switzerland. It is not extravagant to say that they were the life and soul of the various organisations created for the benefit of the interned. Finally, one must state—though to readers of THE NEAR EAST the mere name of the author will be a sufficient guarantee of the worth of this book—that its contents are of such a nature as to make a very wide appeal.

THE MAKING OF THE FUTURE.†

Since reconstruction became the most overworked word in the language, many have tried their hand at "The Making of the Future," but here we have the beginnings of what promises to be a whole series devoted to the subject. Conscious as we probably are of each other's imperfections, there is no doubt that we all stand more or less in need of reformation; the trouble begins when we discuss ways and means. Here is Mr. Fawcett, for example, who is so bitten with the federal idea that he has recreated the Heptarchy, as it were, and divided England into twelve provinces—why not thirteen—as the first step towards the millennium. By an unlucky chance, the first of his provinces that we happened to open the book at was East Anglia, and we discovered with a shock that his East Anglia does not include Essex, which is lumped in with a sort of suburban omnium-gatherum with Kent, Surrey, and Sussex, apparently on the ground that Essex is economically dependent on London. If Mr. Fawcett means by this that Essex grows the produce which the Londoner eats, well and good; but one fears it really points to a belief that Essex is merely a "dormi-

* "The British Interned in Switzerland." By Lieut.-Colonel H. P. Picot C.B.E. (London: Edward Arnold. 10s. 6d. net).
† "Our Social Inheritance." By Patrick Geddes and Victor Bradford. (Williams and Norgate. 6s. net.) "Provinces of England." By C. B. Fawcett. (Williams and Norgate. 6s. 6d. net.)

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tory" county. Perhaps Mr. Fawcett has never travelled further than Ilford. In any event, no two counties could be more different for soil, geological and geographical formation than Kent and Essex. Their history has always been different, and to unite these two, while dividing Suffolk and Essex, which are as difficult to tell apart as twins or teashop waitresses, strikes one as an unnatural division. If the makers of the future cannot do better than that, we should advise them to look at the past, which is precisely what Mr. Patrick Geddes (apparently no relation of the Minister of Transport) has done. He writes quite pleasantly about Westminster and Mayfair in "Our Social Inheritance," but the thing has been done before.

A GREAT AND GOOD MAN.*

Sir Valentine Chirol has written a very beautiful little memoir of an Englishman whose nobility of character and public achievements are too little known. Unfortunately, this book does not call for detailed review, because, although Sir Cecil Spring Rice did see service at Constantinople, Teheran, and Cairo, it is not mainly with the Near East that his name will be connected. We may, however, note the quiet loyalty to his country which informed all his works. "Steadfast as any soldier of the line," says Alfred Noyes, in a poem quoted in this book, "he served his England." Sir Valentine makes very plain the reverence of and devotion to ideals which stamped the life of Cecil Rice, and shows clearly that a refined character can make a clean affair even of world politics. Cecil Rice was no "ineffectual angel," and the result of his efforts has already been felt.

THE FUTILITY OF THE STRONG MAN.†

We are told on the cover that this is the love story of a strong man, but we sought in vain in the character of Captain Dalton for any attributes that suggested strength, even those usually shown by that rather incredible person—the fascinating, though ruthless, "strong" man of conventional fiction. We could only heartily endorse his description of himself as "a perfect specimen of a cad." Nor did we succeed in following the adventures of any of the characters—who all seemed to have a habit of falling dangerously ill when the situation became difficult—with any greater sympathy.

The heroine wins our interest more than the others, but is considerably handicapped by her name of Honor Bright. Most of the action takes place in a small station in Bengal, and the local colour is convincing, and on the whole interesting.

DREARY NEBULOUSNESS.*

Although Mr. Kahabardar's mother-tongue is Gujerati, it is into English lyrics that he has here attempted to put the promptings and yearnings of his soul. But we can say at once that the result is not poetry. He has, indeed, used the words and forms that poets use; but his vocabulary is monotonously small, and his command of English imperfect. His verse is but "words, words, words"; and Mr. Chesterton's condemnation of all this modern song of Beauty and Art and Love—the result of which is to "double you up and drag you down and damn your soul alive"—is in this case singularly apposite.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Two-stringed Fiddle," by G. E. Mitton. (London: John Murray. 7s. net.)

"Inflation." By J. Shield Nicholson, M.A., Sc.D., LL.D., F.B.A. (London: P. S. King and Son, Ltd., 3s. 6d. net.)

"Macedonian Measures." By John Macleod. (Cambridge: University Press. 3s. net.)

"The Highlands of Central India." (London: Chapman and Hall. 12s. 6d. net.)

"The Sword Against Islam." By Shaikh M. H. Kidwai of Gadia. (158, Fleet Street, London. 3s. 6d.)

"More Literary Recreations." By Sir Edward Cook. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. Arnold announces "London Men in Palestine," by Rowland Caldicott.

Another book on the same subject is "With Allenby in Palestine: A Story of the Latest Crusade," by Lieut.-Colonel F. E. Brereton, which Messrs. Blackie are publishing.

* "Cecil Spring Rice: In Memoriam." By Sir Valentine Chirol. (London John Murray. 6s. net.)

† "Banked Fires." By E. W. Sair. (G. P. Putnam's Sons. 7s. net.)

* "The Silken Tassel," by Ardeshir F. Khabardar (Aydar, Madras; Theosophical Publishing House. 3s. 6d. net.)

Shall the Remnant Perish?

Left Naked to Die

Our Agents assure us that in the battle areas of Asia Minor the retreating Turkish armies have destroyed the Armenian village homes and burned their crops—leaving the country absolutely without food. The greatest distress prevails—many of the poor Refugees have even been stripped of their clothes and left naked to die.

Existing on Roots and Leaves

Thousands of adults and children have not tasted any normal food for weeks, but have existed on roots and leaves and dandelions. The olive-green colour of their skin and deep sunken eyes testify to their ghastly sufferings.

Mad with Hunger

That these poor people—mad with hunger—have in many cases eaten the flesh from the bodies of their dead comrades needs no further proof than the Reports which have reached us from our own representatives in Armenia.

Shall we remain inactive whilst these people die? We have not known what starvation means in England, so let us gladly give what we can to help these unhappy people.

For the Honour of England

send help to save the remnant of the Armenian Nation. £20,000 is needed this Autumn to continue our work at Adana, at Ismid, and at Erivan.

Subscriptions and Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Col. Gregory, V.D.

ARMENIAN REFUGEES (Lord Mayor's) FUND

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Arabic.	Jewish.
1919.	1919.		1338.	5680.
November	October		Safar.	Marheshwan.
7	25	Friday	14	14
8	26	Saturday.....	15	15
9	27	Sunday	16	16
10	28	Monday	17	17
11	29	Tuesday	18	18
12	30	Wednesday	19	19
13	31	Thursday	20	20

Lord Inchcape has left London for Paris.

The Queen of Roumania is staying at Locarno (Switzerland).

Lady Procter and Miss Procter have left for India, where they are spending the winter.

M. Roussos, the Greek Minister at Washington, left London on October 30 for New York.

Colonel Arion, Equerry to Prince Nicolas of Roumania, left London on November 2 for Paris.

Lieut.-Colonel C. S. Martindale and family have left 32, Chapel Street, Belgrave Square, for Malta.

There is no change in the state of the Persian Minister's health. He is still confined to his room.

The marriage of Captain W. Pickering and Miss Freda Hadden will take place in Colombo on December 4.

M. Politis, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Greek representative on the League of Nations.

Colonel Sir Robert Williams, M.P., has left for Egypt and Palestine with Mrs. Madocks and Miss D. R. Williams.

Mr. Peter Haig-Thomas and Lady Alexandra Haig-Thomas have left for Egypt, and will be absent for some months.

Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell has left Overstone Park for St. Rode, Bournemouth East, which is his address for the winter.

Sir George McMunn, Commanding-in-Chief, Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, has been on a tour of inspection in Northern Persia.

Dr. S. C. Carrington has been appointed to a Professorship of English at the French Jesuit College, Cairo, and left Malta on October 22 to take up his appointment.

Mrs. Archibald Little, better known in connection with the Far than with the Near East, is now paying a visit to her sister, Sister Augustine Bewicke, at Salonika.

The last meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, 22, Albemarle Street, before moving into the new premises, 74, Grosvenor Street, W., will be held on November 11 at 4 p.m.

The Right Rev. Foss Westcott, Bishop of Calcutta, Metropolitan of India, late Bishop of Chota Nagpur, has been elected an Honorary Fellow of St. Peter's College, Cambridge.

It is reported that Dr. Dragoutine Koyitch, the Chargé d'Affaires for the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has resigned. He will leave London this week for Belgrade.

According to the latest information available, Viscount and Viscountess Allenby, who had been visiting the grave of their only son in France, were leaving Paris for Egypt on November 4.

M. Venizelos left London on November 2 for Paris, where he will remain until the Treaty of Peace with Bulgaria has been signed. He will then proceed to Greece, breaking his journey for a day in Rome.

The marriage took place on November 1, at St. Bartholomew's Church, Southsea, between Henry Howard Long, second surviving son of the late Lieut. A. H. Long, Royal Navy, and Dorothy Frances, widow of the late Lieut.-Commander C. S. Morris, Royal Navy, fourth daughter of the late Colonel E. R. Reay, Indian Army, and Mrs. G. A. Nicolls.

The marriage arranged between Captain J. H. Grove White, I.M.S., youngest son of the late W. Grove White, and of Mrs. Grove White, 18, Elgin Road, Dublin, and Frances Katherine, second daughter of the late J. H. W. Rolland and of Mrs. Rolland, 4, Gledhow Gardens, S.W., will take place at St Columba's, Pont Street, on November 12.

The engagement is announced between J. H. Ireland-Jones, son of the Rev. P. Ireland-Jones and Mrs. Ireland-Jones, of Karachi, India, and Ruth, daughter of Mrs. J. L. Cotton, of Hartsleap, Sandhurst, Berks.

The marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Samuel Manning Manning-Kidd, of Oxenways, Membury, Devon, and Margaret, widow of Lieut.-Colonel Walter Charles Farwell, Indian Army.

Sir Roper Parkington is presenting a commemorative tablet, with the approval of his Excellency the French Ambassador, to be placed in the French Hospital in memory of the French soldiers of London who were killed in the war.

The engagement is announced of Leslie A. Anstiss (of Calcutta), the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Anstiss, of Honor Oak Park, and Marion, the fourth daughter of the late William Parker and Mrs. Williamson, of Forest Hill.

At the Greek Legation on October 29 the Greek Minister handed to Mr. F. W. Emett, Director of Reuter's Intelligence Bureau, the Insignia of the Gold Cross of George I., which has been conferred upon him by the King of the Hellenes.

The engagement is announced between Brevet Major Allan C. Arnold, M.C., Middlesex Regiment, only son of Lieut.-Colonel A. S. Arnold, late 26th Light Cavalry (Indian Army), and Marie Louise, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Muriedas, of Madrid.

An engagement is announced between Captain Henry Dane, Q.V.O., Corps of Guides, F.F., younger son of Sir Louis Dane, G.C.I.E., and Lady Dane, of The King's House, Lyndhurst, and Florence, elder daughter of Major H. T. Timson, of Stydd House, Lyndhurst.

The engagement is announced between Major John E. Carey, 28th Punjabis, youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. H. Carey, of Guernsey, Channel Isles, and Alicante, Spain, and Gladys, youngest daughter of the late Dr. Gregory Kealy and Mrs. Kealy, of Glengarry, Woking.

The engagement is announced between the Rev. Robert W. Howard, chaplain of St. Aidan's College, Birkenhead (T.C.F., France, 1916-19), and Ruth Marjorie, second daughter of Mrs. Simpson, 4, Richmond Road, Headingley, and the late Rev. W. B. Simpson, of Madras.

It is announced that the marriage was celebrated on September 25, at Christ Church, Simla, by the Rev. Canon Menzies, between David Ranken Lyle, Indian Civil Service, and Muriel Wreford, daughter of Nathaniel Heard, Principal of the Government School of Arts and Crafts, Lucknow.

The Central Arabian party, in charge of the political officer, Mr. H. St. J. Philby, left London on November 3 to spend two days at Cambridge. The members of the Koweit Mission proceeded to Glasgow on November 3. Thence they sailed on the following day for the Persian Gulf.

Sir Walter Becker had the honour of being received by the King, on October 30, when his Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division). Lady Becker was also present on this occasion at Buckingham Palace.

The engagement is announced between Lieut. A. E. de B. Jennings, Royal Navy, only son of the late Colonel R. H. Jennings, C.S.I., R.E., and Mrs. Jennings, of 20, Roland Gardens, S.W., and Veronica, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nevile Gwynne, of Bevendean, Oxshott, Surrey.

Dr. Ronald M. Burrows, Principal of King's College, London, underwent a serious operation on November 4 in a London nursing home. As far as it went the operation was successful. Unfortunately, however, it could not be completed, and Dr. Burrows has to undergo another operation in a week's time.

The marriage was celebrated on October 30, at Ealing Wesleyan Church, by the Revs. C. W. Andrews and J. Flew, between the Rev. J. Mervyn Young, of Burma, son of the late Rev. David Young and Mrs. Young, of Ealing, and Constance, daughter of J. R. Wooster, Esq., and Mrs. Wooster, also of Ealing.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major G. E. Cathcart, O.B.E., R.A.M.C., youngest son of the late Major H. D. Cathcart, Indian Army, and Pauline, daughter of the late Lewis Berkeley Calcott, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., of Oundle, Northants, and Mrs. Berkeley Calcott, of 11, Heene Terrace, Worthing.

A dinner was given on November 3 at the Lyceum Club, with Mrs. Clarke Nuttal in the chair. The principal guest was Lady Surma d'Mar Shimun (sister of the Patriarch and temporary ruler of the Assyrian nationality in Kurdistan), who has come to London as a delegate to the Government, with the object of settling the future of the Assyrians, who were our Allies in the Great War. Among the other guests were the Rev. W. Wigram, head of the Mission to the Assyrian Churches; Captain Mac-Roberts, late Military Governor of Busreh; and Sir Henry Stone, Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

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The engagement is announced of Charles Francis Moysey, only surviving son of Major-General C. J. Moysey, C.M.G., and of Mrs. Moysey, of Bathealton Court, Wiveliscombe, Somerset, and Emily Mary, only daughter of Lieut.-Colonel H. St. P. Maxwell, C.S.I., of 20, Oakley Avenue, Ealing.

The marriage was celebrated in November 4, at St. John's, Notting Hill, by the Rev. W. H. Mackean, D.D., between Ernest, younger son of J. L. Bolden, C.V.O., of 28, Lansdowne Road, Holland Park, and Hyning, North Lancashire, and Florence, fifth daughter of the late W. A. Allardice, Esq., of Mylemone, Mysore, India.

Mr. Archibald Forder, a missionary who was rescued by the British troops at Damascus after four years' captivity in the hands of the Turks, has arrived in England, and was received by the King at Buckingham Palace. For the good work he did in Damascus during the war by insisting upon the decent burial of the British dead and recording their names, General Allenby, on behalf of the military authorities and the bereaved relatives, personally thanked Mr. Forder, and a report of this invaluable work was forwarded to his Majesty. Mr. Forder has lived as a missionary among the Bedouin tribes of Arabia for twenty-four years.

THE SHAH OF PERSIA.

His Imperial Majesty the Shah of Persia was received, on landing at Dover on October 31, by the Prince Albert and by members of the Persian Legation. Accompanied by Prince Albert, he travelled by special train to Victoria Railway Station, where he was met by the King. On arrival at Buckingham Palace he was received by the Queen, accompanied by the Princess Mary. In the evening the King and Queen gave a banquet in honour of the Shah, at which the Prince Albert, the Princess Mary, the Princess Beatrice, and Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught were present. On November 1 His Imperial Majesty received at Buckingham Palace the Ambassadors, Ministers, and Chargés d'Affaires to the Court of St. James's. Then, accompanied by Prince Albert, he visited the City of London, and at the Guildhall was presented with an address from the Corporation by the Lord Mayor, who afterwards entertained him at luncheon. Large crowds assembled on the route of the procession from Buckingham Palace and accorded the Shah a warm welcome.

In the afternoon he paid a private visit to Windsor Castle, attended by his Suite and the Gentlemen specially attached. Before leaving he deposited wreaths on the tomb of His Majesty King Edward VII. in the Albert Memorial Chapel, and on the tomb of Her Majesty Queen Victoria in the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore. Accompanied by the Prince Albert, and attended by his suite, he honoured with his presence at dinner the Earl Curzon of Kedleston (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs) and the Countess Curzon of Kedleston, at their residence in Carlton House Terrace. During the evening, accompanied by the King and Prince Albert, he visited the Empire Theatre and witnessed a performance of Russian ballets.

On November 3 he went to Aldershot to see a microcosm of the British Army and the Royal Air Force. In the evening, accompanied by Prince Albert, he visited His Majesty's Theatre and witnessed "Chu Chin Chow." The following day he proceeded by train to Manchester, where he stayed two days. On November 5 he left for Edinburgh, where he stays until to-night. To-night he goes to Dover, leaving that port to-morrow for Calais.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on November 1 at Mundesley, Norfolk, of Captain Charles John Gunning (late) Indian Army, eldest son of the late Colonel John Campbell Gunning, Indian Army, and of Mrs. Gunning, Grasmere, Fleet, Hants, in his 54th year.

Sir Henry William Bliss died on October 28 in his eightieth year. He was for five years a member of the Council of Madras, and acted as Governor in 1896. He was made a K.C.I.E. in 1897, and retired from the Indian Civil Service in the following year.

The death took place on October 29 at his residence in Chesham Place, S.W., of Major-General Sir Alfred Henry Wilmot Williams. Sir Alfred, who became Colonel Commandant R.H.A. in 1905, was at the siege and fall of Sevastopol in the Crimean campaign, and fought at the action at Mooltan in the Indian Mutiny campaign. In 1880 he was appointed an extra A.D.C. to the late Duke of Cambridge, and subsequently became an Equerry-in-Waiting. Sir Alfred was created a K.C.V.O. in 1904.

Sir Roland Knyvet Wilson, of Delhi, Bt., the well-known jurist, died at Richmond on October 29, in his 80th year. Though Sir Roland had not lived in India, his keen interest in her legal and social institutions and his wide erudition, if not his first-hand experience, fitted him well for the Readership in Indian Law at Cambridge, to which he was appointed in 1878. He filled the position for fourteen years, and the large number of Indian civilians who then and previously passed through his hands held him in deep respect. His brief "Introduction to the Study of Anglo-Mohammedan Law," in 1894, was followed within a year by his comprehensive "Digest" of that law.

The death occurred on November 2, at Foulden Hall, Norfolk, of the Dowager Baroness Amherst of Hackney. Lady Amherst, who was a Lady of Justice of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, was a lady whose interests and activities were extremely wide and varied. A keen traveller, Lady Amherst had an intimate knowledge of the Near East, and had journeyed much in Upper and Lower Egypt. She made her first trip up the Nile in 1860, and was one of the first Englishwomen to visit Palmyra. She wrote a history of Egypt from the earliest times to the present day, and catalogued and arranged the large collection of Egyptian antiques which she and the late Lord Amherst accumulated at Didlington.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Serbia has abolished the political censorship.

Greek troops have entered Yenije, Karassou, and Porto Lagos.

New Dutch Ministers to Turkey and Italy have been appointed.

All Yugoslav soldiers of the 1901-1903 class will be given long leave in November.

An additional fresh-water reservoir is to be built at Gibraltar, at a cost of £50,000.

Raisuli, it is stated, has been so discouraged by recent events that he has demobilised his troops.

General Berenguer, High Commissioner in Spanish Morocco, has returned to Tetuan from Melilla.

Gibraltar coalheavers are on strike. The trouble started when a foreman struck a man and was fined in Court.

General Harbord and other members of the American Mission to Armenia arrived in Paris at the end of last week.

Serbian officers arrived in Odessa last week to prepare for the division which will shortly be sent to Denikin's front.

Count Colli di Felizzano, formerly Envoy Extraordinary to Abyssinia, has been appointed Italian Minister at Stockholm.

Byzantium's ancient walls are to be demolished. The Municipality of Stambul intends to sell the ground and the material.

According to reports from Belgrade, the Italians in Dalmatia are carrying off all cattle and crops from the occupied regions.

A contingent of British troops from Constantinople reached Plymouth on October 30, including 54 officers and 1,241 men, most of whom were with the Salonika force before the operations against Bulgaria and Turkey ceased.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1919.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MESOPOTAMIA.

A somewhat fitful discussion of the future of Mesopotamia has probably left the public mind in Great Britain in a bewildered state. It has been asked to look upon the country on the one hand as the future granary of the world, on the other as a wilderness of unpopulated desert and swamp; the story of its military administration has been, according to one account, a masterpiece of organisation, according to another an orgy of reckless expenditure; Mesopotamia itself has been represented as the richest asset that Great Britain has acquired by the war, or again as a white elephant—and a bit of a rogue to boot. Whatever the truth may be—and it will not be a bad thing to start from the basis that there is a substratum of truth in all these assertions—the British public, it is to be hoped, will realise that chance or its traditional good fortune has, for better or for worse, placed responsibility for Mesopotamia upon its shoulders and will sternly resolve that it shall be for the better. In this spirit it will look upon past mistakes with a more lenient eye than upon present muddling and indecision. The considerations that govern war-time measures differ from those that are rightly expected to rule with a return of peace conditions. It is most likely that under the military administration there has been a complete absence of financial control; that orders were given regardless of expense, and that public works were inaugurated or planned which in any other circumstances would have been decried as the veriest wild-cat schemes. The same charges can be levelled nearer home, but Mesopotamia, it appears, had this advantage: that the wildest enterprises achieved something, whereas in England they have occasionally been without any concrete result. There had been two bad harvests in 1915 and 1916; the 1917 harvest was a poor one. It did not suffice to meet the requirements of the civil population, not to mention the ninety thousand tons of cereals needed for the Army north of Kut. It was decided, in view of the tonnage difficulty, that Mesopotamia must become, if possible, self-supporting, and a total of 250,000 tons of cereals was aimed at from the next harvest. A scheme was sanctioned in August, 1917, and the work of irrigation was taken in hand; by the end of January the seed was in the ground, and it produced 253,000 tons of crops. Success in one direction led to emulation in another. A million acres had been brought under cultivation; it was proposed to increase the total to a million and a-half. Agriculture alone could not be allowed to have things all its own way, and in other branches of the Administration a similar enthusiasm for concrete results manifested itself.

Because neither Mesopotamia nor Great Britain could stand this pace indefinitely is no reason why what has been accomplished should be decried. The measures taken were admittedly based on the exigencies of the war, although individual officers may have been carried away by the irresponsibility engendered by lack of adequate control. With the Armistice, the necessity arose for taking stock of the situation afresh, in the light of altered conditions. This, however, it is to be inferred, was never done. The War Office retained control, while the Civil Administration gradually asserted itself. No light or leading came from England or India, and it was left to the officials on the spot to work together or to pull different ways, as their fancy led them. Too often, it is to be feared, the latter course was adopted, and the inevitable watertight compartments established themselves in the Administration. Most probably it suited the Home Government to avoid coming to any definite decision on the subject, but this attitude was unfair to Mesopotamia, unfair to the War Office, and unfair to all associated with the divided control of the country. No doubt the situation has been complicated by the delay in the Turkish settlement, and Great Britain considered itself unable to declare its policy with regard to a country over which its mandate had not been formally recognised. On the other hand, the country had to be administered from day to day, and it was worth while to ensure that the policy adopted should be the same as that which would commend itself when the mandate had been confirmed. In the place of this common-sense course, however, Mesopotamia has been left largely to its own devices: it has been allowed to "carry on" much on the lines that could only be justified by war exigencies, and it is in danger of being victimised by the panic-cry of economy. By common consent the difficulties in the way of reconstruction are formidable; but for this reason, if for no other, they require to be considered carefully, in order that they may not be enhanced by the adoption of wrong policies at the outset. The most serious croakings would seem to amount to little more than a reminder that the development of Mesopotamia should be gradual and should not be continued at the pace set under the military occupation. No fault can be found with such a warning. The limited nature of the population imposes a policy of cautious development. The great schemes of irrigation devised by Sir William Willcocks may stand as the coveted goal; but they must naturally be carried out proportionately to the capacity of the inhabitants to benefit by them. It was not his main business to decide on the rival claims of navigation and irrigation; but it may well be the first duty of the Government charged with the control of Mesopotamia.

To-day it is almost impossible to consider the future of Mesopotamia apart from that of Persia. Great Britain's responsibilities to both countries and their inter-relation suggest at least the closest co-operation between the Government of Mesopotamia and those who will be responsible for advising the Teheran authorities on matters of administration. Trade development in the two countries should advance as far as possible hand in hand. Before the war three-fourths of the imports of Busreh went to Baghdad, and most of the goods, it is said, were destined for Persia. In Mesopotamia itself the progress of trade, after the ravages of war have been made good, must be regulated largely by the growth of a settled population; in Persia, on the other hand, the introduction of railways, roads, and irrigation will provide means for the exploitation of the country's considerable potentialities. Mesopotamia by then ought to be in a position to profit by any extra burden imposed upon her in meeting Persian needs. Both countries will look to India for the satisfaction of many of their requirements, and the provision of through railway communication can hardly be delayed indefinitely now that a line from India reaches South-Eastern Persia and Khanikin in the West is linked up with Baghdad. Whether India will be given administrative charge is another question. It is desirable, however, that it should be settled without delay, in order that an end may be put to the present policy of divided control. If the Foreign Office is no longer regarded as a claimant for the honour, it is because Egypt has established herself as the more formidable rival to India. Weighty arguments can be adduced on both sides. If the choice rested with Mesopotamia there can be little doubt that she would favour whichever of the two gave promise of the greater adaptability and the less inclination to remain hide-bound by old traditions and shibboleths.

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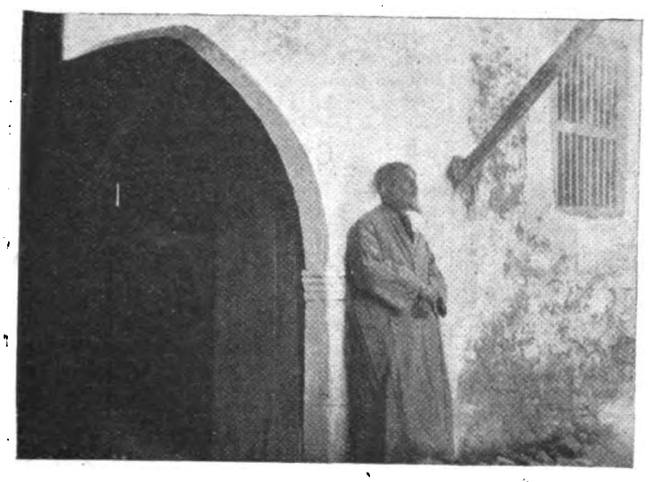
CYPRIOTE SHRINES.

By Lieut.-Comdr. H. C. LUKE, R.N.V.R.

IV.

I do not know if the Kirklar tekyé—its Greek name is *Ἅγιοι Σαράντα* — ever housed a dervish community of any magnitude; probably not, to judge from its limited accommodation. At the present time its only occupants are an old Sheikh of the Naqshibendi Order, and his elderly assistant; and it is rarely visited except on the one day in the year when pilgrims, mainly of the peasant class, come to venerate the tombs of the forty holy Sheikhs, which are ranged in two parallel subterranean corridors underneath the mosque. If history is silent as to the origin of its forty



THE SHEIKH OF THE KIRKLAR TEKYÉ.

Sheikhs, report is very full of their supernatural activities at the present day, activities which not only attract the pious Mohammedan, but also the Christian devotee. He who, waxen taper in hand, passes fearfully and devoutly from one green and turbaned tomb to another is regarded by them with tacit approval, whatever his religious convictions may be; but woe to the sceptic who has come to scoff and jibe. I have seen the sword which, wielded by no visible arm, cut off the head of an Orthodox priest who derided the powers of the Sheikhs. Firmly embedded in the rock at the extreme end of the left wing of the tomb-galleries is a spike which by similar means most severely goaded another doubter. Consequently the forty are regarded with awe by surrounding villages of either faith; and their wonder-working tombs provide ample material for the superstitions which are dear to the unlettered peasant of the Near East.

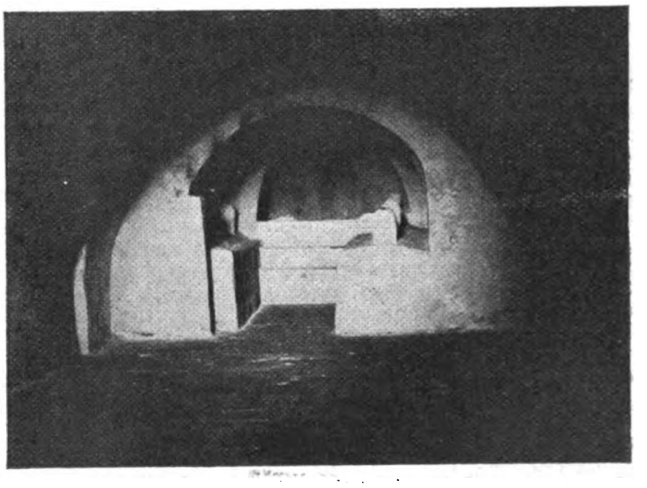
I first visited the shrine, not on the occasion of the annual pilgrimage, but on a day when the old Sheikh, el-Hajj Mohammed, had bidden certain fellow-dervishes from Nicosia to participate with him in a celebration of the *zikr* of their Order. *Zikr*, literally a "remembering," or "commemoration,"[12] is the name given to the peculiar ritual of dervishes, which, assuming different forms in the different Orders, is designed to divert the minds of the votaries from earthly things, bringing them into closer communion with the Divine. Thus, in the Mevlevi sect, it takes the form of dancing, or rather of whirling, round as far as possible on the same spot; in the Naqshibendi and Rufa'i it consists of the repetition of certain religious formulæ, which are persisted in until the requisite state of ecstasy, almost invariably followed by severe exhaustion, is brought about. The members of the two latter Orders are vulgarly known in consequence to Europeans as Howling Dervishes, and in the severer forms of their *zikr* they not infrequently, on attaining a condition of exaltation, inflict wounds upon themselves with swords, skewers, and other forbidding instruments of torture. The state of ecstasy appears to render them impervious to pain, and it is a remarkable fact that it is easily attainable not only by professed and practised dervishes, but by the numerous lay brethren who, drawn from every class of Turkish society, form an important addition to the official or permanent dervish ranks. It is also, I believe, true that if two or three Turks, believers, but in no special degree devout or acquainted with dervish practices, sit down together and, swaying their bodies from side to side, repeat with concentration the formula of some *zikr*, they very often arrive at the condition which such exercises produce in adepts.

[12] Koran, xxxiii., 41: "O Believers! Remember God with frequent remembrance, and praise Him morning and evening."

Old Sheikh Mohammed enjoys a high reputation among his brethren for the severity of the tortures which he is wont to inflict upon himself when stimulated by the *zikr*. Gaunt and old, with a shaggy white beard, wild eyes and a child-like smile, he looked his part to perfection, and entered with the utmost zest into the preliminaries of the service. The dervishes squatted in a circle on the floor of the mosque, and with marked and peculiar rhythm began in guttural unison to invoke the Almighty. "*Ya meded, ya Allah, ya meded, ya Allah!*"—"Help, O God!"—they repeated, swaying gently from side to side. Presently the invocation and the rhythm changed. Bowing their heads at the end of each sentence, they exclaimed, louder and more quickly, "*La ilaha illa'llah, la ilaha illa'llah!*"—"There is no god but God!"—laying heavy emphasis on the two final syllables. After a while they exchanged this exercise for the phrase "*Aayum Allah*"—"God is present"—and lastly for the mystic words "*Ya Hu!*"—"O He!" (i.e., O God!)—which they shouted with a guttural violence that closely resembled a bark. Their swayings were now very rapid, and had grown so agitated that they were able, without abandoning their squatting posture, to jerk themselves along the floor, the sweat pouring from their brows. Suddenly, with a wild shout, and with an unearthly look in his eyes, the old Sheikh jumped up and tore off all his garments except a pair of white cotton drawers and his green turban. He seized a sword which lay in readiness, and, pressing its sharpened edge against his naked body, endeavoured to run forward while two of his companions held him back by the extremities of the sword. He had attained the state of *hal*, or ecstasy, and was oblivious of earthly things. Still breathlessly shouting "*Ya Hu!*" while the spittle ran down his beard, he now possessed himself of a long skewer weighted at the top by a wooden ball from which dangled pieces of chain. He pulled the skin of his chest out to its furthest extent, and, after twirling the skewer several times in his hand, plunged it through the skin without drawing blood. Next, he licked a fire-iron which had meanwhile been heated in a *manqal*, or charcoal brazier, to the accompaniment of the shouts and heavings of his fellows. One of these, a negro, now lost all control of himself. Throwing off his turban, he beat his head repeatedly and violently against the hard mud floor, while the colour of his face turned from black to an ashy grey. His neighbour clasped him round the shoulders, and soothed him by blowing and spitting in his face. No sooner, however, had he done so than he himself caught the infection, to be calmed in his turn by the now peaceful negro.

By this time the climax of the performance had been passed, and the *zikr* ended ere long in a diminuendo of noise and movement. The invocations of the dervishes became less loud and rapid, their swayings gentler; eventually they subsided into weary but contented calm.

Less violent is the *zikr* of the Mevlevi or Dancing Dervishes, whose *tekyé* in Cyprus is situated just within the



IN THE TOMB GALLERIES, KIRKLAR TEKYÉ.

walls of Nicosia, by the picturesque Kyrenia Gate. The founder of this Order was a Sufi named Jelalu'd-Dîn, a native of Balkh, in Afghanistan, who settled in Konia in the thirteenth century. The purpose of all Sufi teaching is to enable the devout soul to return to and be reunited with God, with Whom it was once one, but from Whom it has become separated by its birth into the world. The return journey to God is made along a "way" or "road" (*tariq*), whereby one of the dervish Orders is to be understood, the stages of the "way" being represented by the *zikr*. The *zikr* which Jelalu'd-Dîn instituted in his Order to attain

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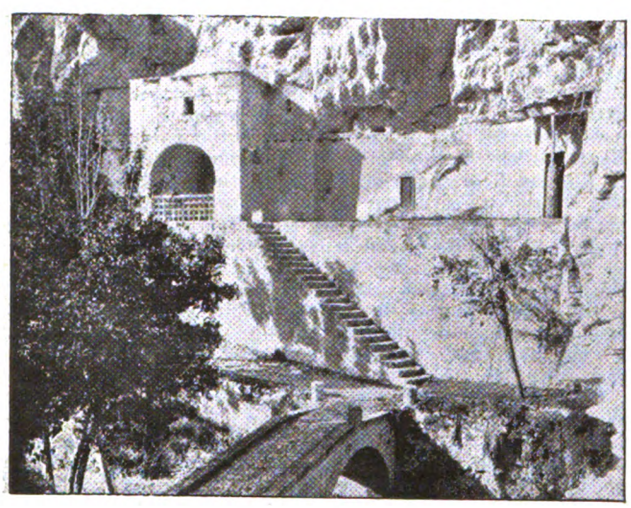
this end consists, as we have seen, of whirling around to the music of flutes and drums; while his doctrines are set forth with much poetic feeling in his celebrated work, the *Mesnevi*. The love of music is a marked feature of the Mevlevi Order. Sir Charles Eliot remarks in "Turkey in Europe," that Jelalu'd-Din "was passionately devoted to music, and, like Luther, did not see why the devil should have all the good tunes." Jelalu'd-Din recognised in music Man's ally in his search for reunion with the Infinite; and with their flutes of seven holes his followers strive to lead the soul sorrowful to its goal.

If a *muqabilé* [13] of Dancing Dervishes in Constantinople and other great cities tends to degenerate into a show provided for the curious, the ceremony in Nicosia, although performed on a smaller scale and without much apparatus, is convincing and impressive as an act of devotion. The *tekyé* contains a mosque for the performance of the ordinary *namaz* (the five daily prayers obligatory on all Moslems), and a *sema-khané*, or dancing-room, where the ritual of the Order is performed. At one end of the *sema-khané* is the minstrels' gallery, and beyond it is a succession of domed chambers containing the tombs of the present Sheikh's predecessors from the time of the *tekyé's* foundation some time in the seventeenth century. The post of Sheikh here, as in most *tekyés* of the Order, descends from father to son, and it confers on its holder the privilege of encircling his bonnet of camel-hair with a green turban.

At the opening of the ceremony of dancing the dervishes are seated in a semi-circle on the floor, their Sheikh in the



THE ENKLEISTRA.

middle. Somebody up in the ministrels' gallery commences to intone passages from the *Mesnevi*, in the original Persian, and presently the Sheikh gives the signal for the dancing to begin. Two or three musicians in the gallery play plaintive melodies on reed pipes, another accompanies on a drum. The dervishes rise and defile past the Sheikh in order of seniority, kissing the hem of his sleeve in passing. They wear their high cap, a zouave jacket, and a long skirt pleated like that of a ballet dancer; their feet are bare. Once more they gravely perambulate the room, and each dervish, as he goes by the Sheikh, turns and bows to the man behind him. Then, with arms extended for balance, the right palm turned up, the left turned down, they proceed very slowly to rotate as far as possible on the same spot. The pleats of their skirts open with the movement, and the room seems to be filled with revolving peg-tops. As the exercise continues the look of abstraction on the faces of the performers becomes more and more marked; while to the imaginative onlooker, affected by the weird, unearthly music, the singular and mysterious spectacle seems as a vision from another world. From time to time, to prevent exhaustion, there is a brief interval, at the end of which the Sheikh bows to the musicians' gallery and gives the signal to resume. Should the occasion be one of sufficient importance for the Sheikh himself to take part, the musicians strike up a tune only played when he dances. With grave dignity he comes forward into the middle of the floor, and becomes, as it were, the pivot around which the others gyrate.

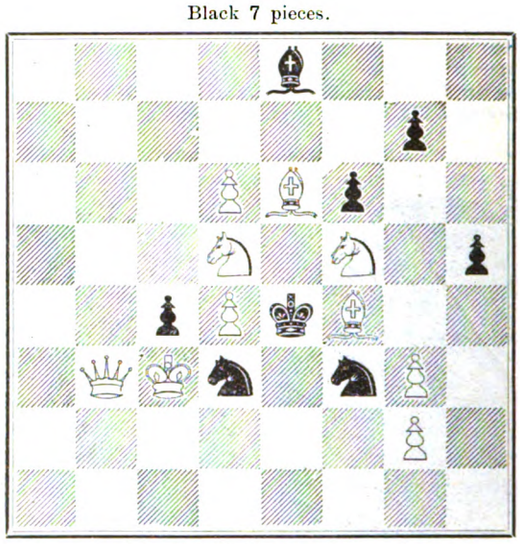
When all is over attendants hasten to throw cloaks over the dancers, who by this time are bathed in perspiration. For a few moments they still appear as in a trance, then slowly come back to earth. Again they defile past the Sheikh and kiss his hand, which he raises to his lips; and, in returning to their places for the prayers wherewith the service is concluded, embrace one another in token of the brotherhood which unites them within the Order.

(13) Lit. "a meeting"; the name of the *zikr* in the Mevlevi Order.

The shrines which have been described above are but a selection from the great number in which the island rejoices; an account of them all would fill a volume. If to be rich in places which attract the veneration of men is a cause for happiness, then Cyprus amply merits one of the names she bore in antiquity, that of Macaria, "the blessed."

CHESS.

Black 7 pieces.



White 10 pieces.
White to mate in two moves.

It is now announced that it will not be possible to hold next year's congress of the British Chess Federation at Cambridge.

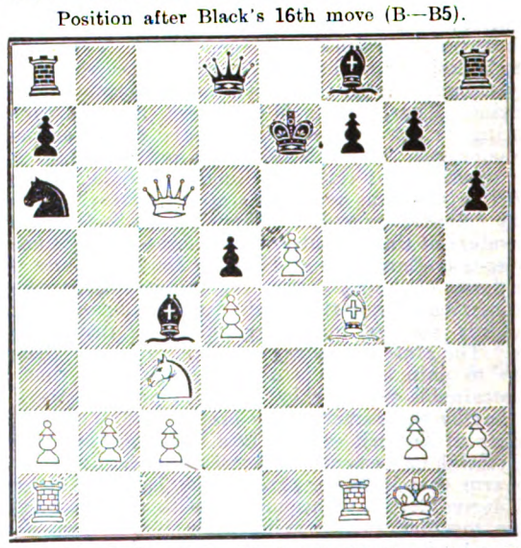
I am indebted to several readers for useful suggestions regarding this column. One of them I am adopting this week in the introduction of a problem which will henceforth be a regular feature. Solutions will be given the following week, and solutions sent by readers will be duly acknowledged. While on this subject I would express the hope that readers in the Near East and India will send me some of their games from time to time for publication.

Out of twenty simultaneous exhibitions by Señor Capablanca, the Cuban has won 624 games, losing 19, and drawing 44.

The Metropolitan Chess Club is holding two tournaments this year, and will, it is stated, make a strenuous effort to retain the championship of the London League. This the club should succeed in doing provided it can turn out its strongest team, for it numbers among its members a large proportion of the leading players in London.

I recently gave a game from Mr. P. W. Sergeant's "Charousek's Games of Chess." Here is another, played between Charousek and Tchigorin in the Budapest Congress of 1898, for which the two players tied, Tchigorin winning the tie match. Opening, bishop's gambit; white, Charousek; black, Tchigorin:—1, P—K4, P—K4; 2, P—KB4, P x P; 3, B—B4, Kt—QB3; 4, P—Q4, Kt—B3 (1); 5, P—K5, P—Q4; 6, B—Kt3, B—KKt5; 7, Q—Q3, Kt—KR4; 8, Kt—KR3, Kt—K5; 9, Q—QB3, Kt—R3; 10, 0—0, B—K7 (2); 11, B—R4 (ch.), P—B3; 12, B x P (ch.), P x B; 13, Q x P (ch.), K—K2; 14, Kt x P, Kt x Kt; 15, B x Kt, P—R3; 16, Kt—B3, B—B5;

Position after Black's 16th move (B—B5).



17, P—K6 (3), R—B; 18. B—B7, P x P; 19, B x Q (ch.), R x B; 20, Q—Kt 7 (ch.), R—Q2; 21, R—B7 (ch.), K x R; 22, Q x R (ch.), B—K2; 23, R—K, R—K; 24, P—QKt3, K—B; 25, P x B. Resigns.

1. Q—R5 (ch.) would have been preferable. 2. A futile excursion after the Queen. 3. Bringing the end within sight.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Cables received from the representative of the Federation of British Industries give most satisfactory accounts regarding the progress of the Athens Exhibition. On the opening day, despite the fact that the weather broke during the afternoon, there were over 2,000 visitors between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m., while during the first seven days 15,000 paid for admission in spite of the continuance of unfavourable weather. On October 26 the weather improved, and the attendance on that day rose to 7,000. Most favourable notices of the Exhibition have appeared in the Press, and it is stated that its success is now completely assured. Evidence of this is to be found in the substantial business that has already been transacted. At the private opening of the exhibition one firm sold their exhibit and took £1,500 worth of orders; while in the latest cable it is stated that practically all exhibits have been sold many times over, and that there has been an especial demand for machinery and textiles of all descriptions.

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It is interesting to note the rapid extension of the activities of the Abyssinian Corporation. Following the acquisition of the important business of Messrs. J. D. Nicholas and Co. in Abyssinia, it is now announced that a cable has been received from the general manager at Adis Abeba, stating that he has acquired for the corporation the business of the Indian firm, Badroo, Din and Co., exporters on a large scale of hides and native produce, and also having a close association with the Lancashire cotton trade. Those who read Lord Wolmer's speech at the recent statutory meeting will have been fully prepared for this and other developments.

***

The returns of the Greek revenues for August show a further satisfactory increase, though it is to be noted that the ratio of increase is declining owing to the fact that the comparison is now being made with a period when the returns were approximating to the normal. There was an increase for the month on monopolies, tobacco, stamps, and Naxos emery of 733.686 drachmæ, or roughly 19 per cent., while the increase from the Piræus Customs was 492.702 drachmæ, or over 13 per cent. For the first eight months of the year there was an increase of 6,442.990 drachmæ, or 26 per cent., in respect of monopolies, tobacco, stamps, and Naxos emery, and of 9,390.500 drachmæ, or 43.8 per cent., from Piræus Customs.

***

A prominent member of the Greek community in London, who has just returned to the City, after a prolonged stay in Greece, has given me his impressions of present conditions in that country. "Speaking broadly," he said, "the position in Greece to-day could scarcely be more satisfactory. The country has been so fortunate as to come through the great war without suffering the misfortunes which were the lot of other Balkan countries, and, thanks to favourable circumstances, to-day she stands in a unique position economically in the Near East, a fact to which the exchange rates bear witness." Turning to the question of finance, he pointed out that there are now in Greece from fifty to sixty million pounds more than before the war, and a large part of this amount, he explained, would be available for commerce and development.

***

Discussing the question of the development of commercial relations between the United Kingdom and Greece, my informant laid stress on the need for a commercial bank. "The lack of such an institution," he said, "is a great obstacle to the growth of trade between the two countries. What is needed is a bank with its directors partly British and partly Greek, which would give facilities for trading operations. The ordinary bank will not do. It must be an institution with a commercial as well as a banking side. It is my firm impression that a bank such as I have indicated must be founded if British traders are to enter the Greek market successfully."

***

I have often emphasised the great scope for British contractors in connection with the vast schemes of construction in Greece, at Salonika and elsewhere, and in the course of our conversation the subject came up. My Greek friend said he was rather afraid that there was a very strong chance that the large part of the work in connection with the rebuilding of Salonika would be taken up by an important French group headed by the Banque de Paris et de Pays Bas, of Paris, and that only a small margin would be left for British manufacturers and contractors. If that is the position as regards one of the outstanding works of reconstruction before Greece, it merely emphasises the necessity for more enterprise on the part of British capital.

***

Hitherto the British Industries Fairs have been held under conditions which compelled their restriction to a few industries, but next year it will be possible for all industries to be represented, and the arrangements that are being made promise that the coming Fair will be on a scale commensurate with the importance of British industry. The Fair is to be held concurrently in London, Birmingham, and Glasgow, and each centre will be restricted to certain industries, so that buyers interested in particular industries will not be compelled to go to more than one place to inspect the exhibits. The Fair has so far had its home in London at the Agricultural Hall, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Imperial Institute, and the docks, but this time it is to be held at the Crystal Palace, in view of the great floor space that will be required, and though the Crystal Palace is the largest exhibition building in the world, it is thought possible that it will not meet requirements unless additions are made to the building.

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At the Crystal Palace the exhibits will comprise such commodities as cutlery, silver and electro plate, glassware, china, paper and stationery, fancy goods, toys, sports goods, scientific instruments, optical goods, and furniture; in other words, very similar exhibits to those that were on view at previous Fairs in London. At Birmingham, where the Fair will be held in several buildings, the trades represented will include lighting fittings, cooking stoves and utensils, hardware, tools, metal furniture, firearms, machinery belting, motor cycles and aeroplanes, sanitary appliances, tiles in copper, lead, brass and steel, and architectural and ornamental work, etc., while the exhibits at the Fair at Glasgow will include textiles, ready-made clothing, carpets and upholstery materials, foodstuffs and beverages, and chemicals.

***

The question of the provision of shipping facilities between this country and Morocco was the subject of a statement by Mr. J. W. Clark, of the R.M.S.P. Co., at last week's annual general meeting of the British Merchants' Morocco Association. The small steamers suited for the Morocco trade were very scarce, he said, at the present time. He had hoped that they would have been able to secure some of the German ships, but he understood that arrangements had been made between the British and German Governments by which the Germans would be allowed to retain vessels of that class. There was only one alternative, he pointed out, and that was to build ships. "If you will have patience," he added, "I think we shall be able to give you a better service—a service such as you ought to have." Proceeding to discuss the question of freights, Mr. Clark said that he could not hold out much prospect of a reduction at the present time, seeing that the Government had decided "that the British shipowner shall be charged about twice as much for his coal as the manufacturer."

***

Opportunities for British traders in Yugoslavia are instanced in our advertisement columns this week, where the Export and Import Company, Limited, of Zagreb states its wish to enter into relations with British commerce, and announces an opening for an English correspondent to organise its British department.

COMMENTATOR.

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Egypt's Foreign Trade.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 16.

The Egyptian Customs statistics for the six months ended June 30, which have just been published, show a considerable falling off in both imports and exports. Imports amounted to £E19,488,180, exports to £E22,952,870, compared with £E25,631,082 and £E26,953,753 respectively during the same period of the preceding year. There is thus a diminution of £E6,142,902 in the former and of £E3,980,883 in the latter.

Imports.

Under imports the chief items were :—Meat, £E807,607 (9,916 tons); wheat flour, £E407,927 (12,314 tons); tea, £E55,065 (495 tons); coffee, £E258,698 (2,562 tons); wine in casks, £E113,916 (3,371 tons); olive oil, £E85,581 (645 tons); coconut oil, £E98,105 (1,424 tons); kerosine, £E956,760 (68,341 tons); benzine, £E316,235 (13,155 tons); mineral lubricating oils, £E149,842 (3,426 tons); stationery, £E589,729; wrapping paper, £E109,269; cigarette paper, £E113,761; coal, £E1,801,810 (348,914 tons); natural indigo, £E87,529 (125 tons); nitrate of soda, £E413,930 (15,002 tons); ammonium sulphate, £E75,284 (1,269 tons); household soap, £E215,730 (2,781 tons); cotton yarn, £E206,784 (713,355 kilos); sewing cotton, £E186,408; grey piece goods (cotton), £E410,886; bleached cotton piece goods, £E765,425; cotton piece goods, printed, £E789,970; cotton piece goods, dyed in the piece, £E1,067,125; ditto, dyed in the yarn, £E484,356; mixed textiles, £E164,288; woollen and worsted cloths, £E256,397; silk yarn and thread, £E109,161; silk cloths, £E301,639; jute piece goods, £E71,611; sacks, £E199,114; hosiery, £E274,741; ready-made underclothing, £E152,644; ready-made clothing, £E171,163; iron or steel hoops, £E101,380; ironmongery, £E152,650; tinplate for petroleum tins, £E199,962; leaf tobacco, £E1,434,897 (3,634 tons).

Exports.

Under exports the main items were :—Untanned hides, £E136,275; heavy leather, £E241,810; rice, £E384,275 (16,193 tons); cotton seed, £E1,211,680 (1,262,169 ardebs); onions, £E377,752 (39,176 tons); refined sugar, £E250,336 (5,000 tons); cigarette paper, £E118,803; gum, £E215,568 (3,579 tons); cotton, £E18,283,929 (2,254,496 cantars); grey cotton piece goods, £E77,559; wool, £E88,126; flax, £E24,753; and cigarettes, £E464,271 (253 tons). Under re-exports, which during the six months increased to £E2,647,373, as compared with only £E369,981 at the end of June, 1918, the main items were :—Hides and skins, £E27,910; general agricultural produce, £E72,810; refined sugar, £E51,432; vegetable oils, £E85,261; cotton piece goods, £E1,405,333; woollen and worsted cloths, £E101,049; hosiery, £E126,798.

Increases.

The principal increases were under imports :—Meat, £E327,241; wheat flour, £E108,959; oranges and mandarines, £E105,337; sugar, £E106,732; kerosine, £E5,0,099; and leaf tobacco, £E102,921; and under exports :—heavy leather, £E177,171; rice, £E282,044; onions, £E223,356; cigarette paper, £E107,738; and cigarettes, £E203,675. Decreases were recorded under imports in :—Tea, £E145,226; coffee, £E125,395; coconut oil, £E150,380; benzine, £E551,319; coal, £E1,098,810; cotton piece goods, £E3,516,836 (or 50 per cent.); mosquito netting, £E132,242; woollen and worsted cloths, £E241,379; silk yarn and thread, £E157,174; sacks, £E593,143; ready-made underclothing, £E103,148; tinplate for petroleum tins, £E371,237; and under exports in :—Cotton seed, £E620,649; refined sugar, £E128,532; cotton, £E4,617,216. The increase in re-exports was due to sugar, agricultural produce, and yarns and textiles, the latter of which accounted for £E1,757,847 alone.

Turning to the share falling to the various countries trading with Egypt, we find under imports that the United Kingdom, whilst heading the list with £E8,322,878, has fallen off by over 40 per cent.; that India has similarly reduced her sales by 70 per cent.; but that Australia has doubled its share. The most important items from the United Kingdom were :—Stationery, £E208,000, coal, £E1,444,883; medicinal preparations, £E74,343; household soap, £E106,814; sewing cotton, £E160,000; grey cotton piece goods, £E364,000; bleached cotton piece goods, £E757,000; printed cotton piece goods, £E778,000; cotton piece goods dyed in the piece, £E1,025,000; cotton piece goods dyed in the yarn, £E333,000; mosquito netting, £E67,000; woollen and worsted cloths, £E248,000; iron and steel hoops, £E101,380; tinplate for petroleum tins, £E197,408. From India came coffee, £E50,630; tea, £E25,000; indigo, £E87,328; jute piece goods and sacks, £E263,000; whilst Australia's share was made up of :—Meat, £E784,528; and flour, £E403,267. Of the other countries, France increased by about 20 per cent. and America from £E176,726 to £E1,098,953 (kerosine, £E725,919; light leather, £E67,274). It is interesting to note that Palestine sent goods to the value of £E570,000, or ten times the amount during the corresponding period of 1918 (oranges, £F155,774; olive oil, £F46,000; soap, £E97,191). It is also to be noted that, although the total sent by Japan fell off by about 25 per cent., she increased her share of the imports of sulphuric acid and textiles.

Under exports, the share of the United Kingdom fell from over 70 per cent. to 50 per cent., whilst that of France quadrupled, those of Japan and Switzerland practically doubled, and that of Italy increased by over 50 per cent. The purchases of the United Kingdom were :—Eggs and cotton seed, all; onions, 80 per cent.; gum, 14 per cent.; cotton, 50 per cent; wool and flax, all; and cigarettes, 25 per cent. Of the balance of the cotton, 18 per cent. went to France and 15 per cent. to the United States. Of the gum exported 70 per cent. went to France, and of the refined sugar over 60 per cent. went to India. Under re-exports, 70 per cent. of the cotton piece goods went to Palestine, which took 70 per cent. of the ground nuts exported.

Trade With the Sudan.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan during the period under review was, on the whole, not so good as the previous year. Imports into Egypt fell from £E1,391,857 to £E841,822, whilst exports to the Sudan rose from £E1,090,182 to £E1,296,183. Animals imported into Egypt fell by £E162,000 to £E261,000; hides and skins from £E68,000 to £E38,000; maize from £E155,800 to practically nothing; and gum from £E226,000 to £E79,000 (the quantity, however, only diminished by about 60 per cent.). On the other hand, sesame, dates, and groundnuts rose somewhat Under exports to the Sudan, cereals rose from £E34,600 to £E92,400; sugar from £E289,000 to £E360,000; cotton textiles from £E241,000 to £E422,000.

EGYPTIAN FINANCES DURING MAY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 14.

The State accounts for May just published do not show much improvement in the situation. Revenue during the month amounted to £E2,429,205, and expenditure to £F2,678,008, with the result that at the end of May there was a deficit of £E963,044, as against one of £E82,823 only on the same date last year.

The chief items of revenue during the month were direct taxes £F641,735, Customs £E320,335, tobacco dues £F287,918, railways £E434,690, ghaffir cess £E173,253, interest on funds £E106,753, and domains £E106,249 The only items which at the end of May showed any appreciable improvement on the previous year were tobacco dues, which increased by £E88,622 and interest on funds, which rose by £E89,776. Important decreases were shown in practically every other head of revenue, e.g., Customs £E364,137, excise £E42,672, legal fees £E156,149, railways £E363,080, military exemption £E40,220, and post office £E26,172. On the expenditure side railways increased by over £E140,000, war gratuities by over £E110,000, and ghaffirs by £E41,000. On the other hand, irrigation was reduced by £F57,000, war expenditure by £F63,000, prisons by £E33,000, and public health by £E14,000. We can, it is to be feared, expect little improvement in the general situation of the State accounts until those for September are published, for the intervening months are bound to be affected by the troubles of last spring.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Week ended October 26.—Gemsah, nil (previous week, nil). Hurgada, 5,808 tons (previous week, 6,245 tons).

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Conditions in Persia.—II.

Need for Railways.

Below is the continuation of Mr. C. A. Walpole's address to the Persian Society on "War and Post-War Developments in the Persian Gulf," the first part of which was given last week.

It had been said by some that there was a convenient outlet for the produce of Central Persia via Baghdad to the Persian Gulf, but this was not so. The freight by that route to-day from, say Hamadan to Busreh, would, at the very least, amount to £10 per ton—which was more than the normal price of wheat delivered in this country, but by a direct railway to the Gulf it would not amount to more than £2 or £3 per ton—a rate which compared favourably with the cost of rail transport of much of the grain shipped from India. Moreover, railways were a necessity for efficient administration, and for the economical distribution of oil and other merchandise, and also for the development of industries generally both for internal consumption and for export. In Southern and Central Persia, at any rate, fuel was practically non-existent, the little there was being wood collected from the scrubby growth along the Karun and Diz rivers, a purely local supply and insufficient even for local requirements, besides being prohibitive in cost. For the proper development of agricultural and commercial industries, a cheap and plentiful supply of fuel was, of course, essential, and in this respect Nature had come to the rescue of Persia with oil. The transportation of oil by caravan was, needless to say, most expensive both in the cost of transport and in the heavy leakage consequent upon this method of carriage, nor was distribution by lorry or cart any more satisfactory in either of these respects—leakage frequently amounting to as much as 8 per cent. Transportation by railway was far cheaper than either and much more satisfactory, as had been proved in India, where leakage, even with two transhipments, only averaged about half per cent.

Motor Services.

It had been suggested that a good motor service, say, from Ispahan to the Persian Gulf, was all that was required to bring about the much-desired commercial and industrial development of Persia, and there were even some people who professed to consider that the present caravan system was sufficient for the purpose. He would like to take this opportunity of insisting most emphatically, on the basis of his extensive knowledge of the country and of its transport problems, that this was not so—he had already indicated the prohibitive cost of transport by motor-lorry, rail, and river to Busreh via Baghdad. To emphasise further the point, he would like to give them the respective costs from Mohammerah to Ispahan; these were as follows:—(a) By river to Ahwaz and on to Ispahan by caravan, about £20 per ton; (b) by river to Ahwaz and on to Ispahan by motor-lorry, £15 per ton; (c) by rail, Mohammerah-Ispahan, about £3 per ton. The river caravan figure was the only one of the above figures actually available, but it must not be thought that those for lorry and rail were mere guesswork on his part. For a lorry road he had excellent data from a new road which the Anglo-Persian Oil Company had just completed between Dari-Khasineh (12 miles from Shusyar, on the Upper Karun River) to their oilfields, and for the railway he had certain estimates actually compiled when the survey of which he spoke was made by the Persian Railways Syndicate.

That it would take some little time to construct railways could not be denied, whereas, as pointed out by Lt.-Col. Napier recently before the Royal Geographical Society, a rough motor-lorry service could be introduced much sooner; but he would like to point out that the construction of suitable roads through any part of the mountainous ranges which separated the seaboard from the rich provinces of Central Persia would be costly and take time. In favour of this suggestion as a temporary measure, however, was the fact that the military in Mesopotamia would no doubt be ready to supply a certain number of lorries on the spot; petrol was all ready at hand from the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, and perhaps some of the existing caravan routes could, with a certain amount of patching up, be made sufficiently passable for this kind of traffic. That the experiment on a commercial basis would be tried in the near future there was little doubt, and as a temporary measure, pending the completion of railways, it would doubtless be of value in carrying on the existing trade. He was convinced, however, that for permanent development on a large scale Persia must have railways, and when these were built, any lorries which had meantime been employed in maintaining the existing trade of Persia could no doubt be used to great advantage as feeders for the railways.

The Labour Problem.

One of the greatest difficulties which would have to be faced, whether the work in hand be road-making, irrigation, or any other constructional work, would be that of labour. The position in this respect, even before the war, was none too easy, and it was now one of the acutest problems of the day. The Persian was, taken all round, a good labourer, but he had many irons in the fire, and could not be relied upon to remain with them throughout the entire year, especially when the date and grain seasons came round: nor to-day, with the big demand for labour in Mesopotamia, did there appear to be sufficient to meet the demands of all. Of skilled labour there was practically none, and even before the war artisans such as fitters, riveters, engine drivers, etc., had mainly to be imported from India, the possible exceptions in this respect being carpenters and masons, but here again the demand far exceeded the supply. Experience in other countries had, however, shown that, with the serious opening up of the country, more native labour would come forward, although during the war, when the wages offered were at record height, and when, owing to famine the shortage of food, clothing, etc., was acute, there was considerable difficulty in obtaining labour; this was no doubt, however, due in a great measure to the large demands of the M.E.F., and the unsettled conditions generally. The Persian Government were quite naturally extremely keen that local labour should be encouraged and utilised to the utmost extent, and every effort in this direction was being made in both official and commercial circles. It would, however, interest them to know that the artisans who had been imported from India (and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company had during the past ten years imported many thousands of such workmen) had on the whole been quite satisfactory—the men stood the climate well, and their intercourse with the Persian was quite friendly: many had, in fact, married Persian wives and settled down. The war had done much to draw Persia and India together—not only had the respective peoples, as it were, been "introduced" to one another, but the trade relations between the two countries had been very much strengthened. Many commodities which before the war were obtained exclusively from Europe had, through necessity at first, to be obtained from India, when it was discovered that quite a number of these articles could be purchased as well and as cheaply as from home. Instances of this were chemicals, cement, and boxwood—especially could he speak of the article last mentioned, of which the Anglo-Persian Oil Company imported from India alone approximately half a million boxes for the casing of petrol for the M.E.F.

The Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

A short review of the Oil Company's operations during the war would, he was sure, be of interest to them. The company's refinery, as they were doubtless aware, was situated at a spot called Braim, on Abadan Island, some nine miles below Mohammerah, on the Shat-el-Arab river. Here the company employed some sixty Europeans, a large number of Persian subjects, as well as some 2,000 Indians, apart entirely from a further large staff of Europeans, Persians, and Indians at Mohammerah, on the oil fields and on the route of the pipe line. In 1909 the village consisted of possibly over 10,000 inhabitants. The declaration of war with Turkey found Abadan particularly well equipped to render assistance to an expeditionary force to the Persian Gulf. The works were in a position to supply any quantity of petrol, kerosene, and fuel oil; there was a particularly well-equipped workshop, foundry, slipway, and a number of river steamers and motor boats. All were, needless to say, at once put at the disposal of the expeditionary force, and later, when it was decided to construct a fleet of light-draft gunboats, tugs, and barges, this work was undertaken at Abadan. Throughout the entire campaign the company supplied the total oil, petrol, and fuel oil requirements of the Mesopotamian expeditionary force, and at the same time were shipping large quantities of oil home for the British Navy. On no occasion was there any hitch in the working of any of these supplies. Moreover, it was from one of the company's ships that hostilities against the Turks commenced, naval guns being mounted on the steam tug "Sardar-i-Naft," which bombarded and demolished the fortress of Fao. This was on November 6, 1914; two days later the original expeditionary force under General Delamaine landed on Turkish soil almost immediately opposite to the company's refinery at Abadan. Here the Turks made their first attack on the British a week later but were repulsed. Three days later the British attacked the Turks, advancing along the right bank of the Shat-el-Arab river to a point almost immediately opposite to Mohammerah. The enemy were severely defeated, and fled towards Busreh, which they, however, evacuated on November 21 without firing a shot. An amusing incident of those operations was the attempt by the Turks to block the river below Busreh. A large Hamburg-American liner named the Ekbatana and two small Turkish ships were scuttled by the Turks. These proceedings occupied fully a fortnight, and were carried out with the utmost care. From Mohammerah he could obtain a fair view of the operations, and could not help admiring the painstaking methods of the Turks. A small gap had, however, inadvertently been left between the Ekbatana and the right bank of the river, and when, three days after the battle last referred to, news came down from Busreh that the Turks had deserted the town, and that the Arabs were looting it, H.M.S. Espiegle and one of Lynch's river steamers made a dash for the gap, which was passed through without mishap. This effort to block the channel was in fact entirely futile, and it was found later that two ocean-going steamers could even pass one another without difficulty.

(To be concluded.)

MOROCCAN FISHING CONCESSIO

H.M. Representative at Tangier states that a new company, which has been formed for a period of 99 years by certain Franco-Portuguese interests, has received a concession for fishing in the Tangier zone. The head office is in the French zone, and the company is to be governed by French law. Half the directors are of French and half of Portuguese nationality. The company takes over the stake net concession and the sardine-canning business of Tangier, and can extend its operations in fisheries and allied industries elsewhere in Morocco. The capital is fixed at 1,200,000 francs, of which 697,500 francs (6,975 shares) are assigned to the Portuguese and French companies in payment of the stake net fishery, the sardine factory, etc., the balance having been subscribed by eight persons and a company which is not named.

Mr. Gerald Campbell, H.M. Consul at Adis Abeba, is now home on leave, and will be glad to see any British firms interested in Abyssinia. Interviews can be arranged by the Department of Overseas Trade.

Sir Henry Babington Smith, K.C.B., C.S.I., has been elected a director of the Bank of British West Africa.

Sir Ian Malcolm, Sir Edmund Wyldbore-Smith and Sir Owen Philipps have been appointed to the board of directors of the Suez Canal Company.

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Near East Coal Resources.

II.—Russia.

By John Kirsopp, M.I.M.E., F.G.S.

According to a report prepared by M. Th. Tschernyschew, the Director of the Geological Committee of Russia, with the assistance of the various authorities on the respective coalfields of Russia, the coal resources of this country may be summarised as follows:—

The coalfields of Russia may be divided into thirteen distinct areas, viz.: (1) The central part of European Russia (the Moscow basin); (2) the Dombrova basin; (3) the Donetz basin; (4) the brown coals of the south-west part of European Russia; (5) the coals of the west slope of the Urals; (6) the coals of the east slope of the Urals; (7) the Caucasus and Trans-Caucasus; (8) Turkestan; (9) Kirghiz steppes; (10) the Kuznetz basin, and its extension to the north and north-west; (11) the fields of the province of Yeniseisk (Minusinsk district and the basin of the River Yenisei); (12) coalfields of East Siberia (provinces of Irkutsk, Trans-Baikal, and the Amour-Brimosski); and (13) Sakhalien. Only the first eight mentioned need be taken into account as having any likelihood of bearing upon the interests of the Mediterranean, or of the Near East.

1. The Moscow basin ranks fourth among the coal districts of Russia in Europe. The mining industry in this district began about fifty years ago, and expanded to a yearly production of about 600,000 tons, which has, however, gradually decreased since 1890, and is now only half this quantity, owing to the partial replacement of coal by petroleum, and to the increased use of the superior Donetz coal. The coals occur in one of the lower divisions of the carboniferous system, a belt extending in the form of an arc through the Governments of Riazan, Tula, Kaluga, Smolensk, Tver, and Novgorod, and situated about 90 miles south of Moscow, the coal in the middle part of the coal-bearing series being principally of a boghead quality, occurring in lenticular seams, and extending over a length from east to west of 270 km. (267 miles) and with a width of 165 km. (102 miles). The coal seams vary in thickness from about 0.36m. up to 2.00m. (1 ft. 1 in to 6 ft. 7 in.).

The present principal operating mines are Petroski (Kaluga), Brussova-Buda (Iizdrinski district), Bobrinski sugar refinery mine, Tovarkova, Levinskaya, Bobrik-Donski near Sizran-Viazma railway station, in the Government of Tula, Obidimo, near the border of Tula and Alexin, Yasenki, and the Murævna and Povedinka (Verda River) mines in the Government of Riazan. Average analysis of the coal (smoky and boghead varieties) gives 4,000-4,500 and 6,000 calories respectively, running from 62.63 up to 76.07 per cent. of carbon, and 26.02 down to 10.26 per cent. of ash. The Murævna area has produced 20,000 tons per square km. (247.1 acres), and it is estimated that the whole area, 30,000 square km. (11,582 square miles), of the southern (or richest) part of the Moscow basin contains 1,500,000,000 tons.

(2) The Dombrova basin, which forms the north-east end of the Upper Silesian basin is situated in the districts of Bendin (Petrokoff Government) and Olkurz (Kiel Government), and roughly about 140 miles south-east of Warsaw, the productive coal deposits being estimated to extend over about 800 square km. (309 square miles). The productive deposits can be divided into six series, viz., (*a*) comprising thin coal-seams running irregularly, and of inferior quality, friable, and high in ash. The lowest and thickest forms a comparatively regular bed in the eastern part of the basin 1.50 m. to 2.50 m. thick, and in the western part between 3.00 and 5.50 m. (*b*) Coarse-grained sandstones or conglomerates predominates in this series, in which lenses of coal have been worked by open cuts in the Paryz, Korzelew, Reden, and Mortimer mines. (*c*) This is the most important series, including the thick seams of the "Reden" group. In the eastern part of the basin the series consists of one thick seam known as "Reden," having a thickness in the Paryz mine of only 0.50 m., but thickening to the west and south-west, attaining 2 m. at the Korzelew mine, and in the Count Renard mine 8.00 m. to 12.00 m. In the western part of the district it is divided into three seams, known as Fanny, Gluck, and Karolina. The coal is good flaming and containing little ash, the average analysis giving specific gravity 1.320, carbon 60-70 per cent., ash 2-5 per cent., heating power 6,300-6,900 calories, and coke 56-58 per cent. The thickness of the series in the west (Saturn mine) is 38-59 m.; in the central part of the basin (Count Renard mine) 20-25 m.; and in the east (Kasimir mine) 10-18 m., the rock series having a thickness of 440 m. in the Flora mine in the centre of the basin, but diminishes to 270 m. (886 feet) in the eastern part. (*d*) Contains thin irregular seams, the Andrea, 2 m. thick, being the most important. (*e*) Coal-seams from 1 m. to 2.50 m. occur in this series contained in a thickness of 240 m. (*f*) in the eastern part of the basin there are only barren sandstones, but in the western part they contain a few thin seams of coking coals.

The structure of the basin presents two folds running parallel in an east-west direction, the southern anticlinal one beginning in the west part of the Upper Silesian basin, near Zabjre, entering the southern part of the Dombrova basin, terminating to the east of Count Renard and Nivka mines. In the north wing of this fold the Saturn, Czelady and Milovice mines are in operation near the western boundary of the basin, and to the eastward are the Count Renard and Klimontow mines. In the south wing of the fold the mine Nivka is situated, the top of the fold being eroded, and the Sub-Reden beds cropping to the surface. In the synclinal fold, which extends more to the north than the anticlinal, the south wing coincides with the north wing of the latter. The following mines are situated in the north wing: New Grodziec, Korzelow, Paryz, Reden, Mortimer, and Kazimierz, they all working the Reden seam. All the mines working the coals of the Sub-Reden measures, viz., Stzyzovitze, Old Grodziec, Antoni, Yan and Flora are also situated in the north wing. The dip of the measures throughout the field is very varied, from 2 degrees to 8 degrees to as high as 45 degrees, and numerous faults further complicate the structure of the field. The total coal reserves of this basin were in 1911 estimated to be as follows:—Reden seam, 988,900,000 tons; Over-Reden seams, 299,365,000 tons; Saturn seams, 363,977,000 tons; Flora seams, 747,243,000 tons; Stezyzowice seams, 125,760,000 tons; or a total of 2,525,245,000 tons.

The production of coal in this basin in 1901 was 4,140,439 tons, and in 1910 5,468,762 tons. Beds of lignite of Keuper (Triassic) age near the northern end of this basin in the district of Bendin, range in thickness between 0.75 m. and 2.00 m. Six mines are now working these deposits, viz., Kataczyna, Nerada, Kasimierz II., Teodor, Helena and Elka, the total annual output amounting to about 115,000 tons. The area of the productive beds will occupy about 70 square kilometres, this additional reserve amounting to 63,000,000 tons.

(3) The Donetz basin, the greatest coal area of European Russia, of carboniferous age, outcrop in the southern part of the Government of Kharkoff, in the eastern part of Ekaterinoslav, and in the western part of the province of the Cossacks of the Don, stretching in a W.-E. direction for a length of 230 miles, and with a maximum breadth of ten miles. The coal-bearing area can be divided into three divisions: Central, West, and East. The largest is the central division, and is a continuous field of coal deposits outcropping at the surface, extending between latitude 47.5 and 49.5 North, and between longitude 7.26 and 10.52 East (Petrograd). To the west and east of this central field groups of separate, island-like outcrops of coal deposits occur, almost exclusively in the valleys of the rivers.

The exposed coal deposits occupy an area of approximately 22,660 sq. km. (874,888 sq. miles). Mining in the basin began about 1789, but developed very slowly, and in 1860 the output only amounted to 100,000 tons. In 1890 it was 3,004,079 tons; in 1900, 11,010,684 tons; and in 1911, 20,283,00 tons. Between the years 1860-1911 the total production was 250 million tons. In 1909 the output might be classed as being steam coal 16.92 per cent., gas coal 12.43 per cent., smithy and coking coal 55.15 per cent., thin anthracite 2.05 per cent., anthracite 13.45 per cent. The total thickness of carboniferous age in the basin in places may be reckoned at 10,000 to 12,000 metres (32,800 feet to 39,370 feet) composed of alternating sandstones, slate, limestones (Upper Devonian) and coals, and may be divided into Lower, Middle, and Upper. The principal mining districts in the basin are in Uzovski region, Tschistyakovskaya district situated to the east of the Uzovski region, connected to the railway at Serditaya, and Tchistakovo, and contains several large anthracite mines, including those of the Alexiev Mining Co., the Prokhoroff manufactory, Eialkovski, and others. To the north of a line connecting the stations Sadki and Debaltsevo is situated the Gorlovski, one of the largest industrial regions in the Donetz basin. The mines of this region work the coal seam of the north and south wings of the west part of the principal anticlinal, the principal mines of the south wing being Verovski and Sophievski mine, the mines of the South Russian Coal Industry, Urpenski mine, Novo-Nikitovski mine, and the Nelepovski and Sherbinovski mine. On the north wing are Novo-Nikitovski (north) and the mines of the Gosudarivo-Bairakh Coal Mining Company. The Debaltsevo-Lugansk and Debaltsevo-Lopasnaya railway serves the large industrial region known as Almazni. Among the numerous mines of this district are the mines of the Alexiev Mining Company, the Brianski Coal Mines and Pits Company, the Seleznevski Company, the Gilovski Company, the Umenski Company, the Krivorogski Company, the South Russian Dnyeprovski Metallurgical Company, the mines of the Gotubovski-Berestovo-Bogodukovski Company, and others.

The Lisichanski region is situated in the north-west corner of the basin, one of the first coal mines started in the basin being near Lisichansk.

The Bokovo-Khrustalski anthracite region lies along the Ekateriinsk railway, between Chernukino and Kartushino (Uskino), in which are operating the mines Bruno-Bender, Ischenko Yakovenko, "Karl"-Vogau, Tchecha, Kolberg, Krasselchikoff, and others.

The Bokovo-Khrustalski region to the east joins the Doljansko-Sulinovski, and is situated or the axis of the principal syncline of the ride, the mining of anthracite being concentrated near Doljanskaya (mines of the Princess Ussopova, Messrs. Valliano, Otto, Ignatieff, and others), and near Sulin on the S.E. railway (mines of the Sulinovski works "Ekaterinienski," "Nasledishevski" mine of Umasheff, and others). The Grushevski anthracite district to the south of the Doljansko-Sulinovski region contains the oldest and largest anthracite mines in the country, among which are the mines of Paramonoff, the Russian Company of Navigation and Commerce, the Gruchevski Anthracite Company, Azovski Coal Company, Tschureelin, and others. In the northern and eastern part of the basin coal also occurs near the village of Uspenskoye in the district of the Kamenka river, but it is not worked at present owing to the absence of railway facilities; and it is also found near the Likhaya-Tsaritsine, and near Ekaterinyensk on the North Donetz river.

The Donetz basin supplies the only coal in European Russia which gives metallurgical coke. Analysis of smoky coals run 68.27 per cent.—67.28 per cent. carbon, 2.77 per cent.—4.69 per cent. ash, with 54.30 per cent.—84.40 per cent. yield of coke. Of anthracite 90.17 per cent.—90.86 per cent. carbon and 2.29 per cent.—3.30 per cent. ash. If the loss of coal in mining is taken at 20 per cent. of the total output, then the amount of coal taken from the Donetz basin will total 327 million tons, leaving a reserve (in 1911) of 55.613 million tons. The output of anthracite is about 15 per cent. of the total yearly output of coal from this basin.

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Engineering.

NEW STEEL ALLOYS.

During the past few years enormous advances have been made by metallurgists, particularly in connection with steel and alloys of iron with other metals for steel-making. By the employment of one or other of a series of what were once known as rare metals, it is possible to give almost any required characteristic to steel, and we are consequently able to specify steels for different purposes which possess exceptional toughness, hardness, softness, wear-resisting qualities, marked cutting properties, and resistance to acids and corrosion.

One of the metals most used in steel-making is tungsten, and as a few years ago the production of tungsten was not carried out to any extent in either Britain or America it was necessary to pay special attention to the matter, and within a few months big refineries had been erected and adequate quantities of tungsten were forthcoming. In making use of this metal in steel-making as much as from 14 to 19 per cent. can be alloyed with the steel, and the alloy thus produced is now almost indispensable in industry.

Vanadium is another metal which can be alloyed with iron and used in steel-making, and it produces a steel which is not only tough and durable, but which has a great resistance to the effects of vibration. By its use a great saving of weight can be effected, as by reason of its great strength smaller sections of vanadium steel are required for a given purpose. In modern engineering practice only a fractional part of vanadium need be added. The usual proportion is about 0.25 per cent. of vanadium to steel, which is to say that in 100 lb. of vanadium steel there would only be used one-quarter of a pound of the rare metal.

Chromium is another metal which has come largely into use in steel-making, and chromium steel is used for tool-making, armour plating, and projectiles. Molybdenum, when added in certain proportions to steel, increases the hardness and toughness of the metal, and machine tools made of molybdenum steel retain their edge and their cutting properties even when raised to a high temperature. Tools of this material can consequently be used at high speeds and to carry out work which could not be done by tools made of any other steel alloy.

A PAPER CONTAINER.

The scarcity of glassware for packing preserves, honey and syrups, dried milk and other foodstuffs has led to the designing and manufacture of a number of machines for making containers of paper and paper pulp. The machines have proved successful, and literally hundreds of millions of paper vessels have been manufactured both in Western Europe and America. In the great majority of cases the machines were designed for producing food containers from paper sheets or strips, which, after being rolled to shape, were impregnated with paraffin or other wax to render them damp and greaseproof and non-absorbent.

Paper packages of a new kind are now being made by special machinery which deals not with manufactured paper, but with paper pulp of a kind inferior to that hitherto used for the production of low-grade pasteboards and coarse wrapping sheets. The pulp is made in bulk, and supplied to the machine in liquid form, each half-pound of pulp being mixed with two quarts of water. A metal mould, collapsible, is first made of the container, this mould being made with an inner and outer shell. The machine drives the mixture of pulp and water into the mould, and the two shells are closed together by pressure, a big jet of air heated to a very high temperature being made to play on the shell of the mould as soon as this pressure is applied. This hardens the pulp sufficiently to allow of the newly-formed container being removed and the mould opens and closes twice every minute, thus allowing a new container, ready for use except for a little further drying, to be delivered from each machine every thirty seconds.

Users of the machines declare that the number of moulds and their shape and size is unlimited, and containers suitable for any purpose and of practically any size can be made at this high rate of speed. Further the machines can be made of any size, so as to hold as many moulds as required. The usual size is one which holds five moulds, and which, consequently, has a capacity of ten containers a minute. The machinery now being manufactured will turn out moulds of various thicknesses, so that practically any weight of container required can be produced by this process. Provision in new models now being designed has been made for colouring and waterproofing the containers by mixing materials for that purpose with the pulp when the water is added to it in the first place.

It is claimed that the container-manufacturing business will be revolutionised if for no other reason than the extreme cheapness with which the articles can be produced. A number of comparative tests have been made as to the cost of producing containers by this and other methods, and it is confidently asserted that no other machine on the market can compete with the new design. As a matter of fact, experiments have shown that 1,000 milk bottles, holding each one pint, can be made from material valued at about two shillings by the new machinery, and in connection with this it may be mentioned that the mere cost of handling 1,000 glass one-pint milk bottles made in the usual way, between the actual making and the delivery to the packing room, costs about two pounds sterling, British currency.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

Labour in the Near East.

According to a recent telegram from Washington, employers of labour and bankers in America are greatly alarmed over the heavy emigration of aliens, and fear serious consequences unless the movement is checked. Since the Armistice was signed emigrants have been crowding every outgoing ship, the only limit being the capacity of the vessels. The bankers are perturbed because of the drain it is making upon the cash resources of the country. The American Bankers' Association has sent a circular letter to savings banks throughout the country urging them to use their influence to dissuade aliens from emigrating. An alarming proportion of the 14,000,000 foreign-born aliens, says the circular, are drawing their money from the banks, selling their Liberty Bonds and houses, and returning to Europe. The New York Custom House authorities announce that emigrants are carrying with them from £400 to £3,000 each in United States currency. The astounding statement is made in the circular that 1,300,000 aliens cannot be stopped from going, and that they will carry with them nearly £800,000,000, or four-fifths of the total currency in circulation and in reserve in the United States before the war. And it is estimated that unless vigorous action is taken over six million aliens may be lured abroad, taking with them cash equal to the total present currency resources of the United States. In the meantime the Greek papers in the Near East declare that about 70,000 Greeks are now waiting day after day in New York for steamers to take them to Greece and the newly liberated provinces. A reason for this extraordinary emigration, as given by those who were fortunate to find a ship and return, is that the majority of them have made some money, whilst others are very rich, and with the new order of affairs in Greece, as well as in the Levant, they hope to do much better at home than in America. Most of them intend to buy farms and work them in accordance with the most modern systems; others to establish manufacturing businesses of various kinds; others to buy houses and land, etc.; and others—the majority—to work on the fields and in the factories. The effect of this return of experienced and apparently satisfied labour is obvious.

Agriculture in Serbia.

Serbia, as she was before the war, might have been considered a small country, more or less uncultivated, and very likely few manufacturers of this country knew that she had very modern and well-organised agricultural methods, flourishing agricultural co-operative societies, hundreds of agricultural credit and savings banks, granting loans and otherwise assisting the farmers, so that the country was quite equal to sending her surplus agricultural products and stocks across Europe, competing with the British producer in his home markets; and that to do all this she used the necessary modern agricultural machinery and implements which the farmer, the stock-breeder, the poultry and pig-keepers, etc., were compelled to obtain from Germany or Austria, more or less, it must be admitted, because of the political influence, but to a great extent owing to the indifference of their British competitors.

The Serbian Farmer.

The Serbian farmer is a straightforward and very honest buyer. So honest and such a good payer is he, indeed, that before the establishment of the agricultural credit and savings banks, to which reference is made above, the towns swarmed with money-lenders, who, in the guise of shopkeepers, were fleecing him; for, before anything else, he must pay his debts. The credit and savings banks, however, rescued him from the clutches of these harpies, for they provided him with an easy system of agricultural credit. These banks not only receive deposits and make loans to the farmers, but they themselves will see to the buying of cattle, seeds, fertilisers, implements, and other things, thus serving the purpose of a supply association. They procure the agri-

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

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GENTLEMAN with considerable experience (Mesopotamia) as Political Officer, who contemplates travelling (would leave end December) in Asia Minor and Caucasia, where is prepared transact any business relating commercial development or report on conditions for such, is, nevertheless, open to offer employment now by firm controlling or about have interests in Near East. Sound business man. Organiser. Small salary acceptable provided good prospects held out.—Write to Box No. 146, THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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cultural machinery which local associations hold in common; they undertake the sale of produce, and they also arrange for various forms of insurance, including insurance against sickness, etc. How soon the conditions in rural Serbia were substantially improved is shown by the fact that from one bacon factory alone there came to England in the course of a single year 19,750 cwt. of bacon obtained from 16,120 pigs, though up to quite recently the Serbian farmers paid little attention to pig-breeding. Of poultry, too, Serbia supplied us with considerable quantities, especially for our Christmas markets, and she was also doing a good trade with us in eggs, judging from the fact that a consignment despatched to London some time before the war filled five railway wagons.

With the extension of her territories, Serbia will be in the very near future one of the most desirable markets for industrial and agricultural machinery.

Suction Gas Producers for Wood Refuse.

For large estates, and for sawmills and similar factories, suction gas producers are now made which make gas for gas engines from sawdust and other wood refuse. One large sawmill in England has the whole of its power supplied in this manner, and no trouble whatever is experienced in its use. It has thus made itself independent of town gas supply, and is, of course, unaffected by coal strikes. The engines are of ordinary type, of a well-known make. There is, of course, great economy in working, no skilled attendance is required, and the apparatus is simple and reliable. As chippings and bark are used up as well as sawdust, this plan of producing power should prove invaluable on large timber estates.

Petroleum of Zante.

According to recent information from Greece, a contract has been signed between a group of French capitalists and engineers and the owner of the oilfield in the island of Zante. M. For, who represents the French group of capitalists, is, it is said, chairman and director of various companies and banks. The new arrangement has created great interest in Greece, where the belief prevails that Zante will prove a steady and rich oilfield.

MOROCCAN SHEEPSKINS.

According to a notice recently published in the French press, Moroccan sheepskins possess certain qualities which make them superior to those of other countries. The closeness of the pores gives them a fineness of grain, suppleness and firmness which render them particularly suitable for the leather-dressing industry. The best qualities come from the mountainous regions of Morocco. The skins are sold with or without the wool. The unshorn skins are either unbleached or salted, and are in three grades:—(1) Long wool, of which the wool measures more than 6 centimetres, and of which the average weight is 40 kilos. to the dozen. (2) Half wool, of which the wool measures from 2 to 6 centimetres, and the weight is about 20 kilos. to the dozen. (3) Quarter wool or "rasons," of which the wool measures less than 2 centimetres, and the weight is about 20 kilos to the dozen. The shorn skins are of three qualities:—(1) Skins of the best quality, undamaged in the skinning, and weighing about 8 kilos. to the dozen. (2) Skins slightly damaged and with other defects, weighing about 6 kilos. to the dozen. (3) "Ecarts" or skins of inferior quality. In spite of the importance of the consumption of sheepskins for native industry, such as the manufacture of bags, harness, etc., the export trade of sheepskins in Morocco is always very active, and in 1914 amounted to 1,216,000 kilos. valued at 1,500,000 frs.

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ROUMANIA'S COMMUNICATIONS.

The Reconstruction Problem.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)
BUCHAREST, October 23.

One of the chief needs of Roumania to-day is the reconstruction of the lines of communication, railways, rivers, and canals throughout the country. At first sight this seems simple enough, and a glance at the map shows what first-rate possibilities Roumania offers in this respect. There are the new provinces to be considered, Ardeal, Bukovina, Bessarabia. The latter two have, for instance, merged their railway systems completely into that of Old Roumania, whereas Ardeal still retains its separate administration directly under the Ministry of Railways; but this is a small matter which will adjust itself in time. The important thing is the conception and execution of an entirely new policy; the whole of the traffic of Ardeal has to be deflected from its former natural tendency west and south-westward to the Danube and the sea at Fiume, towards the Roumanian section of the Danube and the Black Sea. There are a number of lines running up to the old frontier of Roumania from both sides of the Carpathians, and one or two of these lines will no doubt be connected up so as to reduce the traffic already too heavy on the through lines Sibiu-Turnu Bosu and Braso-Predeal-Ploesti, and to bring Ardeal and Bukovina in close touch with the Danube and the Black Sea.

Here, then, is a fine chance of reconstruction—work which should brace all good Roumanians to the uttermost efforts. There are some who appreciate the greatness of the work before them, but they are in danger of being outnumbered by those who also see the difficulties and are perhaps inclined to exaggerate them: and some of these difficulties are personal as well as technical. To make the railway system of Great Roumania run smoothly two distinct systems, not only of working but of thought and up-bringing, have to be merged into a working whole. There is the old Roumanian State Railway, which before the war worked quite well, though understaffed even in those days. The deficiency of trained staff is more marked than ever owing to various causes—the losses by the war, the fact that business concerns offer higher wages (which is also the case at home), and according to some of the heads of departments, the disinclination to work, which also affects the youth of other countries. The Transylvanians are handicapped by the following difficulties:—The present directing staff is composed mainly of Transylvanians who were formerly in the service of the Hungarian Government, in which they were, on account of their nationality, not allowed to rise to any but quite subordinate positions. They therefore lack the experience and the numbers to control adequately the large staff of subordinates whom they took over with the Ardeal sections of the Hungarian State Railways. They did wisely in this, as it was quite impossible to replace these men, mostly Magyars, by Roumanians; it was also as well not to leave them unemployed. The Magyars do not seem to take kindly to their new masters, albeit the latter show them much consideration: there appears to be an under current of dissatisfaction which expresses itself for the moment on economic lines; the pay is undoubtedly inadequate to meet the demands of the present cost of living. But against this, the "Valuta" cannot better itself without exports, and the railways are not up to dealing with anything like the traffic to set matters right. They are busy carrying coal but not in sufficient quantities to meet the demands of other enterprises, such as the waterways and ports, and so the vicious circle closes.

The railways are also carrying a good deal of the spoils of war from Hungary, against which practice the Great Five launched their thunder. Things are viewed differently in the East: when a business expedition to a neighbouring country results in the acquisition of valuable movables, locomotives, saloon-coaches, agricultural machinery, and so on, such goods are not left behind at the end of the expedition; it is not done in these circles.

One local paper, referring in adverse terms to the state of railway administration, suggests that the management of the State Railways should be entrusted to an outside expert, a foreigner, but this would not be received with general satisfaction. It would moreover be impossible to secure the services of a good man at the standard of pay obtaining in this country, and equally impossible to give such an one adequate remuneration—the state of the national finances does not admit of such expenditure, apart from other considerations. However, with sufficient goodwill and desire to work, there is some hope of things coming right in time, but it is likely to be a considerable time before the varying interests will be brought to agree. The leaders of the Roumanian people on either side of the Carpathians have yet to adapt themselves to the wider perspective which their success in war or revolution has opened out to them, and also to lead their people from worrying over local politics to the glorious prospects of a really Great Roumania.

In the meantime, Roumania has to keep an eye on her neighbours. Of these the majority are at present too fully occupied with their own affairs to look far beyond their borders. The Yugoslavs are having internal misunderstandings among themselves, though perhaps not more pronounced than those between Cis- and Transylvanian Roumanians. On the Eastern front Roumanian opinion is inclined to favour Petliura against Denikin: the latter is considered too reactionary, too Old Russian, and therefore a possible menace to Roumania—surely a remote danger as yet, but thinking Roumanians seem to have the fear of Panslavism constantly before their eyes, and see the spectre not where it would be most likely to appear, in the steady and purposeful direction taken up by the Czecho-Slovaks, but in turbulent Russia and troubled Yugoslavia. The Poles, too, have their hands full; the Magyars are at present quiescent, but it is realised that they nourish a deep and fervent hatred against the Roumanians and that this hatred may well endure throughout two generations.

There is no space to deal with any other point of view but that of the immediate reconstruction of the lines of communication on which depend the future of Roumania. The Czecho-Slovak Republic have taken this matter in hand with their customary vigour. We see Presburg developing into a place of increasing importance, with extensive harbour works projected, and we hear of plans to join up the Central European waterways, Elbe and Danube, Oder and Danube. These projects, with the works already existing, such as the Rhine-Danube canal (viâ Straubing) suggests a serious attempt at the settlement of the economic centre of the concatenation of new states, with the Czecho-Slovaks leading. This should give food for reflection to others than those who live by the banks of the Danube.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Shipping at Malta.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
MALTA, October 1.

Shipping has been brisk during the past week, to the manifest advantage of the various ship-chandlers, who are beginning to get glimpses of old times with crowded harbours. The most recent movements chronicled are as follows:—Arrivals: British s.s. Glendhu, from Antwerp, and H.M.S. Honeysuckle, from Constantinople. Departures: H.M.S. Bryony, for sea; British s.s. Celtic Prince, for Aden; and the Norwegian Avona, for Port Said.

Mariners have been informed that the two green lights erected at Skoll Tal Gazzenan, St. Paul's Bay, have now been removed.

The Brussels branch of the Royal Exchange Assurance, under the management of Mr. C. E. Fair, is now open at the following address: Royal Exchange Assurance, 224, rue Royale, Brussels. Major A. A. Gordon, C.B.E., M.V.O., at present a local director at the West End branch, has also been appointed a local director attached to this branch.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants and Sultanas.

The market is practically bare of supplies. It is expected that the Government distribution of fruit will take place within a few days.

Coffee.

A steady tone has been maintained for raw and refined. 5,015 packages were offered at auction this week. Costa Rica bold palish for export brought 135s., while fine bold greenish for home consumption made 140s. 6d. Nairobi bold greenish for export was done at from 139s. 6d. to 142s. 6d., while the same for home consumption brought 139s. to 140s. The futures market has been somewhat quiet. Quotations, December 123s. 6d., March 117s. 6d., May 113s. 3d., July 111s., and September 109s. 6d.

Sugar.

The demand for raw has been on the increase, and prices have shown a rising tendency. The predominant feature in the position is the world's shortage of supplies, and it is fortunate that the cane crops are so satisfactory. The shortage is the subject of emphasis in last week's Restriction of Delivery Order, which takes over the control of the delivery of sugar arriving in the United Kingdom after December 27.

Oilseeds.

The general tendency has been to firmness. Linseed has been in special favour, and the Argentine quality for January shipment has been done at 32s. 6d. per cwt. Calcutta-London, November-December is quoted 46s., and Calcutta-Hull 46s. 9d. Bombay-London is 47s. Rapeseed is steady with Toria afloat at 37s. A shilling more is quoted January-April. Cottonseed is in demand. Egyptian f.a.q. has been done at 23s. to 23s. 6d. according to position, while Sakellarides is 22s. Indian shipments of cottonseed from January 1 to October 31 amounted to 155,000 tons.

Oil Cakes, etc.

Linseed cake has been dull and the price has declined, transactions having taken place at 24s. Soya bean cake is in firm demand at 25s. Arachis nut has been done at 22s. while decorticated ditto has come to business at 24s. Common cottonseed cake is quoted 18s. to 19s., while palm kernel cake is weak at 16s. There has been a firm demand for linseed oil at 94s. ex-store, while it has been done at 84s. for January, 80s. for April, and 79s. for August. Rapeseed oil has risen to 103s.—108s.; while cottonseed oil has been done at 80s.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 18:—

We have to report again a very active market, with sales amounting to 105 cases of all grades manufacturing material ranging from 12s. to 17s. 6d. per lb. c.i.f. port of destination. We regret to say, however, that we are experiencing a serious dearth of rain this autumn in almost all our opium-producing districts, and, coupled to this, we have the Greco-Turkish disturbances, which prevent growers of the drug from continuing autumn sowings, which are the backbone always of a plentiful and rich crop the following year. Under these conditions we cannot entertain any hopes of a lower market in the future, but, on the contrary, we may again return to the abnormal high prices which prevailed both here and on the consuming markets shortly before the armistice. The Exchange was slightly better—cheque on London is now Ps340 per pound sterling and dollar cheques stand at 1.25 dollars per Turkish paper pound. The arrivals to date are 782 cases of 160 lb. per case, against 18 at same date last year.

STRANGERS' HOME FOR ASIATICS,

WEST INDIA DOCK ROAD, LIMEHOUSE, LONDON, E.

"I was a stranger and ye took me in."

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD., 4 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following particulars are given in the C.E.B. report for August:—

Dura and Dukhn.

Kordofan Province.—Three ardebs of 420 rottles (169 kilos) of dukhn were sold in El Obeid market during August at an average price of £E4.40 mms. per ardeb.

Halfa Province.—The grain merchants have fair stocks of wheat, but the dura stock failed absolutely. At the end of the month about sufficient dura was again on the market as a result of assistance from the Governor, Assuan, and negotiations with Assuan grain merchants. The sale of Government dura relieved the situation.

Dates.

Halfa Province.—Excellent reports are being received as to the size of the crop. As a whole, quality seems good, though in places the dates have suffered from lack of water. The prospects for the moving of the dates are not very bright at present. Few merchants have arrived from Egypt to date, and it is probable that the demand from Egypt will be less than during the last few years, and, further, it is expected that prices will range lower.

Sesame.

Kordofan Province.—63 ardebs of 330 rottles (148 kilos) were sold in El Obeid market during the month at an average price of £E5.720 per ardeb.

Kassala Province.—The approximate market price per ardeb of 300 rottles was £E4.350 at Gedaref.

Livestock.

Berber Province.—The following animals were sold in Damer market during the month:—69 head cattle, average price £E6.920 per head; 1,542 sheep and goats, average price £E1.640 per sheep.

Red Sea Province.—23 head of cattle and 372 sheep and goats were exported via Port Sudan during the month.

Sennar Province.—171 head of cattle were imported from Abyssinia via Kurmuk during the month, of which six were sold locally, 27 were sent to Kosti, and 138 to Renk.

Cultivation.

Halfa Province.—The dura crop in the majority of the villages, which were sown late, have suffered from the ravages of "worm." Much land has had to be replanted. On the whole, the prospects of the flood crop are fair to moderate. There have been many deaths amongst sagia (water-wheel) cattle, due chiefly to lack of forage and food. Cattle in places have been kept alive on dates and palm branch. The cultivators were very anxious on account of the falling of the Nile, and stopped planting late dura. During the third week, with the Nile again rising, a moderate amount of grain was sown and much resown. Good flood crops either in quality or quantity are not anticipated.

Kassala Province.—The Gash Flood has continued well. A record rise was experienced. Crops on irrigated lands are promising, and it is hoped that grain may come into the market by the end of the month.

Halfa Province.—Business continues good, and the merchants are doing well. Petroleum is coming on the market, and oil is, in consequence, cheaper and the measure much better.

Darfur Province.—The markets have been poor owing to the majority of the people being busy with their cultivation. 375 kantars of tobacco were exported during the month. Export trade has been seriously hampered by the dearth of camels.

The Board of Trade will be leaving Whitehall Gardens for their new offices in Great George Street within the next few days.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended October 23 were cotton markets, £611; general markets, £570; total, £1,181; total for year, £45,886. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918, ended October 24, were cattle market, £685; general markets, £538; total, £1,223; total for year, £41,906.

CINCHONA PLANTATIONS OF BENGAL.

From the beginning of 1875-76, the year in which factory products began to be issued, to the end of 1918-19, a period of forty-four years, 219,200 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge have been issued from the Government cinchona plantations and factory in Bengal, according to the report for the year 1918-19. Up to the end of 1886-87 this drug was the only, and up to the end of 1889-90 the main, product of the factory, but from 1890-91 onwards its issue steadily declined until 1914-15, when the scarcity and high cost of quinine brought cinchona febrifuge again into medical fashion.

During the eighteen years 1901-2—1918-19 the total quantity issued was 79,390 lbs., of which 36,842 lbs., or over 46 per cent., were sold during the last four years. From the beginning of 1887-88, in which year quinine began to be issued, to the end of 1918-19, a period of thirty-two years, the total quantity of quinine issued was 577,490 lbs. 15 ozs. Of this quantity, 242,296 lbs., or almost 42 per cent. of the total, were issued during the last four years.

These figures are eloquent of the strain thrown on the Department by the demands of the war years. The immediate brunt fell upon the quinine reserve which the Department was fortunately enabled to build up at very low cost, and just in time, and which stood at over 163,000 lbs. when war broke out. The reserve, however, could not meet indefinitely such a drain, and as during the latter half of the war period it was impossible to purchase either bark or quinine to supplement it, or even to foretell when such could be purchased, recourse was perforce had during the last two years to the otherwise undesirable expedient of increasing the immediate plantation harvest by cutting out immature acreages. Thus, the average age of the Munsong acreage cut out in 1918-19 was 6.7 years, with an average total yield per acre of about 2,000 lbs., against a yield of 3,260 lbs. per acre from Mungpoo, where the average age of the acreage cut out was nine years. In the circumstances the sacrifice of bark increment paid well, for the price of such quinine as could be got in the market ranged from Rs. 28 to Rs.60 or more per lb., as against Rs.7, the cost of manufacture from plantation bark.

Still, the fact has to be faced that 2,270 acres of the 2,600 now under cinchona are under seven years of age. To allow of these acreages gaining a normal amount of bark increment, only a normal amount of "thinnings" should be harvested for the next few years. It should be possible to arrange for this as the demand for quinine should now sink to a more reasonable level, and there is likely to be available from outside sources bark to be purchased by the Government of India, which bark, with the harvest normal to the ages of the acreages of the plantations, should suffice to keep the factory output up to a normal demand. All the cinchona on the plantation, except forty-eight acres, has been planted since 1909-10. The total expenditure on the entire Department for the last ten years, exclusive of the Rs.13 lakhs, is Rs.27,30,806, and the total revenue, exclusive of the Prison Departments' share, is Rs.71,79,916. The surplus, Rs.44,49,110, is equal to a return of 28 per cent. per annum on each year's total expenditure during the period from the year of expenditure to the end of the period.

CATALOGUES AND SAMPLES FOR BULGARIA.

Firms desirous of having their goods advertised in Bulgaria are invited to send price lists, marked with current prices, and, where possible, accompanied by samples not exceeding 1 lb. in weight, to Capt. W. B. Heard, c.o. British Legation, Sofia, Bulgaria. These will be available at the Sofia Chamber of Commerce, where Bulgarian merchants can view them. If desired, further consignments of catalogues and samples not exceeding four in number may be sent for distribution amongst the chief provincial Chambers of Commerce. A strong demand for goods exists in Bulgaria at the present moment. The market is depleted, and there is a strong desire to do business with the United Kingdom.

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GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

Paid-up Capital, Drs. 3,000,000.

Head Office - ATHENS.

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS:
Investigations in connection with, and the promotion, organisation and financing of, Limited Joint Stock Companies, with a view to exploiting agricultural, industrial and mineral resources, executing technical works, etc.

COMMERCIAL AND SHIPPING DEPARTMENT:
Purchase and sale of goods on account of clients. Warehousing, Advertising and placing foreign products on the market. Agents for foreign companies and large commercial and industrial firms abroad. General Shipping Agents.

POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.

Correspondents throughout Greece.

Established June, 1905, by the National Bank of Greece and a group of Capitalists.

CAPITAL - Drs. 1,500,000.
RESERVE FUND - Drs. 2,500,000.
Deposits and Credit Accounts, Drs. 100,000,000.

The Bank specialises in the collection of Bills payable in Greece; it accepts goods on consignment, and undertakes their sale, and transacts every kind of Banking business.

General Manager: D. LOVERDO.

TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST.

The Bank of Athens extends special facilities for business with the Near **East** to manufacturers, exporters and importers.

The Bank has offices in all the principal towns in **Greece,** also in **Egypt,** Cairo and Alexandria, in **Cyprus,** Limassol, in **Constantinople,** in **Smyrna,** and in **France,** Marseilles.

Inquiries from interested parties are invited.

BANK OF ATHENS.

PAID-UP CAPITAL : £1,920,000. **HEAD OFFICE IN ATHENS.**

London Office: 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 3.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 2,364,793.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches:—**Piræus, Salonika, Patras, Volo, Syra, Calamata, Corfu, Cephalonia, Candia, Chios, Argos, Pyrgos, Vostizza (Ægion), Nauplia.**

AGENTS IN ALL PARTS OF GREECE, THE LEVANT, AND ABROAD.

The Bank conducts every kind of Banking, Commercial and Stock Exchange business and extends special facilities to traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts.

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT:
The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

GREECE.

Area (1914), 25,128 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,746,300 acres, of which about 2,253,100 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 376,600 under oak trees, 296,500 under olives, and 2,273,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,00 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,500,000 from Germany and Austria-Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 23·12 Drachmæ to £1.

FREIGHT.—From England, 160/- + 10 % primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16 33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0 11 imperial quarter, pike = ⅓ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches:

PIRÆUS, SYRA. PATRAS.

Capital Paid Up - Drs. 10,000,000

Fully represented in all parts of the world for all kinds of commercial, financial, and shipping business.

President. L. EMBIRICOS. *Manager.* D. MIAOULIS.

BANK OF PIRÆUS.

For COMMERCE, INDUSTRY and SHIPPING.

Capital Paid-up - Drs. 5,000,000. Reserve Fund - Drs. 3,095,000.

OFFICES at PIRÆUS and ATHENS.

Every kind of Banking business transacted.
The Bank's connections throughout Greece enable it to offer foreign clients special facilities for the collection of Bills, etc.
Correspondence invited.

BANK OF INDUSTRY OF GREECE.

Head Office: 14, Stadium Street, Athens.

Capital Fully Paid-up - Drs. 15,000,000

The Bank has been established for the encouragement and development of Industry and Commerce, and undertakes every description of banking business.

BANK OF ORIENT.

Capital Paid up - Drs. 25,000,000

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: SALONIKA, SMYRNA, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MITYLENE, SERRES, ZAGAZIG, MAGNESIA, PERGAMA, SOMA.

Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

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POSITION IN ABYSSINIA.

Prospects for British Trade.

The British Legation at Adis Abeba reports as follows :—It is difficult to give reliable information as to the prospects of trade in Abyssinia as the market is upset by the rapid rise in the dollar exchange, and the Abyssinians continue to expect a general and immediate decrease in prices, even to pre-war rates, in view of the termination of hostilities. Since January 1 the dollar has risen from 7 to 5.82 to the £ sterling, with a tendency to a further rise to 5.50 or higher in the near future. Exchange has been influenced by the franc exchange, the rupee exchange, the raising of the prohibition to export dollars, and the granting of promiscuous permits resulting in the export within the last six months of some half-million dollars, exclusive of those smuggled out of the country. The price of silver enters presumably into all these contributory causes. The Abyssinians are buying absolute necessities, and for those they are willing to pay a high price. But their "absolute necessities" are few and are mostly confined to clothing. In other branches they are influenced solely by the cheapness of articles and disregard quality. Thus they purchase Japanese padlocks or knives, which break in no time, solely on account of their cheapness. The padlocks in demand here are bought wholesale at nine rupees per gross. There is little chance, therefore, for British manufactures at the present moment, except in better-class cotton goods, such as twills, which always hold the market.

Three lists of goods are appended :—List A denotes those in general and constant demand without much regard to price. List B denotes those for which demand is general and likely to increase, but dependent on price. List C denotes those in demand chiefly by Europeans, who pay attention to price and quality. Trade is restricted as the European community is not large, but will increase in the near future with the greater influx of foreigners.

List A.—Aboujedid (trade cloth), cotton yarns, cotton blankets, khaki drill, soap, sugar, common salt, canvas water bags, petrol, wire nails, corrugated iron sheets.

List B.—Scents, razors, knives, padlocks, felt hats (black and grey), hair oil, coconut oil, castor oil, Epsom salts, sardines, olive oil, wall lamps (¼, ½, and 1 in. burners), lamp glasses and wicks, enamel tumblers and plates, velvet, silk, and silk handkerchiefs, prepared leather, Persian rugs, crystals for dyeing (blue, green, yellow, red and black are the most popular colours), glass decanters for native drinks (formerly supplied by Austria), better-class soaps, imported alcoholic drinks, iron files.

List C.—Cloth, woollen goods, hats and helmets, boots and shoes, waterproofs, saddlery, saddle soap, boot polish, jams, confectionery, starch, various tinned provisions other than meat or vegetables, medicines, wines and spirits, canvas, glass, cement, oil plants, linseed oil, turpentine, putty, wall papers, tumblers, crockery, enamelled ware, cooking utensils (aluminium, enamel, or iron), wall paper, stationery, better-class cutlery, plated ware, shot gun ammunition.

PROPOSED PIPE LINES AT GROSNY.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Rostov-on-Don states that owing to the complete disorganisation of railway transport, and the consequent impossibility of conveying to the seaboard the enormous stocks of naphtha products which have accumulated at Grosny, there are projects on foot for the construction of three separate pipe lines :—1. Grosny to Novorossisk, distance 506 miles. 2. Grosny to Petrovsk on the Caspian—100 miles. 3. Grosny to Astrakhan—240 miles. The line from Grosny to Astrakhan would serve as an outlet to the Volga, and would enable Grosny oil to compete with Baku products in Central and Northern Russia. Moscow merchants, temporarily residing at Rostov are interested in this scheme, and the capital will probably be subscribed locally. As regards the other two projects, it is understood to be the intention to seek capital abroad. It is claimed that the production at Grosny can be raised to 40,000,000 poods per month, but the railway company at the present moment can only cope with about 2,000,000 poods. The necessary pipes for the lines could be manufactured in Russia but all the pumping machinery, etc., would have to be imported.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Advance in Prices.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Prices in all quarters of the market have again advanced, and the tone has been stronger than ever. It has been quite impossible to purchase except at full rates. The majority of producers have been very indifferent as to booking fresh contracts. A substantial rise has to be recorded in Egyptian cotton prices. There has been a little uneasiness as a result of the industrial unrest abroad. The crop is doing fairly well, but the demand for the article is increasing. Stiff advances have had to be paid for all kinds of yarns made from Egyptian cotton. Some spinners have withdrawn quotations for the time being. Engagements are very extensive, and it is quite impossible to secure early delivery. In cloth for Egypt inquiry has been on broad lines, and in spite of difficulties in arranging sales, an encouraging turnover has taken place. The outlets of the Levant have also been active. Favourite makes of sized shirtings are fully sold up to the end of next July. Makers of printing cloths are extending their engagements very rapidly. An increased demand has been met with in piece goods suitable for India. Many Calcutta bids have been impracticable, but more has been done for Bombay and Karachi. Steady buying has transpired for China, Java and Singapore. Printing and finishing cloths have been in healthy request for South America. Most manufacturers are doing better than ever before in the history of the trade. American yarns have hardened in price from day to day, the undercurrent of demand being healthy, but the turnover has been affected by the difficulties experienced in obtaining stuff. Export numbers have been in encouraging request for Eastern markets. Coarse counts have been wanted for the Levant, but many producers are fully sold up to the middle of next year.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

Crop Forecasts.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated October 29 :—

Weather dry, except in North-Eastern and in Southern India.

During the week ending October 15 preparations and sowings spring crops continued. Harvesting autumn crops continued Bombay, Central India, North West Frontier Province, United Province of Agra and Oudh and Bihar and Orissa, neared completion Rajputana. Transplanting winter rice crops completed Upper Burma. Harvesting has commenced in Burma, Orissa, and at Chota-Nagpur; progressed Punjab, Central Provinces, and in Southern India. Plucking tea continued Assam. Steeping and washing jute almost finished Bengal. Cotton-picking commenced parts Bombay; progressed Burma, in Northern India, and Central India. Gathering groundnuts progressed Burma. Wheat sowings progressed Punjab. General crop conditions good, but rain wanted West Bengal and parts Bihar and Orissa and badly needed Punjab.

First groundnut forecast, 1,274,000 acres (last year's corresponding forecast, 1,147,000 acres). First rice forecast, 73,233,000 acres, excluding 938,000 acres reported for the first time by Feudatory State in Central Provinces (last year's corresponding forecast, 70,952,000 acres). Second Sesamum forecast, 2,170,000 acres (last year's corresponding forecast, 1,589,000 acres). Second sugar cane forecast, 2,729,000 acres (last year's corresponding forecast, 2,590,000 acres).

Bombay cotton market irregular. Fully good broach, April-May, Rs. 512. Piecegoods market strong, with encouraging demand and improving prices. Calcutta jute market inactive. Gunny market steady. No change in bank rates.

NEW COMPANIES.

Roumanian Road Transport

The Roumanian Road Transport Co., Ltd., has been registered with a nominal capital of £105,000 in 100,000 preferred ordinary shares of £1 each and 100,000 ordinary shares of 1s. each. The objects are to carry on in Roumania or elsewhere the business of runners of motors and steam lorries and other vehicles, etc. The first directors are :—A. Rutherford, director of Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., and Oilfields Finance Corporation, Ltd.; G. R. Bloxcidge, J.P., chairman of Samuel Thornley, Ltd., Dean, Brown and Co., Ltd., and Chiciura Oilfields of Roumania, Ltd.; R. W. Barnett, director of Baku Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., Ketch Taman Oilfields, Ltd., Oilfields Finance Corporation, Ltd., Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., Chiciura Oilfields of Roumania, Ltd., and Venezuela Oilfields Exploration Co., Ltd.; P. Cuthbert Quilter, M.P., director of Blaenavon Co., Ltd., Bolivar Railway Co., Ltd., Dorada Extension Railway, Ltd., La Guiara and Caracas Railway Co., Ltd., and Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd.; Sir Wm. W. Rutherford, director of Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., Oilfields Finance Corporation, Ltd., Robert Cain and Sons, Ltd., and Liverpool Assets, Contract and Property Corporation, Ltd. Secretary, C. F. Bird. Solicitors, Rutherfords, 48, Cannon Street, E.C. The registered office is at 48, Cannon Street, E.C.

Near East Development.

The Near East Development, Limited, was registered as a private company on October 29 with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of miners, explorers, metallurgists, promoters, constructors and owners of public and private works, including railways, tramways, bridges, sidings, stations, depots, ships, barges, lighters, harbours, piers, and docks, etc. Power is also taken to carry on the business of rolling stock manufacturers, mechanical apparatus manufacturers, and suppliers of balloons and flying machines, team owners, lightermen, electric engineers, electricians, suppliers of electricity, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—B. P. Webster, 65, Coleman Street, E.C., solicitor; D. W. Cherry, 65, Coleman Street, E.C., secretary of public company. The first directors are to be appointed by subscribers. Solicitor: Jackson, Elewell and Curran, 65, Coleman Street, E.C.

Levant Stevedoring.

The Levant Stevedoring Co., Limited, was registered as a private company on October 29, with a capital of £900 in £1 shares, to carry on at Constantinople and elsewhere the business of stevedores, lightermen, tally clerks, ships' chandlers, towage and pilotage contractors, etc. The Board of Trade has authorised this company to acquire parts of the undertakings of J. W. Whittall and Co., Limited, Salisbury House, E.C., and of Gilchrist, Walker, and Co., Limited, of 8, Serjeants' Inn, E.C. The first directors are:—E. Rizzo, Constantinople, agent for Wilson Line, Hull; G. Doros, Constantinople, agent for Papayanni Line, Liverpool; W. C. Seager, Constantinople, agent for Cunard Steamship Co.; J. E. La Fontaine, Constantinople, agent for Ellerman Lines; R. La Fontaine Whittall, Constantinople, agent for Moss Steamship Lines, Liverpool; H. C. E. Whittall, Constantinople, agent for Westcott and Lawrence Steamship Line, London. Registered office: 8, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet Street, E.C.

AYAHS' HOME,

26, King Edward Rd., South Hackney, London.

ESTABLISHED 1875

IN CONNECTION WITH THE LONDON CITY MISSION.

Hindustani spoken. Ayahs boarded and lodged at 18s. per week each until their Return Passage is paid or a Situation secured for them to return. Ayahs met at any Dock or Railway Station in London. Experienced, well-recommended Ayahs taken entirely off Ladies' hands for a certain payment, which differs according to time of year. Ladies proceeding to India or China requiring an Ayah can generally obtain one by applying to Mrs. Fletcher Matron

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

Imports.

STAMBOUL, October 18.

Manufactures.—Demand is increasing for Odessa, where the first importers have made considerable profit on the prices obtaining at Constantinople, notwithstanding the continued fall in value of Russian paper-money. Several sales for Anatolia are reported. Prices are well maintained. Important stocks are in hand.

Produce.

Sugar.—The upward movement recorded last week, following on the demand for Russia and Roumania, has been further accentuated this week, and prices have risen from £2—£3 the ton. Prices are £66 disposable (the ton), £66—£67 afloat. In our market £T36—£T37 the 100 kilos. One notes also a similar rise in centres of production. Offers have completely ceased, and the present tendency is upwards.

Coffee, Petrol.—Situation unchanged. No arrivals this week.

Rice.—Weaker. Offered for sale, but no buyers. Price Ps. 47-48 the oke.

Exports.

Opium.—Sales this week have risen to :—70 cases at Ps. 715-720 New Karahissar druggist, and Ps. 750 Karahissar druggist. No business in fine opium, of which the price remains at Ps. 975 nominal.

Mohair.—Arrivals of the week, 900 bales. Sales, 135 bales.

Wool.—Arrivals, 375 bales. Sales, 400 bales at Ps. 46 the oke.

Silk.—The recovery noted last week continues. Thirty bales Broussa have been sold at £T13.85 the kilo Prices are likely to rise. Syrians are ignored. Buyers at £T10 the kilo cannot be found, owing to the difficulty of reeling.

Cereals.—Arrivals this week have amounted to only 10 wagon loads, of which 7 were from Anatolia and 3 from Roumelia (the first arrival of the new crop). This diminution has caused a rise in the price of American flour, which has advanced from £T10 to £T11 the sack. Corn has closed at Ps. 12-14 for hard, Ps. 11-13 for soft. Barley has closed at Ps. 7 the oke.

PANDERMA, October 14.

The present situation, although not differing from that noted in our preceding report as regards the unsettled state of local conditions, is, nevertheless, slightly modified owing to continuous arrivals on the market, and the following goods have been shipped from here :—500.000 kilos of corn, about 120.000 of which went to Smyrna; 600.000 kilos of beans, about 450.000 to Smyrna; barley, 400.000 kilos, of which about 250.000 were shipped to Smyrna; oats, 600.000 kilos, about 200.000 of which were sent to Smyrna and about 200.000 to Constantinople.

The remaining disposable stocks and their respective prices (approximate kilos and present price per kilo) are as follows :—Wheat, 400.000, Pts. 8½-9½; beans, 150.000, Pts. 4-4½; barley, 100.000, Pts. 3-3½; oats, 250.000, Pts. 4; maize (old crop) 100.000, Pt. 4. The wheat, bean, and barley harvest commences in September and the maize in November and December.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.
EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.
LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office : 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager : E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary : C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary : R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS :
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER :
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES :
41-43, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Beyrout.
Alexandretta. Damascus.
Caiffa.
Hamah.
Homs.
Saida.
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SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

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COMPANY MEETING.

EGYPTIAN HOTELS.

The twenty-second annual general meeting of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., was held on October 30 at the registered offices, 11, Ironmonger Lane, London, the Right Hon. Lord Claud Hamilton (the chairman) presiding. The notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors having been read, the chairman said:—"The accounts for the year ended April 30, 1919, which are in your hands, show that whilst the result of the year's trading at Shepheard's Hotel has not reached the high-water mark of 1907, the improvement disclosed by the 1918 accounts has been maintained. The plant, fixtures, and fittings have been written down in accordance with past practice. The stocks on hand have been valued by the hotel manager, and proper reserve has been made for doubtful debts. Our expenditure in connection with the Semiramis Hotel, which belongs to the Société Egyptienne des Hotels, but which is under Shepheard's Hotel management, has been written off in the accounts. The directors have paid off during the year some £14,600 of the first mortgage debenture loan, and have provided in the accounts for the usual charges for debenture interest, depreciation, etc. The balance of profits shown by the accounts is £25,204 1s. 1d., which, with £2,928 9s. 6d. brought forward from last year, leaves a balance to be dealt with of £28,133 4s. 7d., and the directors recommend the payment of two years' dividend—that is, for the years 1918 and 1919—to the holders of the cumulative preference shares, which will absorb £11,500. The directors also recommend the payment of a dividend to the holders of the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. for the year covered by the accounts. This will absorb a further £6,250, and will leave a balance of £10,383 4s. 7d. to be carried forward. In conclusion, the thanks of the board and of the shareholders are due to the members of the local board and the hotel staff for the admirable success of their management and working of the hotel under difficulties of an exceptional character during the past year, which is so well reflected in the accounts.

"I have only to add that at a board meeting held this morning it was unanimously decided to consider favourably an offer which the board had received for one of the assets of the company, viz., the Ghezireh Palace Hotel and land adjacent thereto. Your board have come to the conclusion that some considerable time would have to elapse before the Ghezireh Palace could be reopened and run profitably as a hotel. The existing state of affairs in Egypt does not warrant the company running another hotel besides Shepheard's at the present time. Your board are further influenced by the fact that their technical adviser informs them that it would be necessary to spend £30,000 at least before the asset referred to could be put into the position to earn revenue for the company. The offer to which I have referred, and which your board hope will mature, is a cash offer. I now move that the directors' report and accounts for the year ended April 30, 1919, as submitted to the shareholders, be received and adopted."

Sir William B. Peat seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The chairman then proposed, and Sir William B. Peat seconded, that the dividends as recommended should be declared, and this was unanimously agreed to.

The retiring director, Sir William B. Peat, was re-elected, and Mr. H. M. Snow was also elected a director of the company.

Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, and Co. were re-appointed auditors, and votes of thanks to the chairman and the local board in Cairo terminated the proceedings.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Caledonian (Ceylon).

The report of the Caledonian (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Estates for the year ended June 30 last states that the crops harvested were as follows:—Tea, 610,775 lb., rubber 146,128 lb., and the net prices realised were: tea 8.93d., rubber 1s. 5.9d., as compared with 8.13d. and 1s. 9.04d. respectively the previous year. Cost of production f.o.b for tea was 7.03d., and for rubber 11.63d. Estimated crops for current year are as follows:—Tea, 695,000 lb., rubber 175,000 lb. The net profit, after writing off £1,000 for depreciation, is £7,326, to which must be added balance brought forward of £2,436, and excess profits duty refunded £2,058, making £11,820. Deducting interest on debentures £3,050, dividend on cumulative preference shares £1,920, and interim dividend of 5 per cent. on ordinary shares £1,750, there is left £5,100. The directors propose a final dividend of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, less income-tax at rate of 6s. in £, to transfer to credit of coast advance reserve account £1,000, and to carry forward £1,475. Rubber in bearing comprises 647 acres, and tea in bearing 1,190 acres. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., November 13, noon.

Empire of India and Ceylon Tea.

The report of the Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Co. for the year ended December 31, 1918, states that owing to the delay in receiving the audited accounts from India it was not possible to submit them at an earlier date. The rainfall in Assam was excessive from June to end of September, but generally favourable to growth. A long drought followed, and the season came to an early close. While in the Dooars conditions were unfavourable throughout the year, they were normal on the whole in Ceylon. The European staff in Assam escaped any serious case of illness, and a further improvement in the health of the labour force was general until the serious outbreaks of influenza, first in August and again in October and November, caused long sick lists and a heavy death-roll. Tasati, in the Dooars, suffered from an outbreak of cholera. In India the yield was practically level with the previous year, the increase of 69,993 lb. coming mainly from Ceylon. Contracts with the Ministry of Food were again concluded on practically the same basis as in 1917, but only for 66 per cent. of the total crop. A small percentage was disposed of in the Calcutta market, and the balance was sold ex warehouse. The average of the whole crop works out at 8.10d. per lb., compared with 9.14d. in the previous year. Local garden costs were as follows:—Assam, 5.23d., against 5.37d.; Dooars, 4.99d., against 4.81d.; Ceylon, 7.24d., against 7.42d. In Assam the total labour force fell from 8,420 to 7,608 coolies, or only 1.37 coolies per acre. In the first half of 1919 this shortage was made good. The balance brought forward was £53,540, after deduction of £1,000 for war donations, to which is now added £62,294, the net profit of the year, or together £115,835. The shareholders will be asked to confirm the payments already made of the dividends of 5 per cent. on the preference capital and 22½ per cent. on the ordinary capital, absorbing £63,825, and after transferring £38,500 to reserve, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £13,510. It is proposed to transfer £38,500 to the general reserve fund, bringing it up to £94,000, and to capitalise this sum by a distribution of bonus shares in the proportion of two new shares for every five old shares. For this purpose shareholders will be asked to sanction the increase of capital to £650,000 by the creation of 50,000 new ordinary shares of £1 each. Meeting, King William House, 2a, Eastcheap, E.C., November 12, noon.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

BENGAL PRESIDENCY BETTIAH RAJ STERLING LOAN.—The numbers are announced of 205 debentures of £100 each which have been drawn for repayment on January 1 next, when interest thereon will cease.

Coupons of the Imperial Government of Persia 5 per cent. Sterling Loan of 1911, due November 15, will be paid on and after that date at the Imperial Bank of Persia, 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4, or at their bankers, Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.3.

The next ordinary general meeting of the South Indian Railway Company will be held at the offices of the company, Finsbury Pavement House, E.C.2, on November 12. Transfer books will be closed from December 7 to 31, inclusive, for preparation of half-yearly warrants. Warrants, payable on and after January 1 next, will be forwarded on December 31.

The directors of the Wanarajah Tea Company of Ceylon announce a second interim dividend of 10 per cent.

Messrs. Cox and Co. (France), Limited, have opened a branch at Algiers, 6, Rue de la Liberté, and they will shortly open an office at Nice.

THE LAND AND MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT, LIMITED.—The debenture interest coupons and also the debenture bonds drawn for redemption due November 11, 1919, will be paid on or after that date by the bankers of the company, Barclays Bank, Limited, Lombard Street, E.C.

CALCUTTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY.—The directors announce an interim dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the ordinary shares for the half-year, payable November 15.

LAND BANK OF EGYPT.—The general meeting will be held at Alexandria on December 9.

The estimated traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended October 18 amounted to £11,155.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the ten days ended October 29 amounted to 5,960,000 francs, as against 2,340,000 francs.

The announcement is made in the Egyptian *Journal Officiel* that the system of notification of the arrival of wheat and flour is abolished, and that all wheat and flour cleared from Customs before June 1, 1920, will be free of import duty.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put export advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has been a fairly active business doing this week without any very material change in prices.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds are about ¾ better at 76¾ x.d. Egyptian 3½ per cent. Prefs. are unchanged at 63¾. City of Alexandria bonds are about 2 points down at 76. There are several buyers about, but business has been restricted owing to the lack of securities.

In Bank shares Nationals are ⅛ easier at 19¾ and Agriculturals have dropped a like fraction to 5 11-16, but there has been some good quiet buying going on. Agricultural Prefs. are 1-16 firmer at 7 1-16, and Bank of Abyssinias have risen ⅛ to 37s. 6d. Anglo-Egyptians, on the other hand, have receded ⅛ to 17⅞. There has been a demand for Land Banks both ordinary and founder shares. The former are closing 3-16 better at 6 9-16, whilst some business has been done in the latter in the neighbourhood of 43.

In Railways Delta Lights have become a dull market again, and are quoted ⅛ down at 6½, but business for the time being has been stopped by the threats of a strike on the other side.

In Land shares Aboukirs, although showing a drop of 1s. at 31s., are still an active market with a good undercurrent. Allotments and Béhéras have remained quite firm, and there is no change to report in any of the other land shares, with the exception of Sudan Plantations, which are closing 3-16 higher at 8 3-16. There has been a good business passing in New Egyptians, and some business has also been done in Union Foncières.

Amongst Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are ¼ down at 11¼, but Salts and Sodas are 1-32 firmer at 21 31-32. A large business has been put through in the latter shares.

In Oils, Anglo-Egyptians B have fallen again under 5½, and close 9-32 lower at 5 19-32. Roumanians are fractionally firmer at 24s. 9d., but Traians are 2s. lower at 10s. 6d.

In Greek securities, owing to Continental sales, there is a further general decline. The 1881 and 1884 loans are both 1½ points down at 62½. Monopolies have receded ½ point to 55½, as also Rentes at 52½. The 1890 loan is 2 points down at 62½. The Funding 1893 loan is 2 down at 62, and the 1902 loan has also dropped 2 points to 62. A fair amount of business has been done in the 1914 loan, which was closing a point lower at 71½. "Currant" bonds remain a firm spot at 94, with buyers but no sellers. The 1910 loan has dropped 4 points to 56, but without business resulting. Bank of Athens shares have likewise been affected by Continental sales, and are ¼ down at £3.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to August 31, 1919. (New Style. January 14 to September 13, 1919):—

		Monopolies, tobacco, stamps stamped paper and Naxos emery.	Piræus Customs.
Gross receipts August 1919		Drachmæ. 4,607,474	Drachmæ. 4,161,70[illegible]
Do. do. 1918		3,875,788	3,669,000
Estimated receipts for 8 months (Law of Control		19,266,666	7,133,333
Actual do. do. 1919		31,039,047	30,830,[illegible]05
" " 1918		24,596,057	21,440,000
Difference between estimated & actual receipts for 8 months	1919	+ 11,772,381	+ 23,697,171
	1918	+ 5,329,390	+ 14,306,666

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Oct. 29	Price Nov. 5
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	50	50
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	78	76
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	78	76½xd
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	63¾	63¼
Greek 5%, 1881	64	62⅝
Do. 5%, 1884	64	62½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	56	55½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	53	52⅛
Do. 5% 1890	64½	62½
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	64	62
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	64	62
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	60	56
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	72½	71½
Do. 5% Currant	94	94
Montenegro 5% Loan	70½	70½
Persia 5% 1911	82	82
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	64	63
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	74½xd	74
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	65½	66
Do. 4% Unified	49	49
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅛	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	18	17⅞
Bank of Abyssinia	35/-	37 6
Bank of Athens	65/-	60/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	8	8
British Trade Corporation	10⅛	10⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	10⅛	9⅝
Imperial Bank of Persia	10¼	10⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅛	6⅛
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅝	6⅝
London County and Westminster	16⅛	16⅛
National Bank of Egypt	19⅞	19¾
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6⅝	6⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	13	12¾
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	65½	65½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	65⅛	61⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4%	66xd	66xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	32/-	31/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	14	14
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	2/3	2/3
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	13/3	13/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	13/6	13/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅛	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	23/-	23/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅛	2⅛
Sudan Plantations	8	8⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	3⅜	3⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	11¼	11¼
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	1⅛
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	2⅛	2⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅛	5⅛
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	99½	99
Chinese 4½% 1898	74	73
Do. 5% 1896	87	86
Argentine 5% 1890	86½	86½
Do. 5% 1907	85½	85½
OIL.		
Anglo-Egyptian B	5⅞	5⅝
Anglo-Persian	26/6	26/6
Anglo-Roumanian	10/3	9/10½
Roumanian	24/6	24/9
Traian (Roumanian)	12/6	10/6

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Oct 29	Nov. 5
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	63⅜	63⅜
Various dates	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	62½	6 ¾
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. rust 4% Gua Debs. 1959		83	83
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1903-10, 1939-40		73½	73½
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		75½	74½xd
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		80	83
Eastern		9½xd	9⅜
Mercantile of India A.		37	37½
National of India		56	58
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		4/6	4/-
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		⅛	⅛
Burma Corp.		11⅜	13⅞
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		15/-	15/6
Champion Reef Gold		4/3	4/3
Mysore Gold Mining		1⅛xd	1⅛
Nundydroog		17/9	17/6
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		15/9	14/6xd
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		1⅛	22/6
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)			24/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		2½	3⅜
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		2⅛	3
Brit. Burmah		2⅛	2⅜
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		18	19¼
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		1⅞	1⅞
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		10	10

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES

Continued—

RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	55	56
Benga and N.-Western Ord.	139	140½
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	60	60
Bengal-Nagpur	118½	119½
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	108	108
Burma Railways	113	113
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13	13
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	12⅞	12⅞
Gt. Indian Pen Ann. "A," 1948	13	13
Madras and S. Mahratta	109	112
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	130½	132½
Nizam's Guaranteed State	77	76xd
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	11½	11½
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	9½	9½
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	92½	92½
Do. Deferred	650	680
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	70	72
Bengal United Tea Ord.	16½	17½
British Indian Tea Ord.	9¼	9⅛
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17	17
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	12/6xd	12/-
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	6⅞	7¼
Consolidated Estates	6¾	7⅛
Darjeeling Co.	19/6	19/9
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	60/-	60/-
Dooars Tea Ord.	3⅛	3⅛
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	⅛	⅛
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est	3⅞xd	3¾
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	35 6xd	36/-
Hewagam Rubber Co.	—	1
Jhanzie Tea Association	10⅞	11¼
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	2⅛	22⅛
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	1⅛	1⅛
Lanka Plantations Ord.	26/-	29/-
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	57/-	57/-
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	50/-	50/-
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14¾	14¾
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	32/6	33/9

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON OCTOBER 25.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	19⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	91
" " Div.	Frs.	116
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11¼
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	13⅞
" priv.	£	4⅞
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	116
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte	£	1½
Building Lands of Egypt	£	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	3½
Société des Immeubles	£	6½
Bonded Stores	£	15½
Unifiée	£	79
Privilégiée		64½ex
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅞
Nungovich Hotels	£	6¼
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	[illegible]
" " Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4½
" Ord.		107/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	21½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	110
" Jouissance	Frs.	163
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		32/-
Egyptian Markets		22/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	385
" Div.	Frs.	325
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	267
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5⅛
Egyptian Salt and Soda		56/9
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	668
" Fondateur	Frs.	97½
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	415½
" 1903 "	Frs.	291
" 1911 "	Frs.	284
Consolidated Land	P.T.	7
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	[illegible]

For BUILDING UP your HEALTH take

WILKINSON'S (Estd. since 1829)

ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA

"We cannot speak too highly of it."—Lancet. SARSAPARILLA

(The best "Pick-Me-Up")

Pronounced by the Highest Medical Authorities the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for

Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER of the HUMAN BLOOD.

IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.—"We recommend your Jamaica Sarsaparilla."—Medical Review.

"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—Sir R. Martin.

The late Lord Clyde said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."

"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—Earl of Aldborough.

N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.

A World-wide Reputation for over Three-Quarters of a Century.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 445.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

As fresh light is thrown upon it, the handling of the Near Eastern problem by the Paris Conference is shown to be even more mischievous than could have been conceived possible. It is now reported from Paris that the Supreme Council has drafted a note to M. Venizelos which lays stress on the temporary character of the Greek occupation of Smyrna. The statement must be accepted with reserve until it receives official confirmation, as, if true, it means that further trouble has been gratuitously stirred up by the Paris Conference. There could be only one justification for the despatch of Greek troops to Smyrna, and that was that it had been decided to give the Asia Minor littoral to Greece, and the Conference had argued that, as the occupation had to come sooner or later, it was better that it should take place while Allied troops were in Turkey and an Allied fleet in Turkish waters.

If the purpose of the Supreme Council had been to impose nominal Allied occupation upon Asia Minor, a corporal's guard from the British Army or a British midshipman with a handful of bluejackets would have sufficed to maintain order and to be sure of the hearty co-operation of the Turks throughout the greater part of Asia Minor. On the other hand, if the Council had been at pains to discover the most effective way of embroiling Asia Minor and stirring up afresh murder and bad blood, they could have adopted no better course than to send Greek troops to a country where Turks and Italians were already in occupation. To insist now that the Greek occupation is only temporary is to add fuel to the smouldering fires, and to prejudice the position of M. Venizelos in the eyes of his countrymen. Much could have been urged against the Greek occupation of the Aidin vilayet—the uselessness from a trading point of view of Smyrna without a considerable extent of the Turkish hinterland, the improbability of the Turks remaining under Greek jurisdiction, the nervousness of foreign capital, which is the main factor in the prosperity of Smyrna—but the Paris Conference had no right to authorise Greek troops to occupy the vilayet, if it was not intended to confirm Greece in her possession of the territory.

On Saturday the Shah concluded his visit to this country, and crossed to the Continent on board the Royal yacht, escorted by British destroyers. Although the weather was not so favourable as might have been wished while he was with us, it is to be hoped that his Majesty enjoyed his first acquaintance with Great Britain, and that he will have found the visit pleasant enough to repeat. He certainly received a warm welcome from the people wherever he went, and achieved the feat—not altogether easy for any foreign Prince or Ruler—of fixing himself clearly in the public memory.

In connection with the Shah's visit, it is pleasant to note that Persia has certainly made a good beginning in setting her house in order. We referred some weeks ago to the capture and execution of two famous robber chiefs: the letter which we publish to-day from our Ispahan Correspondent shows that these twain have been by no means the only ones of their kind to meet the fate that such gentry so richly earn in Persia. Moreover, from a statement made on Monday in the House of Commons by Mr. Harmsworth, it seems that real progress is being made in the direction of rendering Persia able to defend her own frontiers. The Commission of military experts, which was arranged for in the Anglo-Persian Agreement, has been appointed after close consultation with the Persian Government, and the members' experience should guarantee that the preliminary portion of the work they have to perform will be quickly and thoroughly done. After that the responsibility for success or failure will rest chiefly on the Persians themselves.

Speaking at the Guildhall banquet on Saturday evening, Mr. Lloyd George expressed the hope that "soon we shall have signed a peace with all our enemies." The pious aspiration will assuredly find an echo in the hearts of all Englishmen who are interested in the Near and Middle East; but it would perhaps have afforded them more satisfaction if the Prime Minister had been rather more specific in regard to the matter. They would like to know, for instance, how far the process of drawing up the terms for Turkey has advanced, and whether the Allied—we dare not add the Associated—Powers have made up their minds about any of the details of the settlement that is to be. But Mr. Lloyd George only "thought" that he "could venture to say" that there was complete agreement among all the Allies on the fundamental principles of a settlement. That is excellent news as far as it goes, but it hardly seems to go far enough at such a late stage of the proceedings. It is something to be told quite definitely that Turkish misgovernment is to come to an end in all lands populated by Greeks, by Arabs, and by Armenians; but that has been understood for some time, and what the world wants to know to-day is what is to be substituted for the Turkish misgovern-

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ment. Turkey has no monopoly of misgovernment, and the Arabs, Greeks, and Armenians are more interested in the positive aspect of the case than in the negative. Again, it is satisfactory to be told once more that the Black Sea must be free to all nations; but who is to keep it so? The decision is easy enough to take, but very much less easy to carry out.

On the subject of the Adriatic the Premier was hardly less vague, but in view of the extreme delicacy of the question his vagueness is more easily forgiven. He expressed himself as confident that a solution of the problem could be found, and paid tribute to Italy, our "gallant Ally who came to our help, let us never forget it, at a critical moment in the war." He also declared himself "certain that justice will be done to the nationalities emancipated from the Austrian yoke." The wording is worth careful attention, as it may afford some indication of the lines of the settlement anticipated by the speaker. It will probably be more admired in Italy than in Yugoslavia. But it would be easy, no doubt, to read more into the words than they were intended to convey. Mr. Lloyd George finds it difficult at times to convey what he really does mean to his audience. At least it seems charitable to suppose so.

The Egyptian Council of Ministers having decided to prohibit public demonstrations, the situation in Alexandria has shown a distinct improvement during the past week, while Cairo also seems to be benefiting by the tightening of the bonds of discipline. It was high time to abandon the policy of the velvet glove in Alexandria, where British troops had been repeatedly attacked without provocation, and the European communities were becoming seriously alarmed and talking of a repetition of the events of June, '82. However natural they may have been, such fears were, we trust, quite unnecessary; but it is none the less satisfactory to find the authorities stiffening their backs somewhat. The situation with regard to the schools has also improved. The Government closed one or two secondary schools, and though pupils in some other establishments went out "on strike" once more as a protest, the hint has not been entirely thrown away, since the extremist Press is reported to be now advising the scholars to avoid politics, and stick to their books. Finally, the attitude of the Railway Administration towards the threatened strike and the fine response made to the appeal for volunteers to "carry on" in case of need have evidently had a further steadying effect. The firmness shown by some private employers in dealing with Syndicalist attempts to coerce them is also reported to have had most favourable results.

Developments in Egypt have been followed with increasing attention at home, and some very interesting letters on the subject of the unrest have appeared in *The Times*. It is significant that two men with such long experience of the country as Coles Pasha and Sir Walter Miéville take diametrically opposite views as to the advisability of dispatching the Milner Commission at once. Coles Pasha hopes that the British Government will not be influenced by any threats of resignation or boycott, and is sure that the longer the Commission's departure is delayed the more difficult it will be to solve the problem; Sir Walter Miéville would have the departure postponed until Egypt's status has been confirmed by Turkey. The former also suggests that if Mohammed Said Pasha and Rushdi, Zaghlul and Adly Yeghen Pashas were invited to join the Commission we should hear less about its being boycotted. The suggestion is certainly a daring one, and with regard to Zaghlul, to put it into practice would admittedly be risky, in view of the extreme attitude he has recently taken up; but apart from his inclusion the suggestion seems to be worth consideration. The great thing to do at the present time is to avoid any act that can be construed as a sign of weakness by the agitators and their dupes. Lord Allenby, who arrived in Cairo on Tuesday, may be trusted to steer clear of that risk, if left to choose his own course.

The prophecy on which we ventured some months ago, that we must expect further troubles with the Kurds, has received fresh confirmation. A statement issued by the War Office announces the murder of two British political officers near Akra by Kurds of the Zibar tribe. The victims—Mr. J. H. Hepburn Bill, an officer with twenty years' service in Persia, the Persian Gulf, and North-West India, and Captain K. R. Scott, a temporary A.P.O.—were returning from an inspection of the Kurdish gendarmerie posts on the Amritsa frontier line; and the assailants, who are stated to have numbered about 100 and to have been assisted by some of the local Kurdish gendarmerie, are reported subsequently to have compelled the retirement of the gendarmerie from Akra. As further details are lacking, it is impossible to say whether the incident is a fresh example of unadulterated treachery, such as the murders of Captain Willey and Captain Macdonald, in the same region, last July, or whether it was in what the Kurds would regard as fair and open warfare. Akra is a picturesque town, on the side of a very steep hill, at the entrance to a rather difficult pass. The country around it is less rugged than that around Amadia, and this should make the work of any punitive force that may be despatched less difficult. The Zibar Kurds were described by Sir Mark Sykes as careful farmers, good builders, hospitable to strangers, but incredibly quarrelsome among themselves. He adds that their chiefs "are generally being besieged unless they are besieging someone else." The picture thus presented hardly leads us to expect them to act treacherously, though they are evidently hot-headed. It is possible, of course, that they are being credited with a crime which may have been committed by some other tribe.

The situation in Turkey continues chaotic. The General Election has begun, but, as far as it is possible to make out from the telegrams, it is being conducted under such conditions that it can have no real value. Many important political groups are standing entirely aloof, and the fact—reported by the *Morning Post's* Constantinople correspondent—that in one region out of 1,200 votes cast over a thousand were found to be printed shows how the electors are, or are not, exercising their privileges. Relations between the Government and Mustapha Kemal Pasha are seriously strained, and the former has sent the Nationalist leader what is in effect an ultimatum—declining to remain in office if the Nationalists continue to meddle in politics instead of devoting their energies to national defence. According to one report, the Grand Vizier has actually tendered his resignation; and it is said that Ahmed Riza Bey, ex-President of the Chamber, has been summoned to return from Europe to Constantinople, with the idea that he may be able to rescue the country from the risks and troubles that beset it. Another report says that Prince Salah-ed-Din has been recalled by the Sultan, and will shortly endeavour to form a Government representing all parties.

The great project of Indian Reform has now reached the stage of more or less intelligent anticipation; the members of the Joint Committee have been busily engaged in digesting the evidence and reaching provisional conclusions, and in the somewhat narrow circles which are interested in these matters practically everyone has his own version of the outcome. It would not be worth while to reproduce these conflicting versions, which are dependent largely on the individual fancy, but more respectful treatment is due to a forecast published in *The Times*, which contains strong internal evidence of inspiration. The main point of this forecast is that the principle of dyarchy in the provinces will be accepted and made clearer, and most people seem now to have made up their minds that this is unavoidable; this fundamental feature being settled, the rest is a matter of machinery, and the chief development is, we are told, to be looked for in the establishment of a Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament charged in particular with the duties of a *deus ex machina*.

Two concrete functions are assigned to the Select Committee in this forecast. In the first place it is to serve as a check on the Secretary of State, deciding what

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matters may be left to his discretion and what must be brought before Parliament. In the second place it is meant to provide an alternative solution for possible deadlocks in regard to "essential legislation," as a substitute for the system of Grand Committees, which has secured very few friends. We may at once agree that the machinery originally proposed required amendment in both respects, and we may concede that Parliament is in theory the proper tribunal to deal finally with such matters; we may even go further and say that if a Federal Constitution for the Kingdom and the Empire should materialise, an Imperial Legislature, acting through a Committee or otherwise, might be able to deal with them effectively; but we confess to some hesitation as to the practical working of the scheme under the Parliament which now exists. A Select Committee will ordinarily reflect the nature of the body by which it is appointed, and Parliament's recent record in regard to Indian affairs does not, to put it mildly, inspire confidence.

The handling of the Afghan treaty is a case in point. As we have already pointed out, the public has been seriously misled by the concealment of the most material stipulation, and concealment has, as usual, engendered suspicion, with innuendoes regarding individual officers, and hints that something worse remains behind. The air could, we believe, have been cleared by an effective debate in Parliament, but the Commons are busy and apparently uninterested, while in the Lords there is no trace of an active opposition, and Lord Sydenham presented the case in such a way as only to furnish an opportunity for a dialectical triumph for his opponent. In consequence the air is not yet cleared, perhaps it is thicker than before; and if the proceedings of Parliament in regard to India are to be characterised by apathy and ignorance, we may be pardoned for looking critically at the functions, and still more the constitution, of any Select Committee which it may appoint. At the same time we must recognise that the period of transition to responsible government will in any case be difficult, and the problem is not to devise perfect machinery, but to get something that will work for a while; perhaps even a Parliamentary Select Committee may be found to comply with this condition.

The forecast to which we have referred is silent regarding the future of the Secretary of State's Council, but it is obvious that this question is closely connected with the project for a Select Committee. The abolition of the Council as recommended in the Crewe Report, and its replacement by an amorphous advisory body, have been opposed strongly on the main ground that the Secretary of State would have too much uncontrolled authority, but this objection would lose its force, so far as measures of Reform are concerned, if the limits of his authority were to be determined by the Select Committee, which would become for this purpose a new and vigorous Council. Whether it would be a really useful Council is, as we have said, a different question, and in any case it could scarcely cover the whole ground; but the proposal certainly suggests that the old Council is to go. Mr. Montagu will then have had his way, but we fear that when the Select Committee is at work he may have occasion to recall the old fable of King Log and King Stork.

The announcement that a peerage has been conferred on Sir James Meston, nominally Financial Minister, but actually representing the Government of India in the discussions on Reform, would in other circumstances have been acclaimed by nearly every school of thought, for he is deservedly popular, and the very unusual distinction is a tribute to a great personality even more than a distinguished record of achievement. Gratification will, however, be merged in regret that the announcement marks the close of Sir James' Indian career, and that considerations of health impose on "the busiest man in the country" the necessity of seeking that leisure which he has always shunned. We can only express the hope that in the House of Lords he will be able to watch and serve the interests of India for many years to come.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

A Quiet Political Interval.

Politically the week has been quiet and as dull as the November skies, which means that the House of Commons has attended to business, and actually discussed seriously a certain amount of legislation. All the storms have been external, but they have not done any particular damage outside the daily Press. Some of the newpapers have worked themselves up to a fury because Mr. Lloyd George does not spend the bulk of his time at the House, and are attempting to depict him as a dictator and a tyrant who conceals himself within the cynical and autocratic shades of Downing Street while faithful slaves do his business, or rather, don't do it, on the Treasury Bench. But the theory does not match the known facts sufficiently to be even plausible, and it is a very open question in the present Cabinet whether the tail wags the dog, or the dog the tail. Sometimes it appears to be one, sometimes the other; but it is not of such stuff that tyrannies or personal despotisms are made.

The Russian Policy Again.

A rather graver portent is the attack on the Government for having again changed its Russian policy. At the Lord Mayor's banquet, Mr. Lloyd George uttered his now customary denunciation of the Northcliffe Press. Nobody took this very seriously, for when the Prime Minister attacks anybody as an anarchist or a conspirator or a snake in the grass it usually only means that he has had a slight disagreement with an old friend, and will have forgotten all about it in a week's time.

The Prime Minister hinted, in fact, at a new orientation of attitude to Russia. The Bolshevists have threatened that if he does not make peace with them they will turn to Germany, and he is represented as having given way to that threat. (As a matter of fact, the Bolshevists have long been in close relations with Germany, and they have always hated England as the foe of revolution far more than Germany even in its autocratic days, because they admired the German discipline and minority rule.) But it is the fact that Mr. Lloyd George appears to contemplate opening up relations with the Bolshevists now that Denikin and Yudenitch have definitely failed to crush Lenin and Trotsky.

Pure Opportunism.

Dark and sinister influences are, of course, suggested for this change; the tentacles of international finance are openly hinted at. But the critics cannot have it both ways. When we invaded Russia, finance was said to be at the bottom of it on account of the holdings of Russian securities which the Bolshevists have repudiated; now that we have evacuated Russia, finance is again said to be concerned, on account of the friendship between Jewish bankers and Jewish revolutionaries. If such friendship exists, it is usually concealed with some success.

As a matter of fact, the Government's Russian policy is one of pure opportunism. They are ready to back any horse that wins; the trouble is that every horse makes brilliant running for a time, and then collapses. None can stay the course out; and the result is that the British Government, like the coalition of which it is formed, is sometimes Conservative and ready to attack the revolution, and sometimes Liberal, and ready to stand aloof with a policy of no-intervention. Mr. Lloyd George's political principles were once unkindly and not altogether accurately described as those of the last man who sat next him at dinner; in the matter of Russia, the taunt appears to be at least partly true. Probably in his innermost soul he has got his eyes more on the pending by-elections at home than on Petrograd.

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Four more defeats in the constituencies would make things difficult at Westminster.

The Liberal Split.

Meanwhile, the troubles in the orthodox Liberal camp, which were alluded to last week, have gone from bad to worse. The Liberal Party headquarters recently put forward a declaration of policy. Designed to bring back the Coalition Liberals into the true fold, it was a colourless document that might have been subscribed to by anybody. It does not appear to have been successful in producing a change of heart among the Coalitionists, who have a reasonable preference for the sweets of office, and are apt to deride their brethren in the wilderness; but it has evoked a strong protest from Manchester, which was, and perhaps still is, the headquarters of intellectual Liberalism. Manchester demands not only a fighting Liberal policy, which is easy enough to produce, but also fighting Liberal politicians, which is a far more difficult matter. They are openly discontented with Mr. Asquith; Sir Donald Maclean is too much of a pussyfoot for their instincts; and Mr. Lloyd George is, like Mr. Winston Churchill, considered a heretic of the worst description. The upshot of these recriminations remains to be seen.

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

The Church of England appears likely to be successful with its Enabling Bill, which is designed to give it a measure of self-government under State control. The Nonconformists were unexpectedly benevolent when the Bill came on for second reading in the Commons after an uneventful passage through the Lords. Labour held aloof from the discussion, although it appreciated the valiant effort of Lord Robert Cecil—who, as an ancient Tory, is very popular in Labour circles—put up on behalf of the cause which is nearest his heart; and ecclesiastical opinion on the whole is favourable. High Churchmen are ardently in favour of the measure, and have no fear of the taunt that it may involve Disestablishment; Low Churchmen are rather less cordial, but are ready to try the experiment; only the Broad Churchmen are really suspicious, on the ground that anything which tends to lessen the control of the State may make for intolerance and promote sectional feeling, which would tend to reduce the scope of the Broad Church position.

The latter seem to the onlooker to be an excellent party which never quite pulls its weight in the Anglican boat. The High Church has far more energy but less intellectual distinction; it knows where it wants to go, and usually gets there. The Low Church concentrates on foreign missions and the projected accommodation with Dissent, which in these days does not dissent very violently. The Broad Churchmen claim to represent culture and modern scholarship, and they desire a reinterpretation of Christianity, or at least of Church doctrine, in the light of modern thought. Their head, so far as they can be said to have a definite leader, is Bishop Hensley Henson, and they would like to see a revision of the creeds and of the Prayer Book generally, contending that many things in it have outlived their usefulness, while some statements are frankly unjustifiable in the light of modern knowledge. Their real difficulty is that of all modern restorers—they cannot agree as to how much of the old fabric to pull down, or what to put in its place. That fact probably explains their ineffectiveness.

The Einstein Theory of Space.

The whole scientific world has been discussing this week the theories of light put forward by Professor Einstein, of Prague. This theory held roughly that light was deflected as it travelled through space, and did not always travel in an absolutely straight line. As this theory invalidated one of the fundamental laws of Newton, it was naturally received with very considerable scepticism, but the observation of an eclipse early in the present year is admitted by astronomers and physicists to have confirmed the Einstein theory. There appears some doubt as to whether the observations confirmed it wholly, or whether part still remains unverified, or whether the dispute ranges merely over the deductions which Einstein has drawn from his hypothesis. On these matters, of course, the only judgment that counts is that of experts.

But the matter will not end with the experts in physics, for it is bound to have a repercussion on general metaphysics. Hitherto, it had been generally assumed, by most schools in philosophy, that space had absolute value. Einstein's theory, if upheld, as it seems likely to be, shows that space is relative, not absolute. This may in turn affect our conception of time. If time, as some schools teach, is conditioned by space, then time also can hardly be held to have absolute value. What there is left it would be difficult to say. The few followers of Schopenhauer—does anybody read Schopenhauer to-day except Lord Haldane?—might perhaps follow that master of pessimism in his pathetic suggestion that beauty is the ultimate reality; but metaphysicians who have proved space and time to be figments of the imagination would have no difficulty in analysing beauty into nothingness. The Einstein theory, on the whole, will tell against the materialist school of thought in the school.

Remembrance Day.

The first anniversary of the Armistice was very affecting. All England stopped its work for two minutes at eleven o'clock to think of the glorious dead. The celebration was universal and heartfelt, and by no means confined to the great centres like St. Paul's or Westminster. The writer of this note happened to be in a side-street at the moment of commemoration; only two other figures were visible, a grocer's boy on a bicycle and a dustman. The lad, who wore his medal, dismounted and stood at the salute; the dustman stiffened himself to attention at the side of his cart. The churches everywhere were crowded, and in many places the spirit of peace had even broken down the aloofness of the sects, and ministers of all denominations joined in a common service. A few bigots seem to have objected to this course, but the overwhelming sense of the community was against them.

The Drama.

While everybody is urging upon everybody else the need for increased production, one industry at least is doing its best in that direction. More theatres are being built, and fresh plays are produced almost every night. Few of these are of much note, and the drama is by universal consent at a deplorably low level. Better things were once expected of Mr. Arnold Bennett, who, as part author of "Milestones," achieved a brilliant success, but his latest play "Sacred and Profane Love" has disappointed the critics. Sacred love appears to be the matrimonial variety, profane love the more gregarious kind, and the heroine of the piece is the embodiment of both, falling in love with a musician, whom she does not marry, and a publisher, whom she does. As the lady is a successful novelist, it is permissible to suggest that the publisher only marries her to avoid paying royalties, which is practical rather than sacred or profane love. Mr. Bennett has it in him to do better work, but, like Sir Hall Caine, he is sacrificing quality to quantity in these days. The artist is the one person who should sometimes disobey the demand for increased production.

Premium Bonds or Capital Tax?

The flood of new issues continues, and the City, which is busy enough over these and the gamble in oils and rubbers, is taking a mild interest in the controversy over Premium Bonds. It is suggested that the small investor will come forward in his thousands to subscribe to an issue of Government Premium Bonds; the Press on the whole is favourable. But high finance and the Nonconformist conscience are for once in concord, the latter because it detests the very idea of anything remotely resembling gambling, the former on the practical ground that it does not believe the issue would be sufficiently successful. The Government cannot make up its mind, and is asking the House of Commons to decide for it—an attitude tantamount to that of an ardent but timid lover asking the lady to propose. Meantime the parallel controversy as to a capital tax appears to be going steadily against those who favour that idea. The fact that it has been introduced in Germany, which is quoted in its support, has naturally told against it.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, October 30.

Serious Demonstration in Alexandria.

The usual Friday demonstration at Alexandria assumed very serious proportions, and developed into a riot. There had been warnings that the demonstration would be larger than usual; in fact, there had been references to it in the vernacular press; so the authorities were fully prepared, but they certainly had no idea that it would develop, as it did, into such a serious affair. The Egyptian police were deputed, as usual, to watch the demonstration and prevent it from extending from the Gomrok quarter, where it always starts, outside the Morsi Abou El Abbas Mosque, to the other quarters of the town. When, on the conclusion of the midday prayer, it was seen that the crowd was forming up for a demonstration, they were warned by the police officer in charge that this would not be permitted. No attention was paid to this, and the crowd pushed on and at once came into contact with the police, who were soon powerless to cope with the situation. The crowd, which contained a large leavening of riff-raff, attacked them with broken "goullas" and stones, which, it appears, had been held in readiness, and the police were very much mishandled.

As the demonstration had developed into a riot, and, in addition, Europeans were threatened, the assistance of the military authorities had to be asked for. Some British troops were sent down, and they were received, like the Egyptian police, with stones and other missiles. Part of the demonstrators were dispersed, but the others adopted such a menacing attitude that the troops had to fire on them. This firing, it may be mentioned, was not carried out indiscriminately on the crowd, but was directed particularly at those who appeared to be the ringleaders, or who were active in throwing missiles. Comparative order was restored by the evening, and the troops were withdrawn to a distance.

During the night there was considerable excitement in the quarter, and next morning it was found that the paving-stones had been pulled up and had been piled in the roads, together with broken carriages, shutters, etc., to form barricades, so that the troops and armoured cars would find it difficult to proceed. The troops, who had again been called on to the scene, were violently assailed by the mob, which by now consisted of all the low characters who are always to be found in this part of the town, and as the mob again began to attack Europeans and threatened to loot, the British troops had to occupy the quarter. By the late afternoon comparative quiet had been restored, and the barricades had been removed; but the district was not pacified until Sunday morning, since when there have been no more troubles.

Advantage has been taken of this incident to circulate stories of atrocities committed by the soldiers, as was done after the repression of the outbreak in the provinces last March, and the usual telegrams on the subject have been despatched to Paris and Washington. The fact that only 7 persons were killed and 21 wounded as a result of the firing, and that 47 of the forces were wounded, including ten British police officers, would serve to show that the violence was more on the side of the rioters than of the troops. Indeed, the latter behaved with great moderation, and their intervention, against which the extremists and their organs protest so much, undoubtedly saved not only the Egyptian police but also the Europeans in the quarter. There seems to be little doubt that the whole affair was prearranged, in the sense that it was intended to bring about a demonstration of such proportions as would attract to it the hooligans of the Gomrok and Labban quarters, and necessitate the intervention of the military authorities, which would then afford the extremists valuable material for propaganda purposes.

As a natural consequence of the troubles in Alexandria, there have been several demonstrations in Cairo, which have, however, been dispersed without incident. The affair has excited the students both in the capital and in the provinces, and in a great number of the schools they have struck either for an hour or for a day, as the case might be, as a protest against the intervention of British troops; while the Prime Minister and his colleagues have again been inundated with telegrams on the subject.

The Railway Strike.

The threatened railway strike, of which I informed you last week, came off, after all, but it was of short duration. The State Railways were informed that unless the demands presented were immediately granted a strike would be declared as at midnight on Friday, 24th. Naturally, no notice was taken of this ultimatum, except that the Administration took steps to put into effect the scheme for "carrying on" which it had prepared in anticipation of an emergency of this nature. The strike duly took place at the time indicated, but it was only partial, in that only the signalmen and some of the traffic men ceased work. Even then, it was confined to Lower Egypt, for, except in the Fayoum, Upper Egypt was not affected, whilst the services also worked normally on the suburban lines.

The strike of the signalmen naturally made the running of trains somewhat difficult; but, thanks to the excellent arrangements made in advance, a train each way to Alexandria and Port Said was got through in the morning and in the afternoon, and the goods traffic necessary to the feeding of Cairo was maintained. By noon some of the strikers began to dribble back, and by Sunday morning the strike had been broken, and the normal service had been resumed.

The trouble is, however, by no means over, and a strike on a very much larger scale is threatened for the early days of November, when the men will have drawn their pay and the arrears of war bonus, etc., due to them. The ostensible reason for the men's attitude is that their demands as to improved conditions of service

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have not been granted, to which they have now added a demand that the ringleaders in the recent strike, who have been suspended by the railways, shall immediately be taken back.

With regard to the question of pay and conditions of service, the men have really little to complain of. Where it has been found that any real hardship has been suffered the grievance has been immediately remedied. Indeed, so liberally have the railway authorities treated their officials, especially those in the lower grades, that the wages bill has suffered an increase of no less than 130 per cent. on the 1915 figure. In the latter year the bill amounted to £E1,000,000; to-day the total is £E2,300,000, and this figure will be further increased by certain regradings which have been granted, the cost of which will possibly come to another £E100,000. By far the greatest share of this 130 per cent. increase has gone to the subordinate grades.

When one considers that the Government has satisfied its employees with an increase and bonus amounting in the aggregate, in the case of the lowest paid, to 92 per cent. of the pre-war rate, it becomes fairly evident that there must be something more than economic aims behind this unrest; and what would seem to confirm this is the fact that the men who went out on strike on Saturday last are just those who have received the greatest consideration from the railways administration, and whose grievances are really trivial ones, having nothing directly to do with their economic situation.

The general demands on which the men base their threatened action are either by their nature impossible of acceptance or, where they are reasonable, they are such as could not possibly be admitted without very careful consideration and investigation. None of them is made because the men are not receiving a living wage and the railwaymen have no economic justification for the cessation of work which they now threaten.

As a matter of fact, their insistence on immediate acquiescence is really due to the pressure of outside political influences, who have made up their minds to force an issue, and who would, even if these demands were agreed to, find another excuse for carrying out their plan of a general cessation of work as a national demonstration against the Protectorate, which has been decided on at headquarters.

It being clear that the cause is political, the railway authorities are justified in taking disciplinary measures against those of their staff who are ringleaders. The railway system of Egypt is the most vital line of communications which the country possesses, not only from the military but also from the economic point of view, and such being the case, discipline must be maintained as well from the standpoint of the general interests of the country as from that of the safety of the travelling public. In the railway administration politics can no more be allowed to interfere with the service than they can be tolerated in the Army and police, and the Administration should have the support of all the thinking public. The precautionary measures concerted by the Administration are still being taken and all arrangements have been made to cope with the general strike which is now threatened for either November 5 or 10.

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YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, October 28.

The Political Situation.

An absence for a short time has prevented me from following in detail some interesting events which have recently been taking place in Belgrade. On the 24th I met M. Pashitch in Paris, where he had just returned with the Serbian Delegation, but unfortunately Dr. Trumbitch had not yet arrived. The veteran's presence in Paris was an indication that the "crisis" had at last come to an end. It appears that on the Regent's refusal to accept the mainly Radical Cabinet proposed by M. Trifkovitch the Radicals saw that they could not hope for success, and the Prince called upon Dr. Davidovitch to carry on.

M. Pashitch said that it was quite uncertain whether this Government would be the one which would carry out the forthcoming elections, but admitted that the crisis had been brought on mainly by those personal antipathies which play so large a part in Serbian politics. He stated that the Radical party was determined upon a thorough programme of agrarian reform, with due compensation to the landowners bought out. For, he said, Serbia spent twelve million dinars in compensating Turkish owners in Southern Serbia, and so they could hardly dispossess brother Serbs, such as the aghas and beys of Bosnia and Herzgovina, without adequate compensation. Even the large owners, such as Dr. Bogdan Medakovitch, were not opposed to such a policy.

A Pact with the Narodny Club.

Consequently Dr. Davidovitch's Cabinet is again directing the country's destinies, but what he will be able to do when Parliament meets remains to be seen. He is strongly supported by the Socialists—in fact, it is a Social-Democrat Government—and he can count on the Montenegrin deputies for support, but the fact remains that the two groups are so evenly divided that there can be a working majority only if any substantial contingent crosses the floor. The Radicals have staked upon the crisis and lost, and it is quite likely that a number will support the Cabinet for the sake of unity and government, especially as M. Probitch has published his pact with the Narodny Club, by which he secures support of the Croatian Nationalists by the promise of so large a measure of Home Rule that strong feelings have been raised among the partisans of centralisation. Even if the published version of this pact is accurate, it is sure to alienate a large number of votes from the Radical party, and its publication evoked great excitement in Belgrade.

Meanwhile, at a meeting of the Democratic party at Zagreb, M. Pribitchevitch has outlined the Government programme as follows: Agrarian reform on the basis that each man is to have as much land as he can work: complete union of the country, in contrast to the ideas of the Narodny Club; solution of the currency problem by the replacement of the kruna by the new coinage, at a rate soon to be announced: the improvement of transport, and the suppression of corruption. Finally, this prominent Croatian patriot and politician expressly stated that in direct opposition to the Narodny Club, there could be no distinction between Croat and Serb in the S.H.S., and that it is unthinkable to give the Croats any special position at Belgrade, such as they had at Budapest, when they were in name, though not in fact, a twin kingdom with Hungary.

A Radical Set-Back.

Another incident has occurred to the detriment of the Radicals, though the direct cause is economic rather

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than political, and that is the municipal changes. The *Opshtina*, or Town Council, of Belgrade, has been in the hands of a group of members of the Radical party. Whether they underrated the difficulties in front of them or were overcome by circumstances, the fact remains that a storm of criticism has been raised at their failure to provide sufficient stocks of coal and wood, till the discontent manifested itself in an adverse vote at a municipal meeting on October 13. M. Marianovitch reported to the Minister of the Interior for instructions, with the result that a new mayor and staff will be elected on Thursday. As M. Marianovitch and his colleagues are Radicals, this is interpreted as another blow to the party.

The Treaty of St. Germain.

The question of the signature of the Treaty of St. Germain is still agitating the public. Dr. Trumbitch has declared that the country cannot adopt a self-denying policy, and that he is convinced that the Peace Conference will accede to the very reasonable demands of the Serbs as soon as they really understand what is the true objective; and the Press Bureau has issued a statement that their delegates in Paris have no instructions to sign. It is certainly to be hoped that the wording of the obnoxious clauses will be so edited as to eliminate the territories of the former kingdom of Serbia.

In the same way there is a feeling that Paris will not allow vital Yugoslav interests in Fiume and Dalmatia to be sacrificed; but the Serbs realise that the illness of their champion, Mr. Wilson, is a disaster for them. There is a feeling of relief at the reported withdrawal of Italian troops from the Bocche di Cattaro, but in Montenegro things are getting worse. Italian soldiers as far inland as Crmnica are reported to have been looting and to have fired upon the Montenegrins who tried in exasperation to protect their property. Apart from the question of looting, one wonders what is the justification for the presence of Italian soldiers there at all.

Croatia's Liberation.

To-morrow is the anniversary of Croatia's liberation from the Hapsburg yoke. On October 29, 1918, the National Council proclaimed the complete severance of Croatia from the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, and voted for the union of the country into the triune kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. There are official celebrations at Zagreb, which almost coincide with the similar anniversary held by their friends and allies, the Czechoslovaks, at Prague, for these kindred nations worked their emancipation in sympathy and collaboration.

Japan has appointed a permanent military mission to Serbia. Chief of the mission is Captain Yasvi, who has spent the past two years in Russia.

PERSIA.

ISPAHAN, September 8.

A Bad Time for Brigands.

A short time ago no one at home seemed to have any news about Persia, but during the last month or so it would seem that events in this part of the world have been a good deal in the public eye. What with the new Anglo-Persian Agreement and its attendant loan—which latter item provides the topic of chief interest amongst the altruistic circle of Persian merchants—and the visit of the Shah to Europe, that country is at last emerging from the mystery in which it has been wrapt for some considerable time.

It would appear, too, that the Powers that be have at last really made up their minds to put their house, more or less, in order. They have, at any rate, given a fairly good earnest of better times to come by successfully "roping in" and hanging a number of the most noted highway robbers. It is not many weeks ago that one Jaffar Ghuli was captured and met the fate he deserved, in spite of the halo of romance which usually surrounds men of his profession; and in the past two weeks Reza Khan Judzani has been caught and, after a somewhat protracted trial, hanged in Ispahan; while in Teheran, Mashallah Khan and five of his followers have paid the penalty for their crimes on the scaffold.

Mashallah Khan was one of the sons of Naib Hussein, the "Father of Persian Bandits," in more senses than one, who promptly fled on hearing of his son's death. Naib Hussein himself has now been captured in the Koh Rud together with two other sons, and it remains to be seen what will be his end. One wonders whether the scaffold will provide the setting for the last scene in the life of this old man also, whose life story, could one but put it down on paper, would make a most thrilling and entertaining biography.

To look at events in a more practical light, there is no doubt that the bringing to book of these bad characters will have a most salutary effect on the condition of the country in the North, not only from the fact of having removed all the chief disturbers from the lines of communication between some of the chief towns of Persia, but also by reason of its excellence as an example to other evil-doers. It has been made clear that malefactors cannot do as they will with impunity in Persia, and this should act as a deterrent to some promising pupils of this profession; while it will take some little time for another leader to arise and collect such a following, even if no obstacle be placed in his way meanwhile.

The Fluctuating Exchange.

Perhaps we are at the dawn of better days. If so, the peaceful trading classes will not be slow to take advantage of them, judging by the frequent enquiries now being made as to reductions in the rates for insurance. Let us hope that times are not far distant when the rates of exchange will give more cause for anxiety to our peaceful friends than horrid thoughts of bandits. As a matter of fact, the said rates do even now give rise to no little anxiety; and not without reason. Fluctuations of ten to fifteen per cent. in the course of a few days do not lend themselves to the stabilisation of trade, whatever they may do for the lucky ones who "get in on the ground floor"; but, after all, when were not the vagaries of the kran one of the charming uncertainties of Persian life?

In many ways, however, things are settling down to a more normal state, and the outlook in Persia to-day is more hopeful than it has been for some years.

ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, October 28.

Turco-Greek Fracas.

On Saturday, October 25, a fight occurred between Turks and Greeks around the Smyrna prisons. Two Greek officers and one soldier were killed. It is not known what loss the Turks had, as they were in carriages and got away. It appears that the Turks were the aggressors, and attacked a Greek sentinel outside the prisons, hoping to release the Turkish prisoners who have lately been sentenced to terms of imprisonment by the Greek court-martial.

Flag Ship for Smyrna.

At last the old depôt ship H.M.S. Europa has left her moorings at Mudros, after being there for over four years, and has arrived in Smyrna to be once more the flagship of Commodore Maurice Fitz-Maurice. Her place at Mudros has been taken by H.M.S. Co[illegible]

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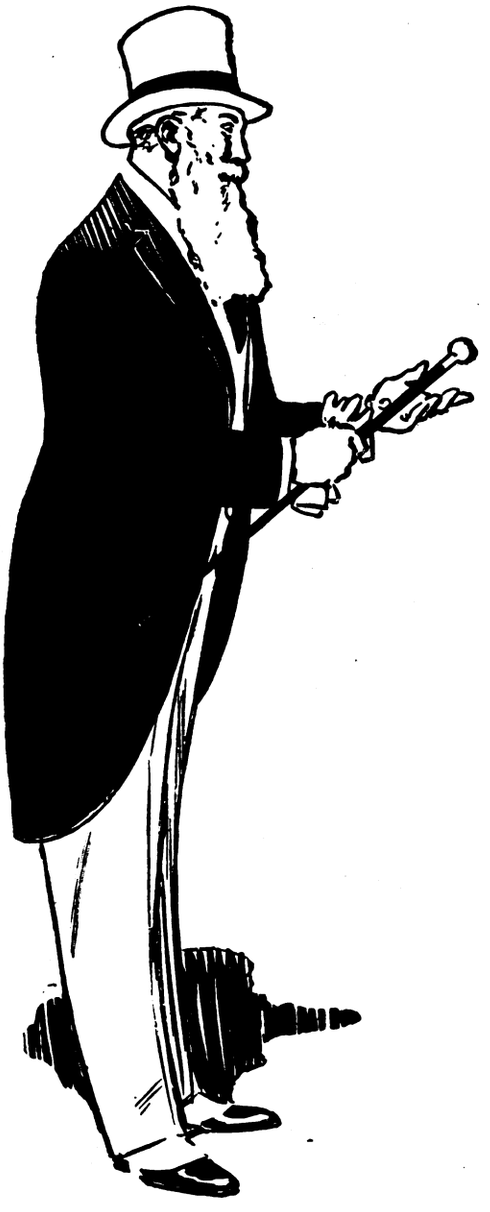

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CYPRUS.

The Great National Day."

The Greek Press is filled with echoes of "the great national day" when Nicosia embraced the whole island, assembled to voice its aspirations. Many persons came on foot from remote villages. Some could not find rooms in which to sleep, but spent the night awake on chairs, deeming this discomfort of no account and disregarding the cold of night, "being warmed with the sacred fire of their patriotism." Everything was done to rouse enthusiasm: bells rang; churches, municipalities, banks, and clubs were decorated with Greek and British flags. The papers also have articles on self-determination, the rights of nations, and on "England and Cyprus," with long quotations from the London Press.

The Deputation to London.

It has been decided by the Central Committee of Aid that a further sum of £500 shall be remitted to the Mission, the contributions being allotted as follows:—From the Archbishop's fund, Nicosia, £110; from Papho, £80; Limassol-Larnaca, £150; Kyrenia, £80; Famagusta, £50; and Kykkou Monastery, £30.

The Turkish community has preserved complete calm and self-possession, and maintains its entire confidence that its interests are in safe keeping. Definite promises made, and repeated, by the Home Government have sufficed to sustain the feeling that loyalty observed during the forty-one years of British administration will not be disregarded in any settlement of island affairs.

The Greek Church.

The Holy Synod has been considering two matters: (1) Whether the autonomous Church of Cyprus shall take part in the Pan-Christian Congress to be shortly convened on the initiative of the Episcopal Church in America; and (2) a letter received from the Synod of the bishops of N.W. Russia, which contains a tragic recital of the terrible ordeal which is being suffered from Bolshevism by the Russian Church. As regards (1), the Synod has decided that while agreeing in principle to take part in the Congress, it will await the return of the Archbishop to Cyprus, and the reference of the matter to the theological authorities for consideration with a view to the choice of a representative. As regards (2), it has decided to send a consolatory letter to the Russian Church.

General News.

October has been exceptionally hot. Greeks call such late heat "the summer of the lazy folk," and this year the "lazy" have had a record season.

Small-pox unfortunately still finds fresh victims. The Government is wisely taking the strictest measures to restrict communications without interfering unduly with the work of the peasantry. In one case a field labourer fell ill while working near an isolation hospital. Vaccination proceeds with "feverish haste." The Press, however, comments severely on the failure of Government to do enough. It also continues to make sarcastic remarks on the subject of the *personnel* and the manner in which, owing to the shortage of officials, individuals of one department have been pitchforked into others in which they have no experience. It is certainly true that the state of suspense is doing a good deal of harm, to say nothing of the interference with trade and business, and, to say the least of it, opens the door to severe and undesirable criticism.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

"From the indomitable Sinn Feiners of Ireland, from the Red Flag, which in Egypt unites the Crescent and the Cross, all insurrections levelled against the devourers of raw flesh are about to blaze up, lighted by sparks flying from us to them." These words are reported to have come from D'Annunzio, rightly or wrongly I do not know. But assuming that this poet, for whom I have a very real respect, did say such things, I think it does show into what absurdities a man may fall when he thinks the fire of the world depends upon his petty pair of bellows. Of his reference to Ireland I will say nothing, except to remark that his adjective "indomitable" seems to be literally accurate; but when he speaks of the Crescent and the Cross being united in Egypt, he is merely talking against himself. A few weeks ago I was extremely pleased to read of his attack on cosmopolitan finance in the matter of Fiume, and now we have him defending such a gang of international and denationalised ruffians as is unknown outside Egypt! It simply will not do. What is sauce for Fiume is sauce for Cairo, and if unscrupulous cosmopolitans try to force a decision in either case they should be condemned. If D'Annunzio is going to take as bedfellows the Egyptian crowd, he will have strange experiences!

***

Mr. Walpole's lecture on Persia, a report of which has appeared in THE NEAR EAST, contained a most amusing yarn, which I do not think any other papers have reproduced. This is how the report runs: Before leaving the subject of the war, he trusted he should be excused if he related a rather amusing episode, which was said to have occurred in Mohammerah just prior to the official declaration of hostilities by Turkey on Great Britain. Notwithstanding the friendly relations professed towards us by Turkey up till almost the eve of war, great tension had existed for some time between the two nations in the Persian Gulf, at any rate. The only protection afforded to British interests in Mesopotamia at this time was H.M.S. "Espiegle" and "Odin," the former being particularly detailed to watch over Abadan and Mohammerah. She took up her position at Mohammerah just inside the mouth of the Karun river, this being Persian, and therefore neutral water, of course, though the Shatt-el-Arab, into which the Karun runs, was Turkish water. The commander of the Turkish river flotilla seemed to think it his business to warn the "Espiegle" that in lying in this position she was committing a breach of international law, and, with this object in mind, he proceeded to issue daily ultimatums, which, however, as they were systematically ignored by the "Espiegle," he very obligingly extended. Finally, he decided to warn the British commander in person, and, with this intent, he one morning called on the British gunboat. During the interview, which was of a most friendly kind, the British commander offered the Turk some liquid refreshment, which the latter accepted, observing, however, that his creed precluded his indulging in anything stronger than, "Sherbet."

***

My readers, I hear, smack their lips, and not in vain. Mr. Walpole continues: This though it might surprise them, was not a very popular beverage in His Majesty's Navy, but the order was at once (though somewhat dubiously) given by the British commander to his Indian servant to bring sherbet for his Turkish guest. Somewhat to his surprise the servant (a resourceful fellow, as will be seen later, and moreover one who felt his responsibility in maintaining the hospitable reputation of the British Navy) shortly returned with a sparkling, frothy, cool pink drink. It was a hot day and the Turkish commander's eyes glistened with pleasure as he raised the glass to his lips and drank it down. The all-important interview continued some little time longer, when it was observed that the Turkish commander was becoming "restless." The British commander suggested another sherbet, but this was hysterically refused, and the Turk took a hurried farewell. The commander of H.M.S. "Espiegle" was nonplussed. What could account for the sudden and extraordinary change in the attitude of his Turkish colleague? It occurred to him to query his servant as to where he had procured the sherbert. "Oh! master," replied that faithful worthy, "we have no such drink as sherbet on board, so in order to maintain the reputation of the ship, I manufactured the sherbet." "How?" inquired the commander. "I mixed a little rosewater with a lemon-squash, and then, to make it fizz, I added some of that white powder which master keeps in his cabin." "Fetch me the bottle," replied the commander. The servant brought it—it was Eno's fruit salt!

CORSAIR.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Mesopotamia.

In a leading article, *The Times* of November 8 takes a very serious view of the problem of Mesopotamia. It says:—

"It has been said that we drifted into the control of India in a fit of absence of mind, but the position is now too involved to permit us to undertake vast new responsibilities in Mesopotamia and elsewhere in a similar blind and casual manner. Our present information leads us to believe that the Government are contemplating huge designs in Mesopotamia without sufficient consideration and without accurate and impartial knowledge. The issue is so weighty that, in our view, nothing of a definite and permanent nature should be settled until the whole problem has received full examination at the hands of Parliament. The time is past when any Government could commit the nation to the acquisition of a considerable new empire—for that is what the Mesopotamian project really means—without first making an exhaustive public statement of their intentions. The Mesopotamian enterprise is full of pitfalls, and, on the grounds both of finance and of military risk, our people are entitled to know what is being done.

It then remarks on the fact, noted by one of its correspondents, that the people of Mesopotamia do not desire the presence of the British:—

The notion in Great Britain is that we have been hailed as deliverers from the oppression of the Turk, but our correspondent takes a contrary view, and gives cogent reasons for his assertion. The Turkish rule was bad, but, on the whole, not oppressive, partly because the province was far from Constantinople, the garrison was small, and the Turkish officials as few and as isolated as British civil servants in India. Eastern peoples do not love good and efficient government, and principally desire to be let alone and to be taxed lightly. Already the people of Mesopotamia are surprised at our exactitude in collecting taxes and enforcing regulations, and it may readily be conceived, for example, that the owners or tenants of the 700 houses in Basra, which have long been commandeered as billets, are not too well disposed towards us. Our correspondent further points out that the rigid application of law on European lines may result in handing over the desert Arab to the lawyer and the moneylender. We may add in this respect that, on a previous occasion, we have expressed fear that an unwise alienation of land has already begun.

It enumerates other difficulties in the situation, and concludes by stating the enormous problem presented by Kurdistan:—

To these considerations we may add an expression of concern in regard to the huge area which it is proposed to include in the Mesopotamian mandate. . . . The region of which Great Britain is invited to take charge extends for considerably more than 300 miles north of Baghdad, into the fringes of the mountains of Kurdistan, which bound the Armenian plateau. It also includes the mountainous region of Southern Kurdistan, from a point on Turkish territory opposite Lake Urmia in Persia. Apparently the idea is that we are to occupy the whole country right up to the Persian frontier. It will be clear, when we publish the information in our possession, that the control of the tribal territory on the North-West frontier of India is child's play compared with the problems which may confront us in Southern Kurdistan. As for Northern Kurdistan, or Kurdistan proper, Great Britain is only really concerned with the portion which lies south of Lake Van, and is therefore just outside our proposed boundary. There we have recently been engaged in mountain expeditions exactly in the style of Indian warfare. While a quarter of a million men were mobilised in India against the Afghans, we were simultaneously organising little thrusts in these wild regions of Asia Minor in the most approved Indian fashion. British officers were murdered in Amadia and elsewhere, far to the north of Baghdad; and straightway, without the knowledge of the public at home, tiny punitive columns were mobilised. There were Gurkhas scaling the heights, villages destroyed, small towns occupied, all the usual episodes of a frontier war with which we have been familiar in India for the last seventy years. In short, as we shall show, in the marches of Mesopotamia we have got a new and infinitely bigger frontier problem on our hands. It is idle for Mr. Churchill to talk of holding Mesopotamia with a few police and armoured cars and aeroplanes. The Kurds alone are an almost insoluble problem. Our special correspondent insists that the Armenians can never hold Northern Kurdistan, even with the aid of a European Power. He says that the only chance for an Armenian State is to confine it to the vilayets of Erzerum and Trebizond. The Kurds themselves are beginning to talk of an independent Kurdistan, but the Young Turks are also intriguing among them.

Serbia and Bulgaria.

Writing in the *Manchester Guardian* recently, Mr. James D. Bourchier comments upon the Bulgarian Treaty. Taking in turn Bulgaria's various territorial losses, he examines the justice of the proposed resettlements. In speaking of the relations between Serbia and Bulgaria, he says:—

The cession of the Tsaribrod district cannot be defended on the plea—invoked in other cases—that the Bulgarian frontier approaches too closely the lines of Serbian military communication. The statement cannot be taken seriously, except, perhaps, as regards Strumnitza, where the frontier is only nine kilometres distant from the nearest point on the Nish-Salonika Railway. The town and district, the only fragment of Macedonian territory which her enemies allowed Bulgaria to possess, are now to be taken from her, and the thousands of refugees from Greek and Serbian rule who are congregated here will receive the order to "move on." Where they are to find shelter it is hard to say, for the only regions where settlement was possible—Western Thrace and the Dobrudja—are to be taken from Bulgaria. It is difficult to understand the alarm with which Serbia professes to regard the prospect of future Bulgarian aggression. With her military forces intact and with an enormous increase of territory and power, she asks protection against a neighbour who, under the present treaty, is rendered not only incapable of aggression, but totally defenceless. The only conceivable annoyance she may experience may arise from the formation of Macedonian bands in Bulgaria; these will inevitably assemble so long as the maltreatment of the Bulgarian element in Macedonia continues. The remedy lies in her own hands, and is not to be found in an extension of her frontier, which, indeed, will only increase the danger. The frontier line which the Congress proposes to alter in deference to Serbian claims lies along a series of mountain-tops. The populations which will be included in Serbian territory will, in winter at least, be practically cut off from all sources of supply and condemned to isolation.

Article to Note

"The Psychology of Italian and Yugoslav," by Margaret Montgomery Campbell in the *Nineteenth Century* (November).

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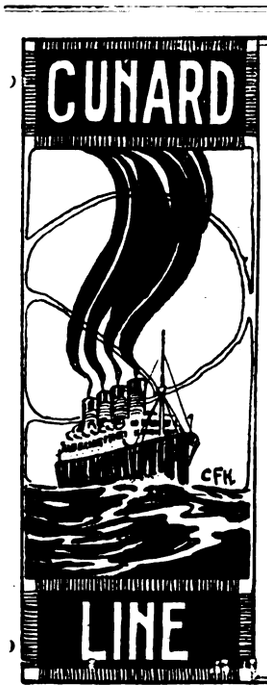

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

WAR AND HOME.*

These verses, dedicated to the British Salonika Force, deal chiefly with the experiences of war. They are inspired either by the normal incidents of war or by love of home (which happens to consist of Scotland and Cambridge). The sentiments expressed are good and clean, and the style of writing is finished; but the book lacks vitality. There is no sense of passion, no effort of interpretative visualisation, and the verses are as undistinguished as they are indistinguishable. However common the subject of Mr. Macleod's verse may be, it is one of infinite possibilities: here, unfortunately, its treatment is neither coloured nor original. These poems are fit for a University magazine, but they never rise above that monotonous level.

NON TALI AUXILIO.

A pamphlet, entitled "Ex-King Nicholas of Montenegro and His Court," has reached the office of THE NEAR EAST, with nothing to indicate its authorship or provenance except the words, "Edition 'Glas Naroda,' Serajevo." Its purpose is indicated in the first few lines of the Introduction: "In these pages we propose to give a sketch in a few outlines of a little-known personage, an adventurer of the first water, a surviving specimen of the almost extinct race of mediæval despots, a man who, by the refinement of his cunning, his total lack of scruple and straightforwardness, resembles certain of the more corrupt Asiatic potentates." Four pages of unmeasured and unsubstantiated abuse follow—it is a matter for regret that anyone whose mother tongue is English should have lent himself to translate the polemic—and prepare the reader for the main part of the pamphlet. Presumably, a menial has been bribed to steal some of the correspondence of the Montenegrin Court, and the letters have been handed to the personal opponents of the King. Extracts have been cut out of their context, they have been reproduced in facsimile, and an English translation is given. In each case the extracts are prefaced with derogatory remarks on King Nicholas or members of his family, ostensibly based on the extract. In no single instance, as far as can be seen, does the extract substantiate the allegations of the preface, although there is often some faint connection, but hardly enough to satisfy the most uncritical mind. If King Nicholas were to be arraigned as a common criminal in an English Court of Justice, nothing in the pamphlet based on what the pamphlet contains would be accepted as evidence against him. The pamphlet, however, reveals one thing: whatever the rights and wrongs of the Montenegrin controversy, King Nicholas has some personal opponents whose standard of intelligence, morals, and methods are sufficiently debased to prejudice any cause with which they may be associated.

No one will imagine for a moment that such a publication has in the least degree official sanction in Serbia; but it is obvious that, unless it is immediately repudiated, it will lend colour in Great Britain and the United States to any and every charge that may be levelled against the Serbian régime in Montenegro since the Armistice.

* "Macedonian Measures." By John Macleod. (Cambridge University Press. 3s. net.)

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Telegrams, Alexandria, Cairo and Port Said: "LOISIDIS."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Sheikh." By E. M. Hull. (London: Eveleigh Nash Co., Ltd. 7s. net.)

"The Superman Antagonists." By Sir William Watson. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

"Prisoners of the Red Desert." By Captain Gwatkin-Williams, R.N. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"A Pilgrim in Palestine After its Deliverance." By John Finley. (London: Chapman and Hall. 10s. net.)

"The War Between Peru and Chile, 1879-1882." By Clements R. Markham. (London: Sampson, Low and Co.)

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Allen and Unwin announce a comprehensive work on "Dalmatia," by Count Louis Vojnovitch.

The author of "Banked Fires," of which a review was given in our last issue, is E. W. Savi, not Sair, as there stated.

"Persian Tales," written down at first hand in Persian and then translated by Major D. L. R. Lorimer and Mrs. Lorimer, will be Messrs. Macmillan's Christmas gift-book.

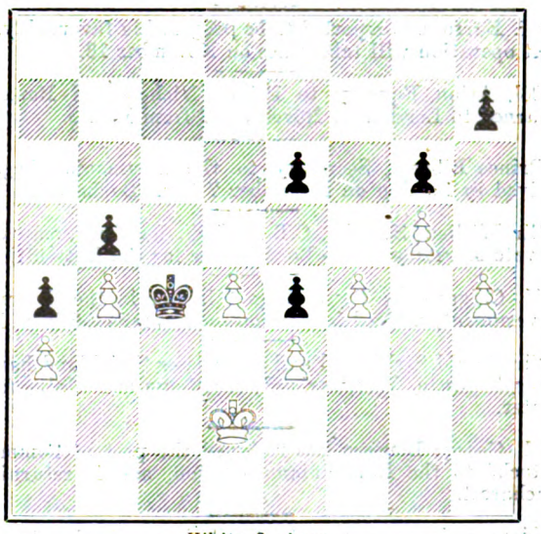
Messrs. Longmans have in the press a volume of "Letters of Oswin Creighton, C.F., 1883-1918," edited by his mother, Mrs. Creighton. Earlier letters in the book cover experiences of teaching in Smyrna.

Through the firm of John Lane are being published "A Kut Prisoner," by H. C. W. Bishop, and "The Last Crusade," a book on the Palestine campaign, by Donald Maxwell.

Mr. F. W. Thomas, Librarian to the India Office, has in preparation for the Cambridge University Press a translation of "Bhāsā-paricchedа," or "Kārikāvali," by Visvanātha Pañcānana, with the author's commentary, the "Nyāyā siddhāntā muktāvāli." The translation has been made with the assistance of Miss C. M. Ridding, and of notes by the late Professor E. B. Cowell.

CHESS.

Black 7 pieces.



White 8 pieces.

Black to play; what result?

The solution to last week's problem is:—1. P—Q7, any move; 2. Kt—Q6 mate. This week I give a simple end game.

Senor Capablanca is giving a lecture on "Some Principles of Play and their Application" at the School for the Blind, opposite Swiss Cottage Station, on November 22.

I am told by a Cambridge undergraduate who has joined the University Chess Club that the game is remarkably popular there just now, and that at the initial meeting of the season over seventy members were present. That is in striking contrast with pre-war days, when, if I remember rightly, the club was fortunate if it had twenty-five to thirty-five members, most undergraduate chess players preferring to confine their activities to the college clubs.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moham.	Jewish.
1919.	1919.		1338.	5680.
November	November		Safar.	Marheshwan.
14	1	Friday	21	21
15	2	Saturday.....	22	22
16	3	Sunday	23	23
17	4	Monday	24	24
18	5	Tuesday	25	25
19	6	Wednesday	26	26
20	7	Thursday	27	27

Lord Inchcape has returned to London from Paris.

The Raja of Pudukota has arrived in London from India.

General Mangin will shortly leave Marseilles for Morocco.

The Aga Khan has arrived from Paris and is staying at the Ritz Hotel.

The Raja and Ranee of Sarawak left Liverpool on November 8 for Sarawak.

M. Nano has been appointed an Attaché to the Roumanian Legation in London.

M. Kyriakos Venizelos, Secretary to the Greek Legation, has left London for Athens.

Lord and Lady Byng of Vimy have arrived at 52, Lennox Gardens, S.W.1, for the winter.

Dr. Burrows is reported to be progressing favourably. His next operation will take place on November 18.

Col. Arion, Equerry to Prince Nicholas of Roumania, returned to London on November 7 from Paris.

Prince Bibesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, arrived in London on November 7 from Bucharest.

Sir William Soulsby, C.B., C.I.E., has been reappointed private secretary to the Lord Mayor for the forty-fifth time.

M. Cuigureano, Bessarabian Minister in the Roumanian Government, arrived in London on November 6 from Paris.

Sir Gerald Strickland and the Misses Strickland have left Sizergh Castle, Westmorland, for Rome and Malta for the winter.

M. George Bonesco has resigned the post of Commercial Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, and is returning to Bucharest.

Lieut.-Col. Norman Coates, M.C., has arrived at 36, Langham Street, Portland Place, W., from Egypt, having been invalided home.

With the exception of M. Venizelos and M. Politis, all the members of the Greek delegation to the Peace Conference have left Paris for Athens.

Prince Faisal of Central Arabia, who arrived in Dublin on November 9, was received on the following day by the Lord-Lieutenant and entertained at luncheon.

The King has been graciously pleased to confer the dignity of a Barony of the United Kingdom upon Sir James Meston on his resignation of his appointment.

Viscount Allenby, with Lady Allenby, arrived at Malta on board the Himalaya on November 7. They reached Alexandria on November 11, and, after Lord Allenby had called upon the Sultan, proceeded to Cairo.

Sir C. Alban Young was received in audience by the Prince-Regent on November 6, when he presented his credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

M. Venizelos, the Greek Premier, left Paris yesterday for Rome on his way to Athens. On his arrival in Athens the Greek Parliament will be immediately summoned for the purpose of ratifying the treaty between Bulgaria and the Allies.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Maurice de Bunsen's lecture before the Central Asian Society on the "New Levant Company" will be given on November 17.

Sir Arnold White and Mr. W. D. Sheppard, Members of the Council of the Secretary of State for India, had the honour of being received by the King on November 8.

Prince Sabah-ed-Din, leader of the Liberal Opposition in Turkey, is leaving Montreux for Constantinople. It is believed that he has been recalled to form a Government.

The engagement is announced of Princess Sabiha, the Sultan's youngest daughter, to Prince Eumer Faruk, the eldest son of the heir to the Throne, Prince Abdul Medjid.

Dr. Dragoutine Koyitch left London on November 7 for Belgrade. Pending the arrival of the new Minister, M. Svetislav Djoritch will act as Chargé d'Affaires in London.

Mrs. Percy Stout is convalescent after an operation, and will not return to Egypt this winter. Count Sambuy, the Italian Military Attaché, has taken her place at Moadé, near Cairo, for the season.

General Booth has, in rearranging Salvation Army work in India and Ceylon, made three promotions to the rank of Commissioner. The promoted officials are Commissioners Bullard, French, and Blowers.

Plans are being formulated for the campaign in London and the provinces in aid of the national memorial to Dr. Elsie Inglis. The work which her Hospital Unit for Women did in Serbia will never be forgotten.

Sir Krishna Gupta, who was a member of the Moderate deputation, has left for India in the s.s. Egypt, which has on board the majority of the members of the various Indian deputations on the Government of India Bill.

The marriage arranged between Miss Isabel Fisher, of Drumard, Barrow-in-Furness, and Capt. Michael R. Roberts, 113th Infantry, Indian Army, will take place on November 27 at St. Paul's Church, Barrow-in-Furness.

Mr. Laurence Binyon's English version of the Indian classical play "Sakuntala" will be performed this afternoon and on the afternoon of November 21 at the Winter Garden Theatre. The performances have been organised by the Union of the East and West.

The Secretary of the War Office announces that Gen. Lord Byng, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., M.V.O., has been permitted to retire from the Army with a view to his assumption of the position of chairman of the United Services Fund, which has been appointed to administer the fund formed out of the accumulated profits of Army canteen trading during the war.

Lieut.-Col. Arthur M. Berkeley and Major Frederic Carpendale, whom his Majesty invested with the Insignia of Companions of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, and Lieut.-Col. E. V. Gabriel, whom the King invested with the Insignia of a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Military Division, had the honour of being received on November 6 by his Majesty.

Dr. Watson Smith, director of the Lebanon Hospital, with his wife and family, left for Beyrout last week via Marseilles to take up his work once more after furlough.

Dr. and Mrs. Webster, of the American Protestant College, Beyrout, left this week on their return, via Genoa. Dr. Webster is also chairman of the Beyrout Committee for the Asfuriyeh Hospital.

A new head attendant for the hospital has been chosen, and is ready to proceed to Beyrout as soon as a passage is forthcoming.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. William Malcolm Haily, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Chief Commissioner of Delhi, to be an Ordinary Member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General of India in succession to Sir James Meston, K.C.S.I., I.C.S., who has felt obliged on medical advice to resign his position as Finance Member of the Council with effect from November 1, as the state of his eyesight will not permit him to return to India to complete his term of office. The Secretary of State and the Viceroy have accepted with the greatest regret Sir James Meston's enforced resignation of the office he has held with conspicuous success since the early part of 1918. They have expressed to him their high appreciation of the eminent services which he has rendered to India in the course of a career extending over thirty-four years, and their sympathy with him in its premature ending.

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The Warden and Fellows of All Souls College, Oxford, at a meeting held on November 6, elected Mr. Thomas E. Lawrence, formerly a Scholar of Jesus College, and subsequently Senior Demy of Magdalen College, to a Research Fellowship. Lieut.-Col. Lawrence obtained a First Class in the Modern History School in 1910, and afterwards was engaged in archæological research work in Syria, Palestine, and Arabia. He served during the war in the Near East with very great distinction, and holds the D.S.O.

Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Evans Hoskins, of the American Mission at Beyrout, Syria, announce the engagement of their daughter, Jeannette Ives, to Lieut. Donald W. Campbell, of the United States Coast Artillery Service. Miss Hoskins has been a war worker at the American Legation at Berne, Switzerland, the American Red Cross in Paris, and the League of Red Cross Societies at Geneva. She is to spend the winter with her parents at Beyrout, and will be married in the spring when Lieut. Campbell is released from service with the U.S. Army in France.

Mr. N. Sokolow, Member of the Zionist Executive and Zionist Delegate to the Peace Conference, was on November 4 received at the Foreign Office by Earl Curzon, with whom he discussed various questions relating to the British Government's declaration of policy in favour of the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine. Mr. Sokolow has also had an interview with Viscount Milner, who was one of the British representatives on the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference, which, last February, heard the statements of the Zionist Delegation.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on October 27 at Coonoor, Nilgiri Hills, South India, of Colonel Alfred Henry Anthonisz, A.M.S.

The death occurred on November 6 of Lionel Craigie Daunt, of North Lodge, Battle, Sussex, and Haipatha, India, aged 58.

The death occurred on November 5, at Aveland House, Crieff, Perthshire, of Colonel Frederick Jervis Home, C.S.I., R.E., in his eighty-first year.

The death occurred on October 19 at Maymu, Burma, of pneumonia, of Charles Burnby Bell, C.E., eldest son of Charles Bell, architect, Sticklepath, Okehampton, Devon.

Brigadier-General G. F. Young, C.B., late Indian Army, died suddenly on November 8, at Reading, in his seventy-fourth year. He served in the Afghan War of 1879-80, and in the Mahsood, Wuzeeree, and Hazara Expeditions.

Colonel D. A. Grant, formerly of the 3rd Dragoon Guards and of the 85th Shropshire Light Infantry, died at Lausanne, Switzerland, on October 28. He served in the Afghan War of 1879-80, when he was mentioned in despatches, receiving the medal with the brevet of major.

The death is announced, in his fiftieth year, of his Highness Sir Bure Singh, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Raja of the Himalayan State of Chamba, which was founded some fifteen centuries ago. He was Prime Minister for some years to his elder brother, who abdicated in his favour early in 1904. He was the main creator of the modern town of Chamba.

The death occurred on October 28 at St. George's Hospital, as the result of an accident, of Captain William Studholme Clarence Hamley, I.A.R., attached 20th Deccan Horse, dearly-loved and only son of W. W. Hamley, late rector, Royal College, Mauritius, and of Mrs. Hamley, The Orchard, Horley, and grandson of the late Major-General W. G. Hamley, R.E.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Pope has recognised the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

The transport Huntsend landed at Plymouth on November 4 about 2,000 troops from Mesopotamia, India, Egypt, Fiume, Marseilles, and Gibraltar.

The Emir of Bokhara has informed General Denikin that, in case of necessity, he is prepared to assist Russia against the Turkestan Bolshevists.

On Monday, November 24, a *matinée*, under the patronage of Princess Marie Louise, will be given at the Globe Theatre in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund.

Mahomed Bagouri Bey, chief of the Egyptian Conservative Party, has telegraphed his appreciation of *The Times* leading article of October 20 on the work of Sir Reginald Wingate.

Small Advertisements (Situations Vacant, Wanted, etc.) will be found on Page 535.

An Algerian named Medioni, who embezzled French National Defence Bonds worth £40,000, has been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment with hard labour. His two accomplices were sentenced to penal servitude for life.

General Franchet d'Esperey has conferred the Croix de Guerre with palm on Colonel Stavtianopoulos, Commandant at Salonika, especially for his share in the operations which led to the defeat of Bulgaria and to Turkey's request for an armistice.

Dr. Galippo has informed the French Academy of Science that in Egyptian papyrus twenty centuries and more old he had found living micro-organisms. These microbes, subjected to the usual test of heat, remained as active as ever.

The Ivan Mestrovitch Purchase Fund is now closed. The relief in wood, "Deposition," has been purchased, and it has been accepted by the Trustees of the National Gallery, British Art, for the Modern Foreign Collection to be formed at Millbank.

From a Polish source Reuter's Agency learns that the representatives in Azerbaijan, Northern Caucasus, Georgia, the Kuban Republic, Esthonia, Latvia, and the Ukraine have sent a new joint Note to the Peace Conference asking for the recognition of their independence.

The *Morning Post* states :—' Though not officially announced, it is known locally that Mr. Noel Buxton, until the last General Election Liberal member of Parliament for North Norfolk, will at the next election contest the division as a Labour candidate." Mr. Buxton is well known to our readers for his interest in Balkan problems.

The War Office states that since October 25 eight vessels have sailed from Busreh, Bombay, and Karachi carrying 464 officers and 6,901 other ranks from India, and 40 officers and 1,078 other ranks from Mesopotamia. The total number of troops evacuated since July 26 is 892 officers and 20,645 others ranks from Mesopotamia and 1,811 officers and 15,118 other ranks from India.

An Army Order announces that the Civil Service Commissioners will hold an examination in European and Oriental languages for Regular officers in London, commencing on January 20. At the same date the Commissioners will, if necessary, hold an examination at Zeitoun, Cairo, Egypt, for first and second-class interpreters in Arabic, Italian, and Greek. Applications to attend must be submitted through the usual channels in time to reach the Secretary (S.D. 4), War Office, on December 1.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1919.

MONTENEGRO, SERBIA AND THE ALLIES.

On two occasions this week the House of Commons has devoted some time to the subject of Montenegro; first by means of questions and answers, and on the following day by the matter being raised by Mr. Robert M'Neill on the motion for the adjournment of the House. For two years or more the British Government, under one plea or another, has contrived to keep the Montenegrin question at arm's length. It has regarded it as an inconvenient subject, and in his *apologia* on Wednesday the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs implied that the Entente Powers still found it too embarrassing to admit of anything like a free discussion. This admission in itself is the strongest possible condemnation of the Allied policy, or lack of policy, in regard to Montenegro. Perhaps the most regrettable feature of the case is the inexplicable absence of candour on the part of the British Government. Montenegro is admittedly the smallest of the Allied nations; her fate and her affairs can only claim a proportionately minute share of the Powers' attention in view of the weighty problems that have had to be dealt with. In these circumstances, if it was found that the Allies as a whole were inclined to adopt an attitude towards Montenegro with which the British Government could not agree, a very simple course was open to the latter; it could have stated that it did not approve of the treatment meted out to Montenegro, but it recognised that some of its Allies were more intimately concerned with the country, and for this reason it did not feel justified in running counter to their policy, which would continue to bear the *imprimatur* of the Paris Conference as a whole, but without that of Great Britain. Such a course would have been honest and dignified, if not heroic. The actual course adopted by the British Government has been to connive at a morally indefensible and intellectually impossible policy, while all the time refusing to face the music at home, under the plea that the solidarity of the Great Alliance would not allow the subject to be mentioned in any detail. Mistakes in the handling of very intricate questions can be excused and forgiven; but we doubt very much whether the British public would be equally complacent towards conduct which, if it could appreciate the situation, it would have to term un-British.

The Montenegrin question, as a matter of fact, is in its main outline a wonderfully simple one. The two "sides" are the Serbian and the Montenegrin, but in the use of the word "Serbian" it must be understood that, as far as the public is aware, there is no authority for associating the Serbian, still less the Yugoslav, Government with propaganda and actions that are Serbian in origin or character. The Serbian side of the Montenegrin question is that King Nicholas is the quintessence of undesirability, that he is a traitor to his country and to the Allies, that he has been formally and constitutionally deposed, and is, therefore, no longer a ruling Sovereign, and that, the Montenegrins having of their own free will declared for union with Serbia, Montenegro as a separate unit no longer exists, but is part of Serbia. The "case for the defence" is a denial of all these statements, with a counter-charge that Serbians have illegally taken possession of Montenegro, and are starving, imprisoning, or murdering those of the inhabitants who will not declare for the absorption of Montenegro in Serbia. In the face of these charges and counter-charges the Entente Governments have turned their backs on the disputants, and, holding up a warning finger to their own countrymen, have whispered, "Hush! Not a word, for fear of weakening the solidarity of France, Great Britain, and the United States." In the meantime, statesmanship has been vindicated by paying intermittently a subsidy to the King, who is denounced as a traitor to his country and to the Allies, and by ignoring the appeals that have been made against the policy of starvation, imprisonment, and murder alleged to have been carried out against the people of Montenegro. The record of the Paris Conference in this respect is hardly credible. At the eleventh hour the British Government appears to have had sufficient misgivings to cause it to send Count de Salis to inquire into the situation in Montenegro. According to a report—the accuracy of which we have had no opportunity of testing—Great Britain's representative during his investigations was subjected to a petty assault in Cettigne, and to obstructions of a more official character outside the capital. He succeeded, however, in carrying out his mission, and in due course presented his report to the British Government. To the demands now made for the publication of this report, the British Government oppose a decision "reached at Paris"—neither Mr. Bonar Law nor Mr. Cecil Harmsworth specifically state that the conclusion has been arrived at by the Supreme Council—"that it would be undesirable that the report should be published at present." This decision may be a sound one, but it ought not to prevent the adoption of the precedent set in the case of the Women's Royal Air Force inquiry. At the conclusion of that Inquiry, the Chairman announced that "Grave accusations have been hanging for months over the heads of several persons. They are entitled to have our conclusions upon them at the earliest possible moment," and he delivered at once those conclusions. Great accusations have also been hanging over the heads of many people in connection with the Montenegrin question. King Nicholas has been accused of being a traitor, and is said to have been constitutionally deposed at Podgoritza. Serbian troops and Serbian officials are accused of starving, imprisoning, and murdering Montenegrins. Are these charges true, or are they not? Both Serbians and Montenegrins are our Allies; they are entitled, as the other Allied countries are entitled, to know at once whether there is any truth in any of these statements.

From the nature of the case the Montenegrins, whether King Nicholas and his Government in France or the people in the country, are passive agents in this controversy. It is only to the Serbian authorities, or to the Yugoslav Government, that an appeal can be addressed urging them, as they value their proud name, to insist upon the fullest light being thrown upon the charges now being bandied about concerning Serbia and Montenegro. The curious attitude adopted by the British Government in regard to Count de Salis's report is calculated to convey the very worst impression. If it were true that King Nicholas is a traitor and has been deposed, there would be no reason for concealing the fact and for maintaining the fiction that he is still an honoured Allied sovereign. On the other hand, if Count de Salis had established beyond controversy that the Podgoritza Assembly was a bogus gathering under compulsion, and that Montenegrins are being starved, imprisoned or murdered for no other reason than that they still cling to their independence as a nation, it is not difficult to understand why the British Government would be reluctant to publish Count de Salis's report until the Yugoslav Government had made it clear that it had had nothing to do with and repudiated all that had taken place in Montenegro since the Armistice. Only some public announcement on the subject, notifying the withdrawal from Montenegro of every Serbian subject or Serbian-paid Montenegrin and insisting upon a full inquiry into the state of feeling in the country can now clear the Serbian name. We feel confident that, if the Yugoslav Government can find time to consider the subject, it will at once adopt this statesmanlike course.

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ARABIA AND THE ARABS: THEIR FUTURE.

By SAFAR.

At the inauguration ceremony of Field Marshal Sir Edmund Allenby as Freeman of the City of London, the Emir Faisal of Hejaz was present, and more than one allusion was made to his own and the Arab troops' services in the Great War. The entry of the Hejaz into the war needs no further elaboration, as the question has been treated at length in the Press. There is one point, however, which has been constantly overlooked. The Palestine campaign has been frequently alluded to as a crusade; this inters a warring of Christianity against Mohammedanism. In view of the fact that many thousands of Hejaz Arabs and Indian Mohammedan troops took part in the Palestine campaign, it is not in the best taste to use the word "crusade." It should always be borne in mind that the British Empire contains more Mohammedan subjects than Christian, and special care should be exercised to avoid everything that is likely to wound their susceptibilities.

Knowledge of Arab countries, Arabs, and Arabian politics is not sufficiently widespread in England, or for that matter in Europe either, in view of the importance of the questions which must be decided in the near future owing to the collapse of the Turkish Empire. In this article a few features of Arab life, customs, and thought are presented, with a view to helping those who are interested in the subject to a more sympathetic understanding of the questions involved.

In order to understand present Arab politics it is necessary to go back to the period when there was an Arab Empire. About the tenth and eleventh centuries it comprised Arabia proper, parts of Spain, all Northern Africa, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Mesopotamia, Persia. Civilisation within this Empire was superior in many respects to the Western development of that period; geography and mathematics were much studied; architecture was well understood; the famous Mosque El Omar in Jerusalem, in perfect repair after about a thousand years, and of beautiful execution and design, bears witness to the Arab architects' skill.

This great Empire was loosely bound together, and though possessing the great advantages of common language and religion, it finally collapsed. With the exception of Spain, the language and religion endure, but all the above countries became incorporated in European Empires except the greater part of Arabia proper, which alone has remained Arab in government, and Persia, which achieved independence. Turkey took as her share of the spoils Tripoli, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, certain parts of Arabia proper, and Mesopotamia. The first two are already disposed of, but the remainder have still to be dealt with.

The Arab language is Semitic in origin, very rich in synonyms, and difficult to learn in its classic form. As a diplomatic language it is most expressive. Arabic literature is well worthy of study, but a very extensive knowledge of the language is necessary.

Mohammedanism, with some exceptions—*e.g.*, Jews, Syrian Christians, certain Armenians, Druses, etc.—is the religion of the Arab-speaking peoples. The popular conception of Mohammedanism scarcely does it full justice. The Mohammedans themselves are largely responsible for this, as their lapse from religious ideals has contributed to these misconceptions. The Koran, which is practically Islam embodied, enjoins on believers all the virtues generally described as "Christian." It lays great stress on sobriety; in fact, all intoxicating liquors and drugs are unlawful; gambling is forbidden. Mohammedan law is much better than its reputation allows; it also has been "let down" by its administrators. The status of women as defined by the Koran is not satisfactory, but improvement in this respect has begun, though progress is too slow. Divorce is easier of accomplishment and more generally practised than in most parts of the world. Public opinion is inclined to improve this state of affairs, though, again, improvement is too slow. The veiling of women was not an ordinance of the Prophet, but crept in later as an abuse. The practice, however, does not prevail except among townspeople of some standing, hence it is the exception, not the rule.

The present-day characteristics of Arabs in Arabia proper (and this will be found to be applicable to other Arab countries) must be considered under individual headings, namely, the city Arab and the country Arab, the latter comprising tribesmen and Bedouin. The city Arabs, again, must be sub-divided into educated and labouring classes.

"Education" in Arabia formerly indicated those well versed in the Koran, but latterly a class has arisen whose education embraces a much larger sphere. Egypt and India have been the sources of this development. Among the educated class, which is chiefly comprised of merchants, traders, and enlightened sheikhs, European ideals are rapidly gaining ground. It is among this class, also, that the ideal of a second pan-Arabic Empire has gripped the Arab imagination. Any practical movement in that direction is, however, probably far distant, save among the Hejaz supporters.

The labouring classes of cities are very depressed, and have few or no ideas beyond their personal affairs. The tribesmen and Bedouin are very different. They are formed into tribes and tribal confederations and live a very self-contained existence. Their politics are tribal, religious, and local. "Weltpolitik" does not concern them. All able-bodied men are armed with rifle and dagger. Blood feuds and tribal wars are carried on to-day with undiminished enthusiasm. Casualties are, however, usually slight, and a certain type of chivalry is not unknown. It has been said that fights have been broken off owing to one side complaining that their ammunition was finished, which is certainly very magnanimous on the part of the side better supplied. Travelling in tribal areas can be arranged through the local sheikhs on payment of sums of money in proportion to the size of the party.

The political leaders are the tribal sheikhs and Seyyids (*i.e.*, descendants of the family of the Prophet). They are well versed in diplomacy and are born intriguers. Tribal taxes are paid to the sheikhs, who appropriate for their own use the major portion, though a distribution among relations and supporters takes place in order to consolidate their positions. It is a melancholy fact that Arabs are extremely avaricious.

The people of Arabia follow pastoral, agricultural, and trading pursuits. Camels, horses, sheep, goats, and cattle are plentiful. Millet (the staple food of the country), maize, coffee, and dates are largely grown. The Arab trader is enterprising and prosperous. The labouring population is hardy and industrious.

The Peace Conference will find deciding the fates of the Arab countries no simple problem; but a favourable factor in the situation is the now almost universal desire of the Arab peoples for peace and stable government. The King of the Hejaz' claims have never been made public, but it is probable that he has hopes of obtaining considerable territorial acquisitions. Government under the Hejaz will probably not be beneficial to the peoples governed unless, to begin with, it is conducted under constant European supervision. The Hejaz, for many years to come, will not be able to produce administrators capable of ruling, and politically honest enough to rule large districts. The Oriental ruling defects, such as favouritism, avarice, distrust of progress, and fanaticism, will be painfully in evidence. The present state of development of Arab peoples does not promise to produce better administrators than were the rule under the Turkish Empire.

If the King of the Hejaz and other would-be governing Arab bodies could be content for the present with a share of the taxation only, and meanwhile European experts could be given time to formulate some system of government suitable to the districts concerned, and which would guard against the Oriental administrator exercising his national proclivities towards despotism—then, and only then, can it be hoped that the natural and desirable spectacle of Arab countries governed by Arabs, prospering and progressing as their great natural resources demand, may be presented to the approving eyes of civilisation.

The British Consul at Novorossisk has telegraphed that ten days' quarantine has been imposed on all ships arriving from Constantinople, Smyrna, Salonika, and Egypt, owing to plague at those places, and that Russian merchant vessels are forbidden to proceed to Constantinople. A further telegram sates that four cases of bubonic plague have occurred at Athens, and four cases at Piræus within a fortnight.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Middle East (International Mission). Nov. 10.

Mr. A. HERBERT asked the Prime Minister whether the International Mission appointed by the Peace Conference at Paris, including the names of Sir Henry McMahon and Commander Hogarth, would proceed to the Middle East?

Mr. HARMSWORTH: I understand that the proposal to dispatch an International Commission has been abandoned. The American delegates have, however, made a separate tour on the instructions of their own Government, and have, I believe, reported to the latter.

Montenegro.

Mr. R. M'NEILL asked the Prime Minister whether he proposed to lay upon the table of the House the report of Count de Salis on the treatment of Montenegro by the Serbians.

Mr. BONAR LAW: In a matter of this kind the Government must act in concert with our Allies, and in view of the situation in that part of the world it would be undesirable that the report should be published at present. For the same reason I do not think it desirable to have a discussion in the House.

Mr. R. M'NEILL: Is the right hon. gentleman aware that for more than two years past some of us have been putting questions on this subject to the Government, and have refrained from pressing them because they were told that it was not in the national interest during the war? Is that state of things to continue indefinitely after the war, and are the country and the House not to know even the facts as they exist in South-East Europe.

Mr. BONAR LAW: Certainly, it would be very wrong that the state of things to which the hon. member refers should continue, but it is not a matter that we can decide by ourselves. It was considered in Paris, and there it was unanimously agreed that it would hinder negotiations.

Assistance to Persia.

Mr. HARMSWORTH informed Lieutenant-Commander KENWORTHY that British and Indian troops were required in Persia in order to protect her frontiers from external invasion and to secure internal tranquillity. Neither of these menaces had as yet altogether disappeared, but the House might rest assured that the troops would be withdrawn as soon as it was found possible. The date at which Persia would be able to look after her own interests would depend upon the degree of rapidity with which the provisions of the recently concluded agreement were put into effective operation, and on neither side was there the least desire for delay.

Colonel YATE asked who were the officers appointed to form the joint commission of military experts to estimate the needs of Persia under the terms of the recent agreement.

Mr. HARMSWORTH: The names of the officers in question are Major-General W. E. Dickson, Colonel Moens, General Huddleston, Lieutenant-Colonel Fraser, Major J. B. Steele, Brevet Colonel J. W. Lamont, Acting Lieutenant-Colonel Irvine Fortescue. General Dickson has spent much time in Persia, and has a proficient knowledge of the language. All have been selected in consultation with the Persian Government, who attached much greater importance to general attainments than to previous service in Persia.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

RUSSIA: British Troops, Batoum. MESOPOTAMIA EXPEDITION (TROOPS DETAINED IN INDIA). CAPTAIN SIR DERRICK J. WERNHER (COURT-MARTIAL). ROYAL AIR FORCE: Persia. DEMOBILISATION (SALONIKA). DEMOBILISATION: Troops in the East. NURSING SERVICES, MESOPOTAMIA (PAY). INDIA: Indian Services General Provident Fund. (November 4.)

INDIA: Army Pay (Egyptian Expeditionary Force).—3rd Bedford Regiment (Exposure to Sun).—Nursing Service.—Civil Service (Nomination of Indians).—Railway and Harbour Schemes.—Telegraph Department.—Punjab (Relief Services).—Military Accounts Department. BURMA (CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS). DISORDERS IN EGYPT. ASIA MINOR. SUEZ CANAL COMPANY. AFGHAN FORCES (NORTH-WEST FRONTIER). TROOPS IN INDIA. (VOLUNTEERS). INDIA: Afghan Campaign (Allegations).—Married Officers (Moving Expenses).—Vernacular Press, Burma. (November 5.)

SMYRNA LANDING COMMISSION. DEMOBILISATION. Troops from India (Marseilles). INDIA: Government Appointments (War Service).—Transports (Indulgence Passengers).—Army Order 325, 1919 (Departmental Warrant Officers).—Indian Officers (Travelling Privileges). (November 6.)

EGYPT (HIGH COMMISSIONER). BRITISH TROOPS, BATOUM. GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BILL (JOINT COMMITTEE'S REPORT AND EVIDENCE). (November 10.)

In the Court of Appeal on November 10 leave was granted to the ex-King Ferdinand of Bulgaria to appeal against judgments by Mr. Justice Eve and Mr. Justice Lawrence affecting certain property of which the Crown took possession at the beginning of the war.

In the Near East.

Absolutely Without Food.

Our Agents assure us that in the battle areas of Asia Minor the retreating Turkish armies have destroyed the Armenian village homes and burned their crops—leaving the country absolutely without food. The greatest distress prevails—many of the poor Refugees have even been stripped of their clothes and left naked to die.

Their Ghastly Sufferings.

Thousands of adults and children have not tasted any normal food for weeks, but have existed on roots and leaves and dandelions. The olive-green colour of their skin and deep sunken eyes testify to their ghastly sufferings.

Shall We Remain Inactive?

That these poor people—mad with hunger—have in many cases eaten the flesh from the bodies of their dead comrades needs no further proof than the Reports which have reached us from our own representatives in Armenia.

Shall we remain inactive whilst these people die? We have not known what starvation means in England, so let us gladly give what we can to help these unhappy people.

For the Honour of England

send help to save the remnant of the Armenian Nation. £20,000 is needed this Autumn to continue our work at Adana, at Ismid, and at Erivan.

Subscriptions and Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Col. Gregory, V.D.

ARMENIAN REFUGEES (Lord Mayor's) FUND

96, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The topic of the moment in financial circles is the prospect of a further increase in the bank rate to 7 per cent. The indications point to the fact that the 6 per cent. rate merely checked speculation for the moment, so that unless the banks unite among themselves to curtail financial facilities the higher rate would appear to be inevitable.

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Our Belgrade Correspondent briefly reports what he rightly terms "a commercial event of considerable importance" in the imposition of a "stiff" tax on exports from Yugoslavia. I shall await with interest further information regarding this surprising step. No very precise particulars are available as regards the position of Yugoslavia in respect of food supplies, and it may well have been taken with a view to restricting exports for a period. That is really the only feasible explanation, for it is inconceivable that the authorities should have been capable of such a short-sighted policy as would be entailed in an attempt to raise revenue by a tax on exports.

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The notable articles on "Britain in Mesopotamia" in *The Times*, in which the writer seeks to show that the addition to British responsibilities of the administration of Mesopotamia would be to the advantage neither of the inhabitants nor of ourselves, raise an important issue. The writer's arguments may be right or may be wrong—personally, I have little doubt that many of them must be subject to revision—but the most he would seem to have achieved is to establish a case for inquiry, to prevent the launching of wild-cat schemes. It is essential now to be certain of the position. What the writer has to say will no doubt have surprised many good people who have hitherto been under the impression that everything favoured the continuance of our occupation of the country. Under the writer's critical examination, however, the pleasant vista vanishes, and in place of a land with a friendly and welcoming people, and with unlimited resources, we are shown a country where we are not desired, and with resources much more doubtful and difficult to develop than is believed.

***

That is, in brief, the summary of the case for the opposition, and as I have already said, I believe that inquiry will prove that it is subject to very considerable modification. On one aspect, at any rate, it should not be difficult to arrive at a correct view of the position, and that is in regard to the country's potential resources. During the war, much notable work was accomplished in the development of the country, and large crops were raised. But during a war it is possible to undertake projects that would be out of the question at another period, and particularly at one like the present, when economy is the first thought of almost every country. The question is to what extent further development can be undertaken at a cost commensurate with the results. The writer, who revives the very plausible theory of "salted" lands to explain the position in Mesopotamia, is very dubious regarding the prospects for irrigation, while he lays stress on the points that the grain yield compared with the seed rate is astonishingly small, and that there must be for many years a great shortage of labour. Leaving other questions aside, I will only say that, assuming him to be right on the question of irrigation, it might still be possible to solve the problem by undertaking limited irrigation projects.

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A very timely reference was made by Sir Auckland Geddes in a speech at Liverpool last week to the need for enterprise on the part of British manufacturers. One of the hindrances to the development of the export trade, he pointed out, was the fact that manufacturers said that they were doing so well in home markets that they need not bother about exports, "because home markets were soaking up at any price all they could produce." It cannot be too strongly urged that nothing could be more fatal than to neglect foreign markets merely because the market at home is at the moment in a position to absorb unlimited supplies of commodities. I believe that the fear of giving foreign competitors an opening in the home market is partly responsible for this attitude, but there is no danger on this account, for this market can be regained at any time without difficulty; the real danger is that the opportunity presented to British firms abroad, and especially in the Near Eastern markets, will not be taken advantage of now, for the opening will not be likely to recur.

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An interesting account of a curious project brought forward by a Norwegian civil engineer for the establishment of power-stations in Palestine appeared recently in a Norwegian trade contemporary. The engineer's idea is to utilise the level variations between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea by constructing a tunnel 37 miles in length from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea, passing under Jerusalem. Water would be carried by the tunnel from the Mediterranean to the western slopes of the lower end of the Jordan, and there it would flow through pipes down to the level of the Dead Sea where there would be a plant to produce electricity from the water power for the distribution of electric light and power throughout the country, and for other purposes. It is estimated that the cost of a double tunnel mainly without masonry and with a maximum area of 135 square feet would be about £8,000,000. Of course, to this would have to be added the cost of the power plant and other enterprises, such as salt works, which form part of the scheme. It would, in short, be an exceedingly expensive undertaking, and for that reason alone, even if the enterprise is practicable, which is very far from being clear, I think it extremely unlikely that it has much chance of adoption. Apart from anything else, there are so many things that must be done in Palestine in the way of the construction of ports and communications, that projects such as this cannot fail to appear at the moment as somewhat superfluous.

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The South Indian Railway Company's report shows that during the past year there was a further increase in the gross receipts, the figures being £2,375,700, or £18,000 more than the previous year. This was more than counterbalanced, however, by the increase in working expenses, due in part to the increased cost of fuel, but mainly because of the rise in salaries and wages, and with the expenditure amounting to £1,068,700, or £57,800 more than for 1917-18, the net earnings of £1,307,000 show a decrease of £39,800. The share of the surplus profits falling to the company was less by Rs. 33,500 than a year ago, but as against this the transfer of the amount to this country was made at an exchange rate of 1s. 7 31-32d. per rupee, as compared with 1s. 5 31-32d., with the result that the total realised in sterling showed an increase of £3,600 at £59,600.

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Owing to the conditions brought about by the war, works of construction have been restricted on this line, in common with all other Indian railways; and while pointing out that a satisfactory balance is shown by the surplus profits account, the directors draw attention to the fact that the profits of the company during the war period have been increased by this cause, and state that it will be necessary to make provision in the future for the arrears of work that have been allowed to accumulate. But, despite this factor, the position of the company is sufficiently satisfactory to enable the declaration of an increased final dividend of 3 per cent., as against 2 per cent. last year, making the distribution for the year, with the guaranteed interest, 7¾ per cent., as against 6¾ per cent.

COMMENTATOR.

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GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,74[illegible],300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 295,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The MINERALS of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,800,000 from Germany and Austria Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 23·12 Drachmæ to £1.

FREIGHT.—From England, 160/- + 10 % primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ⅓ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

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Conditions in Persia.—III.

Germany and the Persian Gulf.

Below will be found the continuation of Mr. C. A. Walpole's lecture on "War and Post-War Developments in the Persian Gulf," the previous instalments of which were given in the issues of THE NEAR EAST of October 31 and November 7.

This paper would scarcely be complete, Mr. Walpole added, were he not to touch on one of the most important questions of the day in regard to Mesopotamia and Arabistan, namely that of dredging the Shatt-el-Arab Bar. This bar, which commenced at Fao, and which is some seven miles in extent, was a severe thorn in the side of all shipping entering the ports of Busreh, Mohammerah and Abadan. No vessel whose draft exceeded 18 ft. 6 ins. could at all times with certainty negotiate the bar, with the consequence that practically every ocean-going vessel, both inward and outward, required to be lightered, a most expensive, slow and sometimes dangerous business.

As matters stood at present, it was no exaggeration to say that a 6 8000-ton cargo ship was delayed anything up to ten days, or roughly one-third of the time it would take for such a ship to perform the entire journey from Busreh to a United Kingdom port, if no bar existed. This, they would readily understand, during the war, when tonnage was so scarce, was a most important matter to the British; nor to-day, with acute competition for trade supremacy among the nations of the world, could it be regarded in a much lesser light. He would not weary them with statistics and figures, but would only say that, calculating on the number of ships loaded and discharged during the war at Abadan, the time saved, had no bar existed, would have been equivalent in the case of cargo boats to about 15 per cent., and in the case of oil tank steamers, to 9 per cent. of the total shipping which had to be employed. As regards the difficulties in the way of dredging, this question has been very thoroughly gone into by more than one expert, and the work has been pronounced as likely to be neither unduly costly nor lengthy. The bottom was soft, there were apparently no rocks, the current of the river was swift, and the tendency of the banks suitable for training.

German Penetration.

He now dealt with a subject which he knew would be of the greatest interest to all of them, whether their interests vis-a-vis Persia were of a political or of a commercial nature. He referred to the position of Germany in the Persian Gulf prior to the war. Prior to 1900 German interests were scarcely, if at all represented in the Persian Gulf. Early in that year a certain Robert Wönckhaus, a Hamburg merchant of no particular status, and with little if any capital, opened a business in Lingah; he appeared to prosper exceedingly, and some five years later the firm of Wönckhaus and Co., were represented in most of the more important Gulf ports, including Busreh, Mohammerah, Bushire and Bahrein. They traded in all kinds of goods, both import and export, and were employed as agents of the Hamburg-Amerika line. At first, very few of this line's ships visited the Gulf, only about one every five or six weeks in 1909, but these gradually increased, till in 1913, their ships were calling on an average of once a fortnight. That they were heavily subsidised by the German Government was pretty certain, though latterly, at any rate, he should not think any subsidy was necessary, as their outward freight (from Europe) was assured, in that they had obtained the contract to carry out the material required for the laying of the Baghdad railway line northward from Baghdad; and as regards return freight, favoured by their irregular methods of dealing and by good harvests they were able to fill their ships with grain for Hamburg.

Enterprising but Unscrupulous.

Their methods were enterprising as well as unscrupulous; they seemed always ready to buy grain, even when the advice received by British firms indicated falling prices at home; but this may be explained by the fact that the Germans were none too "particular" in their dealings with the Persian Customs. There was an export duty on cereals from Persia of 7 per cent., and this the Germans were experts at "dodging." On a large bulk-shipment of grain this was not difficult, as the amount declared by the shipper was difficult to check; it could, in fact, only be checked by the draught of the steamer, which method the Persian Customs authorities found it difficult to carry out. The matter was brought to the notice of the British Chamber of Commerce in Mohammerah, figures of the declared quantities of shipments made by the Germans were obtained, and it was decided to write to the British Consul at Hamburg requesting him to endeavour to procure the out-turn figures at the latter port; war, however, broke out about that time, and the matter dropped.

Though their German competitors had these two big advantages over the British—namely, a subsidy and evasion of Customs duties, or at least a large portion thereof, there was no denying that they owed some of their success to their enterprise and industriousness as well as to the unscrupulousness of their methods. The representatives of Messrs. Wönckhaus were, one and all, from the partner in charge down to the most junior assistant, extremely keen; they all seemed to know their business thoroughly, and, more important still, they made a careful study of the native, not only from the commercial point of view, but also from the social. All spoke the language fluently, and they would go out of their way to meet and to entertain the more influential local merchants and others. In these respects, though not in the others to which he had referred, the British trader might copy the German to advantage. The object of this was amply demonstrated, after the outbreak of war, when Messrs. Wönckhaus' staff, led by the notorious Wassmuss, exchanged the commercial for the political cloak, scattering over Southern Persia, and spreading anti-British propaganda with such success and with the gravest possible injury to Persia. Apropos of Wassmuss, he would like to mention a story which was little known, and which further illustrated the well-known characteristics of the German race, both high and low. Some two years prior to the Armistice, Wassmuss was taken and held captive at Kazvin; he was treated with the greatest consideration, and was allowed some freedom on giving his parole, but German-like—he broke his parole almost as soon as it was given.

Outlook for British Enterprise.

In concluding, he would give them his personal views on the prospects of British enterprise in Southern Persia. With Russian influence removed (the Persian "man in the street" never could understand why the British, whose characteristics are so widely different from those of the Russian, should associate themselves with the latter, whom they (the Persians) most cordially disliked), and with the disappearance of dishonest German competition, there was, in his opinion, in Persia an exceptionally fine field for British trade. Heretofore, even with her resources little known, her abominably bad communications, her lack of establishment of law and order, trading with Persia had developed, and now that these deficiencies were about to be remedied by means of the understanding arrived at under the new British-Persian agreement, a period of great development for Persia and mutual prosperity might be anticipated. The personal relations between the Englishman and the Persian had always been most friendly; at least, that had always been his own experience. Their business methods were straight, and their friendships were sincere; the working classes were loyal and honest (he might say that during his entire stay in the Persian Gulf he had had the same Persian servant, and never wished for a better one), and there was plenty of evidence to show that they were quick to appreciate and adopt modern methods. They had trained quite a number as engineers, riveters, motor drivers, and also, on the clerical side, as book-keepers and cashiers. He saw no reason why the Persians should not in due course become fully as competent in all these respects as Europeans.

The estimated traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended October 25 amounted to £9,417.

At a court of directors of the Royal Exchange Assurance held in November, Sir Robert Walker, Bt., was appointed a local director attached to the Hull branch.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended October 30 were:—Cattle markets, £730; general markets, £592; total, £1,322; total for year, £47,208. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918 ended October 31 were:—Cattle markets, £788; general markets, £520; total, £1,308; total for year, £43,214.

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The Cawnpore Woollen Mills.

Model Village for Employees.

Very little is known in Great Britain of the position of the industrial centres in India, and recent symptoms of unrest may have given the impression that conditions are unsatisfactory.

In congested areas they may be open to improvement, but it is not so of life elsewhere, and notably in the Cawnpore Woollen Mills, one of the oldest factories in India. From a small blanket factory it has, under the able and far-seeing management of Sir Alexander McRobert, grown to be one of the largest woollen and worsted factories in the world, and it has not only been eminently successful in a business sense, but the welfare of the workers has ever been kept in the foreground, and nothing has been left undone that could in any way conduce to that end. Most important among the schemes for the benefit of the worker is the model village which was begun in 1902, at a time when it may be pointed out that the provision of houses for workers even in England was somewhat of an innovation.

Housing Plan.

In the housing scheme referred to, in all 946 houses have been provided already on an area of 39 acres. In the main the courtyard plan has been adopted, and back-to-back erections are rigidly excluded in order to secure satisfactory ventilation. The courtyards are paved with stone flags, and each measures 108 ft. by 45 ft. There is a standpost in the centre with municipal water laid on. Twenty-four houses are built round each courtyard, on to which they open. The courtyard, being paved, can be readily flushed clean, and a tree is planted so as to give shade over and round about the standpost. A drain along the edge of the verandahs runs round the courtyard. The floors of the rooms and the verandahs are of concrete finished with cement. The masonry is all pucca, i.e., of first-class bricks and lime mortar, while the roofs are of red Allahabad tiles, carried on steel purlins and rafters, and in case of need can be stripped off in a few minutes to let in the sun. There is nothing combustible in the construction, and the outlay for repairs is inconsiderable. The rooms are mostly 12 ft. by 10 ft. each, with a verandah 6 ft. by 10 ft., which the tenants often convert into another room by erecting partitions of matting, etc. For ventilation there are honeycomb spaces in the walls, but the tenants usually plug up these openings. Fortunately currents of air can readily pass through the tiled roof, and the atmosphere is always reasonably sweet. Rows of trees are planted between the blocks and on both sides of all the roadways. There are two hospitals, one apart being used as a segregation ward for infectious diseases. The other hospital block consists of two wards, an operation room, and a dispensary on one side of a paved enclosed courtyard and doctor's quarters on the other.

One central block is reserved for shops, which are run by the Lalimli Co-operative Society, Limited, an institution managed by a committee of the workers themselves, and which also performs the functions of a Co-operative Credit Bank with considerable acceptance and satisfactory results financially. The shares can be held by workers only, and shareholders alone are entitled to purchase at the society's shops and to obtain loans. The annual dividend has been steadily 10 per cent., after allocating a fair proportion of the profit to the reserve. Recently a butcher's shop has been built at the request of the community on a convenient site within the settlement, with wire gauze fitments for protecting the meat from flies.

Types of Houses.

The houses are of four different types, and the rent varies from eight annas per month to Rs.15 per month. The cheapest house is the most popular. Very few of the workers will take a 12-anna house if an 8-anna one is available, although the former has a private courtyard at the back, which is usually a strong attraction. A house with roof of double tiles, two rooms 12 ft. by 12 ft., verandah 6 ft. by 24 ft., and private courtyard 24 ft. by 11 ft., with cookhouse, is preferred by Indian Christians, who are charged a rent of Rs.2.8.0 to Rs.4.8.0, according to their pay, the rule being that no one pays more than 10 per cent. of his wages for house rent. The Rs.15 houses are occupied by higher paid Indian Christians, whose standard of comfort approaches that of the European. The accommodation is four rooms, 14 ft. by 10 ft., a verandah 7 ft. by 21 ft., and a courtyard 24 ft. by 21 ft., equipped with cookhouse. Some of them have also a stable and a coach-house, for which luxuries Rs.5 per month extra is charged. The tendency is for caste fellows to group themselves together in blocks. Much care is taken to prevent overcrowding, and all the better houses have ground for gardens. Most of these are well cultivated, both flowers and vegetables being raised. Some of the tenants have planted fruit trees as well. The gardens are quite a feature of the Indian Christian quarters. Gardeners are employed by the company to attend to the trees and shrubs of the settlement, and they maintain a miniature nursery for trees, etc.

The Village "Panchayats."

The company has a small force of its own chaprassis to keep order in the village, as it considers it eminently undesirable to invoke the aid of the police except as a last resort. Each group of five blocks elects five of the residents (one from each block) to constitute a panchayat for dealing with disputes and offences not of a gravely serious character arising in the group. A court of appeal designed to handle cases the panchayats fail to settle is made up by drawing one member from each panchayat; but so far no case has been taken to appeal. The panchayats are called upon to give judgment in about twelve cases a year on the average. The system appears to work well, for the settlement is singularly free from disturbance. The fines imposed by the panchayats and recovered are accumulating in a fund to be used for the benefit of the village generally. The company also makes itself responsible for the conservancy of the village area.

The first blocks—about 300 houses—were ready in 1902, but only eight of the houses were occupied up to the end of that year. The offer of the houses made the workers suspicious of an attempt to get at them in some way, and this prejudice was only broken down by slow degrees. By December, 1903, the number had risen to 69, and thereafter the demand steadily increased until in December 1904, the figure was 240. Now 946 houses are fully occupied, with nearly 200 on the waiting list. Application is being made to the municipality for more land for the construction of 300 additional houses. It was the first severe epidemic of plague in Cawnpore that put the seal on the success of the housing scheme. This drove the workers from the bazaar to the village as a sanctuary. Many returned to the city when plague subsided, and the firm learned to discourage this tendency in subsequent years. It is believed that the workers do appreciate the features of the houses provided, although they have never said so in so many words. There are no earthern floors, and the courtyards can be swept and flushed without trouble, so that the whole environment is sanitary. This is exemplified in the comparatively low death-rate—the mortality figures for the past three years being :—

	Average Population.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
1915	2,670	81	30·33
1916	3,174	68	21·42
1917	3,369	87	25·82

The highest figure in previous years was 32.62 and the lowest 18.72. It may be noted that the death-rate in Cawnpore municipal area as a whole was 35.97 in 1916—an unusually healthy year. It is a remarkable fact that no case of plague has ever originated in the village. There have been a few plague cases, but in every instance they have been found to be imported.

A word may be added as to the financial aspect of the housing scheme. It has no attractions as an investment, but it is thought to have indirect advantages. Its tendency will be to raise the standard of comfort among the employees, and thereby make them more valuable as workers. Instinctively they will try to live up to their improved environment, and they may be expected to produce better work and more of it. (Leaving out of account depreciation, which is estimated at Rs. 8,000 per year, the return is less than half of 1 per cent. on the outlay after paying land rent, taxes, repairs, watching, and conservancy.)

Schools.

At the very outset, a primary school was established for the village children. It is entirely free. There are no fees, and books, etc., are provided. Everything has been done to induce the workers to allow their children to attend the school, but it has never been possible to get on the roll more than about sixty (with average daily attendance of 50) out of

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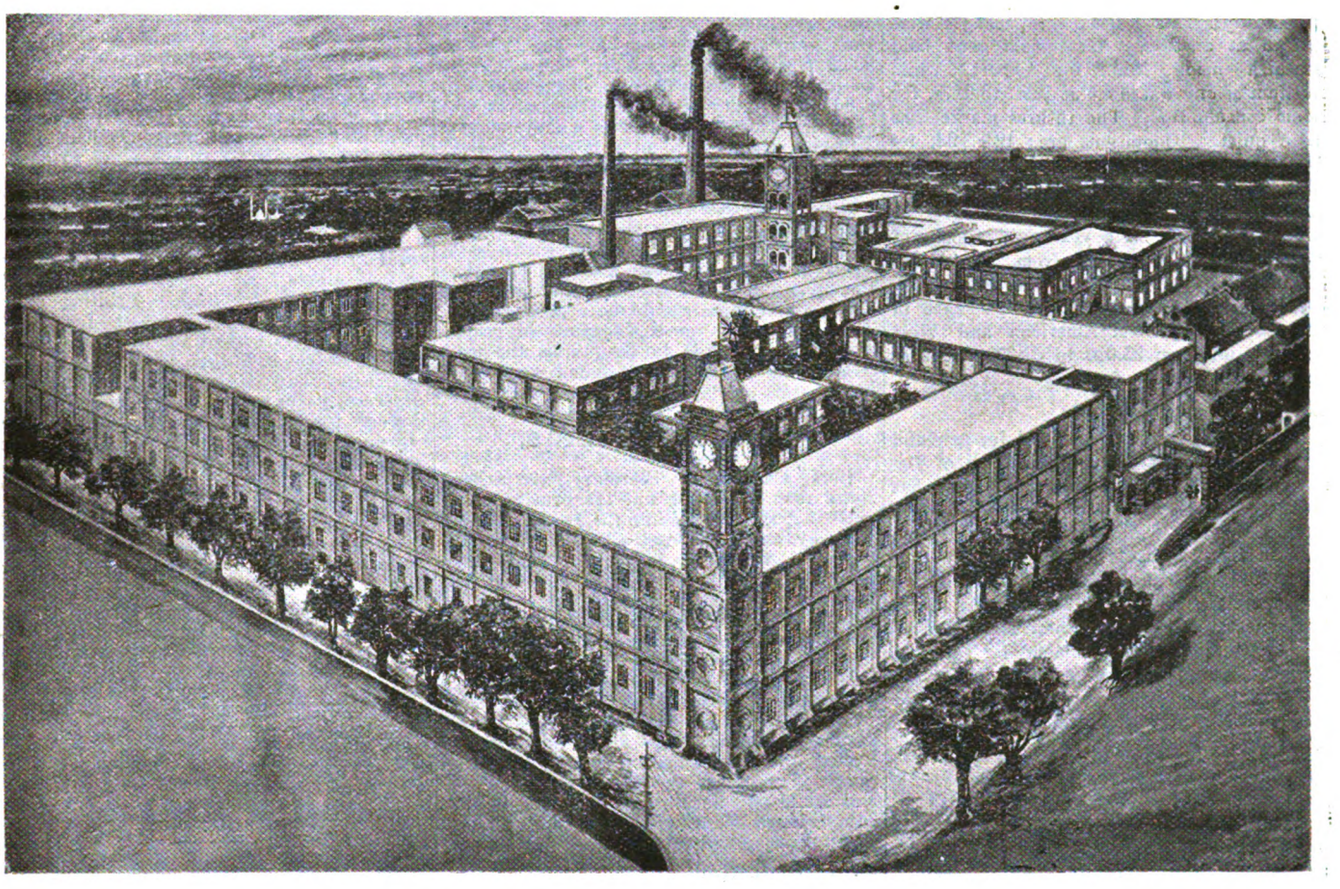
say, 135 boys between six years and fourteen years, residing in the village. The usual excuses for not sending boys to school are that they are required to mind the baby and help their mother generally, and that a boy who goes to school is more likely to die than one who is kept at home. Every year five or six of the senior boys proceed to higher-grade schools where English is taught. There are 97 girls of school-going age—six to fourteen years—in the village, and 32 of them are on the roll of a school—the rooms and current outlay provided by the company—run by the ladies of one of the local missions. The subjects taught are Hindi, Urdu, arithmetic (simple addition and subtraction), and needlework. The average daily attendance is 25. This girls' school is very promising, and a kindergarten section is now being organised and equipped. If a qualified teacher were available, the firm would be glad to introduce the kindergarten system in the boys' school, too, so as to interest the younger children, a development that has always been desired.



The Cawnpore Woollen Mills.

Provident Funds.

Regularity of attendance of workers is all important. It has been found that on the whole the residents in the village are less irregular in their attendance than those who live elsewhere. The difference is not great, but it is noticeable. Regularity of attendance is made the supreme test of merit, and the scheme of rewards is based upon it. Any worker who has not been once absent without leave during the year, nor over a certain number of days—depending on length of service—absent with leave, is qualified to participate in the annual bonus distribution. Those so qualified are then classed in three groups, according to their departmental record. Those placed in the first class receive three months' pay, those in the second class two months' pay, and those in the third class one month's pay. They receive half the bonus in cash up to a limit of Rs.50. The balance is credited to them in a superannuation fund account, which is paid to them when they leave the service. They don't like any part of the bonus to be withheld, and at first a number of the workers refused to have anything to do with the pass-books showing how their superannuation account stood. Now they appear to be more satisfied that the amount is there all right, and that it is safe. Interest on these balances is paid at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and credited half yearly. In 1917, 445 workers—rather less than 10 per cent. of the number on the attendance registers—qualified for good attendance bonus and Rs.18,138 were distributed among them. All fines and forfeited wages are credited to a fund which is used for making grants to workers who retire on account of health or old age, and to the families of such as die in the service of the company leaving a record of meritorious service. A compassionate allowance is usually made when the circumstances seem to warrant it, even when the deceased worker had no claim on the ground of length of service.

Such is the scheme as it applies to workers drawing less than Rs.50 per month. Those drawing Rs.50 per month and over, and who are members of the Provident Fund, receive the good attendance bonus wholly in cash. In 1917, Rs.20,820 were distributed among 122 of such employees. If members of the Provident Fund—and they are practically all members—they contribute one anna per rupee of their salary monthly, and the company does the same, adding interest on both amounts at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. In recent years the company has doubled its contributions to the Provident Fund so that in effect the employees have been compelled to save 18¾ per cent. of their pay in addition to any bonus they may have received, and many of them have now large sums at their credit in Provident Fund account. These sums are paid to them when they leave the service, or to their heirs if they die in the service.

The members of the superior establishment are rewarded for good work under a bonus scheme which, under present conditions, may almost double their pay, and they have the privilege of membership of the Provident Fund as well.

Co-operative Society.

The function of the Lalimli Co-operative Society has already been indicated. Its operations have been distinctly beneficent. It is managed by a committee of the workers themselves. It has largely freed the workers from the Bania. Any member can get a loan on easy terms for such purposes as the marriage of a daughter, on producing two approved guarantors, and the price of bazaar supplies is effectively controlled. The workers are paid fortnightly, so that they are able to make most of their purchases on a cash basis.

A suitable piece of ground is laid out for games, and cricket, football, and hockey are played regularly. Year after year the Lalimli team—as it is called from the name of the trade mark of the company—has carried off the challenge trophy competed for by all the games clubs in Cawnpore. The European members of the staff play in all the games along with the Indians, so that a healthy *esprit de corps* is maintained, and an atmosphere of camaraderie is created. The football field is also the school playground for drill, as well as for games.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.

There are a few shipments of currants on their way to this country. In another column will be found references in the House of Commons to the retail price of this commodity. It is interesting to note that the cultivation of currants is being taken up seriously in Australia. That there is an opening in this direction is admitted.

Sultanas.

There has been a distribution to the trade. Supplies available here are small, and the position in the principal producing centres is not such as to encourage an optimistic view of the position.

Coffee.

There has been a fair demand, and prices are steady. This week 3,927 packages were offered at auction. Guatemala good bold greenish made 151s. for export, while medium colony was done at 126s. to 127s. for home consumption. The futures market has been quiet. Quotations are: 124s. 9d. for December, 121s. 6d. for March, 117s. 3d. for May, 115s. 9d. for July, and 114s. for September. Stocks total 354,000 packages, or roughly the same as a year ago. Stocks of Brazilian have decreased from 205,000 to 107,000 packages, but there has been an increase from 127,000 to 165,000 packages in the stocks of Central American and West Indian, and from 23,000 to 82,000 packages from other sources of supply.

Sugar.

There is an increased demand for raw and refined as a result of the Restriction of Delivery Order. The retail price of sugar has been advanced by one penny per lb., it being pointed out that while the beet sugar production in Europe has fallen by 4,200,000 tons since 1914, the cane sugar production of the world has risen by only 1,800,000 tons. It is further stated that in America prohibition has led to an increased demand for sugar in various forms, and that in this country the high price of sugar has not led to decreased consumption, and that these factors make the position more acute.

Oilseeds.

Linseed is very firm, and Indian has been done at 44s., while La Plata crop is quoted 36s. 6d. for January shipment. Rapeseed is firm, but there has been little doing. There are large supplies on the way. Toria has come to business at 40s., and is quoted 39s. January-April. The market in Egyptian cottonseed has been stronger, and transactions have been effected at 22s. 6d., f.a.q.

Oil Cakes, etc.

There has not been much doing in oilcakes, buyers holding aloof from fresh commitments. Linseed cake has been done at 25s., while transactions have taken place in rapeseed cake at 18s., cottonseed cake at 18s. to 19s., Soya bean cake at 25s., and palm-kernel cake at 16s. Linseed oil is firm at 91s. spot and for future delivery. Rapeseed oil is steady at 100s. to 105s., while cotton oil is firm with Egyptian refined at from 97s. to 105s.

CYPRUS CROPS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Late market fluctuations have been most disappointing to Cypriot producers. The price of locust beans (carobs), which had reached 35s. the kantar, has dropped suddenly to 25s. for unknown reasons. The last outgoing cargo fetched 30s. (October 18). During the war carobs were requisitioned and prices controlled. They are now free as regards price, but can only be exported to the United Kingdom or Egypt, a restriction which is much resented, especially as the demand from England is said to be very limited. Wine-producing villages are doing exceedingly well. "Black" wine is sold at from £4 to £5 the load. A "load" in Cyprus is the quantity carried by two mules or two asses—viz., 128 okes (or 16 kouzas). This would work out at present at about 2s. 6d. a gallon for the bulk of the better class of "black wine," or, roughly, 5d. a bottle for wine which not long ago cost about 1d. a bottle. Raki, the spirit from grapes after pressing for wine, sells at 20-22 piastres the oke, a very large increase on pre-war prices. Thrifty villagers have a good opportunity of shaking themselves free of their burdensome debts to moneylenders.

There is a scarcity of potatoes. Cultivation has been very disappointing, in view of the efforts of the Agricultural Department, which holds that there should be a very lucrative market for early Cyprus potatoes, both locally and abroad. At present in lands irrigated by the mountain torrents, now that the rainy season has set in, farmers are busy sowing, and there should be a good supply. There have been good shipments of grapes and autumn fruits to Egypt by the mail steamers, and these have found very good prices.

TRADE OF CHIOS.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Athens states that before the war the principal proportion of the imports into the Island of Chios came by way of Trieste, either from the interior of Austria or in transit from other countries. The port of Chios was well frequented by European vessels, chiefly Austrian, Italian, Greek, and Russian, with an occasional German caller. The articles imported included sugar, flour, coffee, rice, nutmeg, pepper, seed potatoes, ironwork, glass and glassware, furniture, machinery, white metal, steel, nails, enamelled goods, tanning material, dry and salted skins, alcohol, beer, matches, porcelain, silk and pins. Roumania, the Black Sea districts, and Syria, sent flour, grain, semolina, barley, oats, brooms, and livestock: and Russia, sugar, flour, salted fish, caviare, and alcohol.

Chief Products.

Almonds, mainly exported to India, though also to France, Egypt, the Black Sea, etc., are the leading product of Chios, the annual harvest yielding about 1,300 tons. The harvest of gum mastic amounts to 500 tons per annum, exported chiefly to Germany, Austria, Italy, and Turkey, and latterly to America. Of the annual yield of 600 cases of tangerines, Russia formerly took two-thirds and Roumania, Turkey, and Austria the bulk of the remainder. The yearly production of 100,000 cases of oranges were taken mostly by Russia and Turkey. The 3,800 tons of olive oil produced each year went to Egypt, Turkey, Roumania, and Italy. The Black Sea countries and Syria took the annual production of olives, some 800 tons. Turkey, Bulgaria, Syria, and the rest of Greece, absorbed 3,200 tons tanned hides produced each year. The cultivation of tobacco is a more recent undertaking. Its development promises well, and last year some 800 tons were produced.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market has been a difficult one for buyers to operate in during the past week. Inquiry in all quarters has again been of large dimensions, and the quotations of producers of yarn and cloth have again gone against buyers. The feature of interest in connection with the Egyptian crop has been the estimate of the yield by the Alexandria General Produce Association, the figure of 6,000,000 kantars confirming previous private forecasts. The total last year was 4,821,000 kantars. The plants are said to be making good progress. The industrial situation in Alexandria is causing some uneasiness, but latest advices indicate that the position is improving. Values in American cotton in Liverpool and New York have again appreciated, although fluctuations have been met with. Weather advices from the Belt have again been disappointing. An extensive business has been done in piece goods for Egypt and the Near East generally, in both grey staples and miscellaneous fabrics. Fine yarns made from Egyptian cotton have been purchased freely, but buyers have had to give extended delivery as spinners are so deeply engaged. Prices have been advanced stiffly. A healthy turnover has transpired in cloth for India, the volume of trade showing a broadening tendency. For China further substantial contracts have been booked in various makes, and the Straits Settlements have booked useful lines. Printing cloths have been in steady request for South America, and in home trade descriptions substantial orders have been placed. Some very fair sales have been arranged in home American yarns; and a big inquiry has come through for export numbers, a large portion of which has found its way on to the order books.

SMYRNA FRUIT CROPS.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Constantinople reports that the crop of figs this year in the Smyrna vilayet is considered very poor, and that as a result of the large number of pickers who left the district owing to military operations it is probable that the yield will not exceed 9,000 tons. The crop of raisins is expected to be 60 per cent. of normal, and of cereals 40 to 70 per cent. less than in 1914.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 25:—

We have to report a very active market with an advance of 4d. per lb. all round. The sales in all amount to 98 cases, all of which have been bought for export to the States and Japan. The Exchange keeps steady, as reported last week, viz., Ps.340 per pound sterling, and 1.25 dollars per Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 830 cases, against 20 last year at same date.

The Greek Minister in London has notified the Foreign Office that the Greek Government has decided to prohibit the importation into Greece, until October 3, 1920, of sulphur and copper sulphate. This decision has been taken on account of the stocks existing in Greece largely exceeding the needs of the country.

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Engineering.

Competition in India.

The strenuous efforts of the American and Japanese engineer manufacturers to capture during the war as much as possible of the British machinery trade in India have often been emphasised in these columns. There is no doubt that they had considerable success, and the advice of the British Trade Commissioner is that the British manufacturer must bring his costs of production to a competitive level, maintain his unexcelled quality, and take a much more active interest in the distribution of his products than hitherto. Industrial expansion in India undoubtedly offers increased opportunities to British machinery manufacturers.

Indian Tractor Trials.

A competitive trial of motor-tractors and motor-ploughs will take place on the Nagpur Farm, C.P., India, early next January, about the time of the meeting of the Science Congress. Medals and prizes of the value of 2,000 rupees will be given to the successful competitors; the points to be taken into account by the judges being the construction of the machine, the nature and quantity of the work done, and the suitability for Indian conditions.

Machinery for Morocco.

A large estate owner in Morocco has given to an agricultural engineering contemporary his views of the kind of cultivating machine required in that large expanse of territory lying to the south of the Atlas Mountains, where the clayey soil is baked in the dry and hot summer to the consistency of bricks, and it is nevertheless necessary to till to a depth of 18 in. for the vines that are largely grown in that region. This subject has at various times been dealt with in these columns, and we were glad to see that the views of this estate owner verified the views and suggestions expressed here. At present the work in that region can only be done with infinite labour by the natives with implements that pick the soil or by steam ploughing, but the latter is rarely employed on account of the difficulty of getting the machines there and of procuring sufficient supplies of water. In the opinion of this agriculturist the mechanical method of cultivation should resemble as much as possible the manual system of breaking up the soil with pointed implements, and a most suitable machine would be a modification of the type of rotary mechanism, although it would have to be of very robust construction. Another difficulty lies in the scarcity of fuel and water, but an abundance of charcoal is available, and the solution therefore appears to lie in a machine obtaining its energy from a charcoal gas producer.

Palestine.

It is evident that the Zionist Organisation is pursuing right, and very practical, lines since, in its praiseworthy efforts to assist in the development of the natural resources of Palestine it has established a trade bureau department in London to act as intermediary between the prospective Palestine buyer of British and other European manufactured goods, and the possible European purchasers of the products of Palestine. It is stated that the efforts of the Zionist Organisation will be primarily and extensively directed to the colonisation of Palestine as soon as the exigencies of the military and domestic situation permit. It is calculated that for some time there will be about 30,000 emigrants to Palestine every year, chiefly from Eastern Europe, and that the bulk of these will undertake agriculture as a means of livelihood. The Zionist Organisation, therefore, will try to bring to the notice of British makers of agricultural machinery and implements the great agricultural possibilities and the relative requirements of the country. It is admitted that at present the position cannot be clearly defined, but it is expected that ultimately Palestine will furnish an exceedingly big market for the agricultural engineer, and, conversely, be a large supplier of certain foodstuffs to Britain and Europe generally. The natural resources of the country are very rich, and cultivation will be of an intensive character, with the most up-to-date machinery used. A probable development will be the harnessing of the River Jordan for the generating of electric power. It is asserted that this historic waterway lends itself admirably to such a scheme, and that it has many waterfalls capable of producing hundreds of thousands of horse-power of electric energy.

Electric Lighting Installations.

Many people imagine that electricity generated by a small independent plant is necessarily very expensive and unreliable. This is quite a mistaken notion, as by the introduction of the internal-combustion engine the cost of generating electricity is comparatively so small that a complete lighting installation may now be considered a sound investment rather than an expensive fad. In addition to providing light, electricity can, of course, be utilised for cooking and heating, for charging accumulators for motor-cars, or for light power work, such as pumping water, driving a lathe, ventilating fans in the houses, or light machines in barns, etc. The approximate cost of an electric light installation, with 50 to 100 16 candle-power lights, comprising engine, dynamo, tanks, pipes, shunt, regulator, accumulators, switchboard, and accumulator stands, may be from £80 to £200. Almost any existing out-house, stable, or barn that is weather-tight can be adapted to serve as an engine-room, and can be partitioned off for the accommodation of accumulators. The only foundation to be provided is a concrete base for the engine and dynamo. The engines can be made to work with either petrol or paraffin, but for reasons of economy and convenience to users in the East we would strongly recommend paraffin as a fuel. The oil consumption may be taken at three-quarters to one pint per brake horse-power. Roumanian, Russian, or Baku oil is better than American for the purpose. To charge the accumulators the engine would run on an average four to six hours a week (according to consumption of light), which would require about fifteen minutes' attention at starting, and, while running, one or two visits to see that all is in order.

Feed-Water Heaters.

If there is an accessory of the steam engine known to steam users in the East more than any other, it is the feed-water heater. They know its value, since the high price of coal often discourages the use of steam as a motive power in those regions. Therefore, this or any other device that conduces to economy in coal consumption is of great interest to them, as well as to would-be buyers of steam engines. There is a variety of feed-water heaters on the market, but the majority of those supplied with the engines, or those that are sold by various engineering stores in the East, though quite efficient, are of more or less complicated design, and, handled as a rule by unskilful mechanics, are soon put out of use, and condemned by them as "no good." Of course, the ignorance of the mechanic is more often responsible for such results than any inefficiency in the apparatus. Therefore, a feed-water heater, simple in design, easily handled and repaired, should accompany engines, and especially traction and portable engines, that are destined for the East. Such a feed-water heater attracted our attention in a recent show. It consisted of a stout rectangular cast-iron body or frame, mounted on a cast-iron base, shaped to suit the boiler barrel to which it was attached. The upper end is closed by a domed cap, fitted with a relief valve. A battery of tubes passing up into the body is expanded into a tube plate, which is inserted between the base and the body. The exhaust steam entering one side of the base passes through the tubes and emerges at the other side, the feed-water meanwhile circulating within the body around the tubes externally. The water is pumped in cold, and comes out at the same temperature as the exhaust steam; thus an economy of fuel is effected, which is estimated at from 20 to 25 per cent.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The directors of the Dunlop Rubber Company announce that the issue of the report and accounts for the past year will be unavoidably delayed, and that, in consequence, they have declared a second interim dividend on the ordinary shares of 3s. per share, free of income-tax, payable on December 1.

The directors of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company recommend a final dividend of 15s. per cent. and a bonus of £1 10s. per cent., making a total distribution of £8 (8 per cent.), less tax, in respect of the year ended March 31.

The directors of the India General Navigation and Railway Company have declared interim dividends of 2½ per cent. on the preference shares and 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, free of income-tax, payable on November 28.

The transfer books of the Aboukir Co., Ltd., will be closed from November 25 to December 1, both days inclusive, for the preparation of interim dividend of 3 per cent., payable on December 1, less income tax at 6s. in the £. Coupon No. 16 should be lodged at 134 and 135, Palmerston House, Bishopsgate, E.C.2, three clear days for examination, and will be received on or after November 18.

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Subscribed Capital	-	*£T. 4,000,000*
Paid-up Capital	-	*£T. 2,000,000*
Reserve Fund	-	*£T. 140,000*

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Codes used—Scott's (1905) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.

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Codes Used:
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OLYMPIA.

London's First Post-War Motor Show.

(By a Near Eastern Visitor.)

If the exuberance of the daily Press, the uncomfortable packing of the most populated metropolis in the world, and the yet more uncomfortable packing of a famous exhibition-house furnish a verdict, then the first Olympia Motor Show since 1913 may be accepted as the most successful in the history of the horseless carriage. No attempt will be made here at a technical description of the exhibition—that will be done elsewhere and continuously in The Near East—but merely at an appreciation of the industrial and social effort as it appeals to an Englishman temporarily resident in the capital of the Empire. The story is one of praise and blame, and the blame may as well come first.

Olympia is much too small for the extraordinary industrial effort here exhibited and for the enthusiasm of a people victorious in the Great War. Apart from the exhibits, at most periods of the morning, afternoon, and evening, there has been "standing room." Buyers and mere sightseers have been hard put to it to attain their object. Admirably organised and staged as the exhibition is, Olympia has proved itself much too small for the day and the endeavour. Three weeks ago no one would have ventured to foretell this fact, but an every-day visit shows that three times the floor-space would have proved inadequate for this post-war British motor-industry boom.

One pities mostly the manufacturer and his sales artists. Want of space must be anathema to the one, and crush to the other. It would seem almost certain that different arrangements must be made for the motor show of 1920. All records of public attendance have apparently been broken this year, one testy old visitor declaring epigrammatically that "it is a queue to get in, a queue to get about, and a queue to get out."

On the other hand, although called upon to exhibit the sweat of the factory and the lathe, Olympia conveys the impression of a jeweller's showcase. The effect is amber and white; the electric lights suggest a fairy tale; precision, luxury, enthusiasm, and economy—and over all a very pleasing modesty—make this a characteristic London show. The ground hall, with its lengthy avenues, is reserved for motor-cars, chassis, tyre-exhibits, and the coach-builder; the four-sided gallery for the manufacturers of every accessory for car and driver, even to the suggestions of the motorist's tailor. The present week, it should be said, is the Owner-Drivers' Show; the motor-cycle and the other motor world come into their own at Olympia later in the month. There are 354 stands, more than one hundred of these exhibiting cars, and among them several representative American, French, and Italian cars, the German article being conspicuous by its absence.

Luxury, perhaps, is the first impression afforded by a cursory view of most of the complete cars—luxury in chassis and body design and in upholstery and colour-scheme. Prices range from under £200 to upwards of £2,500, but cars above £1,000 seem to predominate.

And the public! That can be fittingly described as a British post-war motor public. Khaki has shed its universality, but a physiognomical study in the mass answers the question why we won the war. Three faces out of four are fighting faces—your motorist develops that aggressive countenance and casual athletic poise—and the great majority of the visiting public impresses one as experienced and bent on business. And there is but one verdict as to this latter point; the business being transacted at this sumptuous show is unprecedented.

DRIED FRUITS.

Distribution and Price.

In the House of Commons on November 6 Mr. Raper asked the Food Controller whether, seeing that under normal trade conditions dried fruits of the new crop commenced arriving here early in September and were distributed to the trade during that month and early in October, he was aware that in the present year, under the control, not a single package of Government fruits had yet reached the retailer?

Mr. Roberts: Under normal trade conditions the new crop of dried fruits does not reach this country in any appreciable quantity before the end of September. Owing to climatic and labour conditions in the countries of origin, it was impossible for the shipment of the new crop to be begun this season until the end of September, and the bulk of the dried fruits purchased did not, therefore, reach this country until the middle of October. Delivery has been further delayed by difficulties of discharge and transport at the docks, but the dried fruits will reach the retailers' shops during the present week. No delay has been occasioned by the fact that importation has been carried out on Government account.

Mr. Raper asked the Food Controller whether he was aware that when the Government announced their intention to re-impose control of dried fruits early in August the Greek market for new season's currants for autumn delivery was such that the new currants could be landed in this country at a net duty-paid price of from 80s. to 85s. per cwt.; whether the Ministry purchased as cheaply as 71s. per cwt., and, on the average, at not more than 84s.; and, in this event, why the Ministry's net price to the retailer had been fixed as high as 107s. 6d. per cwt. delivered, and the price to the public at 1s. 2d. per lb.?

Mr. Roberts: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, it is estimated that the lowest net duty-paid price paid by my Department for Greek currants landed in this country will amount to approximately 74s. per cwt., and that the average price will be 83s. 8d. per cwt., provided that the estimates of landing charges and other expenses are not exceeded. The price of 107s. 6d. per cwt. to the retailer was fixed after careful investigation by the Costings Department of the Ministry, and covers expenses of distribution, which include brokerage, primary and secondary wholesalers' margins of profits, draft and carriage. A further allowance is made for the cost of cleaning the currants before they reach the consumer. The retailer's margin of profit on the maximum price of 1s. 2d. per lb. is not more than 2d. per lb., and I do not think that, in all circumstances, this figure is an excessive one.

Mr. Raper: Is he aware of the fact that the onus and cost of cleaning the currants, according to the regulations of his Department, are put upon the wholesaler and not on the retailer, that all the costs to which he refers for primary and secondary brokerage charges amount to only 11s. per cwt., and that this will show over 12 per cent. profit to his Department; furthermore, that the cost to the Department is 9d. per lb, and to the public 1s. 2d. per lb., or equal to more than 50 per cent. profit?

Mr. Roberts: An allowance is made for the purposes of cleaning, whether carried out by wholesalers or others. I am aware that the profit appears to be excessive, but after full investigation by the Department I do not think we can fix the retail price lower. We might possibly, by incurring a loss, have reduced the price by 1d. per lb., but I do not think the retailers would benefit, and a loss would have been incurred by the Department.

Mr. Raper: Do they require a margin of over 50 per cent. to handle goods before the public receive them?

Mr. Roberts: I am afraid that this occurs. I can only say that my Costings Department is a very efficient body, and I have to be largely guided by what they tell me in this matter.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta dated November 5:—

Weather dry everywhere except in Southern India.

During week ending Saturday, October 25, preparations and sowings spring crops continued. Harvesting autumn crops continued. Transplanting winter rice crops completed Lower Burma and Southern India. Sowings progressing Madras. Plucking tea continued Assam. Cotton picking continued Bombay, Central Provinces, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Punjab and Upper Burma. General crop conditions good, but rain wanted parts Burma Valley, parts Mysore and parts Bihar and Orissa. Urgently wanted Punjab, where crops suffering drought.

All India second cotton forecast, 18,822,000 acres (last year's corresponding forecast, 15,814,000 acres).

Bombay cotton market irregular. Fully good broach, April-May, Rs.532. Piece-goods market active. Calcutta jute gunny market dull. No change in Bank rate.

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Of all Chemists, 1/3 and 3/-.

Cuts short attacks of HYSTERIA, SPASMS, PALPITATION.
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BULGARIAN IMPORT AND EXPORT RELAXATIONS.

The issue of the Bulgarian *Official Gazette* for October 16 contains further lists of articles which may be imported into or exported from Bulgaria without the previous consent of the Department of Social Insurance having to be obtained. In issuing these lists the Direction of Social Insurance state that in future no more special permits for the importation or exportation of articles not included in the "free" lists will be granted except in very exceptional circumstances or in respect of articles which may be recognised as indispensable for the repair of machinery or industrial installations for the production of articles of prime necessity. The list of articles which, in virtue of the publication referred to above, will be exempt from the requirement of *import* licences, as from November 16, is as follows.

Supplementary List of Articles, the Importation of which into Bulgaria is now permitted without the previous permission of the Direction of Social Insurance :—(1) Seeds and bulbs not specially mentioned in the Bulgarian Customs Tariff (*i.e.*, those classed under No. 86 of the Tariff); (2) hops; (3) seeds of plants used as fodder for animals (clover, lucerne, etc.); (4) soap powders, soda or ash, used for laundry purposes; (5) gum arabic, in powder, granulated or liquefied; (6) petroleum and other mineral oils employed for lighting purposes, crude or refined; (7) heavy oils and residues from refined petroleum or other mineral oils; (8) sodium hydrate (caustic soda), and bicarbonate of soda; (9) petrol, gasolene, benzine; (10) carbide and medicinal dips for cattle; (11) corkwood in blocks or sheets; bottle corks and other cork products; (12) buttons for dresses or for boots or shoes; combs; (13) school slates; (14) bottles, flagons and demijohns, with or without coverings; (15) prepared leathers—box-calf (chrome), kid; (16) india-rubber erasers for school use; (17) plain flannels, without ornamentation, of wool, cotton, linen, hemp, or mixtures (but not of silk); (18) boot laces, excepting those of silk; (19) fabrics of horse-hair or other hair and cotton for dressmaking (dressmakers' linings); (20) cotton fabrics—sateens, zephyrs, calicoes, madapollams, "milino," cotton linings, muslins, "tenzuchs," and "seyashpurs" (only those specified); (21) cotton velvets and plush of all kinds; (22) metal stoppers with cork lining (crown corks); (23) pens (for writing), and sewing needles of all kinds; (24) spare parts of all kinds for agricultural machines and instruments; (25) springs for carriages or carts; (26) all kinds of yeast; (27) waste paper and wood pulp for paper-making.

SHIPPING SERVICES TO MOROCCO.

Complaint is made of the defective communications between Tangier and France, which it is stated places French trade in a position of inferiority, and it is urged that every facility be afforded for the transport of goods between those countries, says a report from the British Agency at Tangier. The first requirement is the improvement of the ports, which is the business of the Protectorate Government. This matter is in hand, though the war naturally affected the progress of the work. The second desideratum is tonnage, and this is the affair of the home Government and of private initiative. An appeal is therefore made to French capital, there being a good opening for vessels to be placed under the Moorish flag. A beginning has already been made, a few vessels being now seen flying that flag, and it is probable that their number will be increased as soon as circumstances admit. These vessels will probably confine their trade to the ports of France, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunis. British trade is not likely to derive any benefit from them, unless it be indirectly by the transhipment of goods. Though there is much room for improvement in the shipping services between Morocco and France, they are very much better than those between Morocco and the United Kingdom.

The British-India liner "Fazilka," 4,152 tons, went ashore off the Nicobar Islands (Indian Ocean) in thick weather, and is reported to be unsalvable. All the 650 passengers have arrived at Penang.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Oriental Gas.

The report of the Oriental Gas Company for the year ended June 30 last states that the gas rental is higher by £884 than the preceding year, while on the other hand the cost of coals, purification and wages is less by £1,946. The amount yielded by the sale of residual products, although not equal to the corresponding return for 1918, the market prices during which period were abnormally high, is fully up to expectations. The item of exchange, £5,580, represents the profit on the company's remittances from Calcutta to London, and is due to the extraordinary rise in the value of silver which raised the exchange value of the rupee from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 8d. on June 30, and ultimately to a figure slightly in excess of 2s. In result, the balance of revenue account carried to credit of profit and loss, after allocating £10,000 to renewals suspense account, is £26,193. The after effects of the war continue in a high degree to affect trade and commerce detrimentally, and the directors have not been able to maintain the requisite material to enable them to carry out all the operations they designed, but the position now promises to become easier. The expenditure upon all operations, whether properly assignable to capital or otherwise, has been defrayed out of revenue. To safeguard the company's position in regard to coal, the directors have entered into a contract for a two years' supply. The directors recommend the payment, on November 20, of a dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent. less income-tax, making 8 per cent., less tax, for the year. Meeting, Finsbury House, Blomfield Street, E.C., November 19, noon.

South Indian Railway.

The report of the South Indian Railway Company for the year ended March 31 last states that the capital expenditure remained practically at a standstill, the only outlay of importance being £22,579 for land required for the Madras Beach station and £3,920 on quarters for the staff at Villupuram. On the other hand, there were further credits to capital amounting to £59,024, received from Government on account of rolling stock supplied by the company for military purposes connected with the war, and also a credit of £9,397 for value of materials from the South Marine Pier, at Dhaneshkodi, which has been dismantled; the net result being a credit to capital works of £13,618. The gross earnings were £2,375,742, working expenses £1,068,726, leaving net earnings £1,307,016. Compared with the previous year there was an increase of £17,964 in gross earnings, an increase of £57,780 in working expenses, and a decrease of £39,816 in net earnings. The increase in working expenses was due partly to the higher cost of fuel, but chiefly to increases in salaries and wages of the subordinate staff, whose position has been improved by permanent as well as temporary additions to their pay, in order to enable them to meet the increased cost of the necessaries of life. Owing to the continued difficulty in obtaining materials required for repairs and renewals, expenditure remained restricted to works necessary for the maintenance of an efficient service. Compared with the previous year, coaching traffic increased by £49,450 and telegraph and sundry receipts by £1,099, but goods decreased by £31,466 and steamboat earnings by £1,119. The differences between the company and the Ceylon Government Railway in regard to the working of the route between India and Ceylon via Dhaneshkodi and Talemanaar still remain unsettled. The matter is now under correspondence between the Board and the Secretary of State for India, with the view of arranging the terms for a reference to arbitration. The company's share of the surplus profits amounted to Rs.7,64,444, from which Indian income-tax was paid, amounting to Rs.47,777, leaving Rs.7,16,666, which was remitted home on May 19, 1919, by telegraphic transfer, at exchange of 1s. 7 31-32d. per rupee, realising £59,629. There is, however, a liability against this for Indian super-tax, the amount of which has not yet been ascertained. The company's share of the surplus profits was Rs.33,460 less than in the previous year, but, owing to the higher exchange value of the rupee, the amount realised was £3,623 more. The balance at credit of surplus profits account on March 31, 1919, was £84,046. Since that date various sums have been received and expended, and the account as at end of October, 1919, stands as follows:—Balance as at March 31, 1919, £84,046; surplus profits for the year 1918-19, £59,629; interest received on investments, £2,306; making the total receipts £145,981. Interim dividend of 1½ per cent., less tax, paid on July 1, 1919, absorbed £9,531, and Indian super-tax, including cost of telegrams, £1,587, leaving a balance to the credit of the surplus profits account as at October 31, 1919, of £134,862. The account is liable to charges for English income-tax and excess profits duty, as well as for Indian super-tax, for which demands have not, however, yet been made. The surplus profits account exhibits a satisfactory balance, but, as pointed out by the Board in previous years, the profits of the railway have, during the war, been enhanced by inability to spend money on necessary capital and revenue works owing to the impossibility of obtaining materials, and provision will require to be made in future years to meet the arrears that have accumulated during the war. During the current year provision has been made for capital expenditure of £726,665, as against a credit of £13,333 in the year 1918-19 and for revenue renewals expenditure amounting to £280,000, as against £33,333 in 1918-19; but, in view of the industrial situation in this country, it is doubtful whether these sums will actually be spent in the time. The results of these operations on the capital and revenue accounts of the undertaking may, of course, have an effect on the surplus profits account. The Board, however, considers that the position warranted the payment of the above interim dividend, and it now recommends a final dividend for the year 1919 be paid from surplus profits on January 1, 1920, of 3 per cent., making, with the guaranteed interest of 1¾ per cent., a total payment for the half-year of 4¾ per cent., less tax. The total distribution for the year will then be 7¾ per cent.—4¼ per cent. from surplus profits and 3½ per cent. from guaranteed interest.

Bengal Iron and Steel.

The directors of the Bengal Iron and Steel Co., Limited, announce that it is in the best interests of the shareholders that the existing company be reconstructed, and for that purpose that its undertaking be sold to a new company, to be called the Bengal Iron Co., Limited, in which the authorised capital would be brought more into line with the value of the assets than is the case in the existing company. It is proposed that the nominal capital of the new company shall be £2,500,000, divided into 750,000 7½ per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, equal to £750,000, and 1,750,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, equal to £1,750,000, and that these shares be allocated as under:—150,000 7½ per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1, to be offered for subscription at par to the holders of preference shares in the existing company, in the proportion of ten new £1 shares for each £10 6 per cent. preference share at present held, any of such shares not so subscribed to be offered for subscription in the same manner as the 350,000 preference shares next hereinafter mentioned. 350,000 7½ per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, to be offered for subscription at par, preference being given to existing shareholders. 500,000 to be issued at once; 250,000 to be held in reserve. To the extent that any existing preference shareholder does not elect to subscribe for the preference shares in the new company to which he is to be entitled to subscribe his capital will be paid out in cash. It is proposed to issue to each holder of the 262,350 ordinary shares of £1 each in the existing company five fully-paid ordinary shares in the new company in respect of each ordinary share in the existing company held by such holder, together with the right to subscribe for one ordinary share of £1 in the new company at par. This will absorb 1,574,100 shares, leaving for future issue 175,900 shares. In the event of the scheme going through, the debenture stock of the present company will become repayable at 102 plus interest accrued in date of repayment. The date of repayment will probably be December 31, 1919. A meeting has been called for November 18 to consider the proposal.

Assam-Bengal Railway.

The report of the Assam-Bengal Railway Company for the year ended March 31 states that the gross receipts, including the Mymensingh Bhairal Bazar Railway, amounted to Rs.86,91,986, and the working expenses to Rs.66,26,670, the ratio of working expenses to receipts being 76.24, compared with a ratio of 74.22 in the previous year. The usual half-yearly dividends at the guaranteed rate of 3 per cent. per annum were paid on January 1 and July 1, 1919. Lieutenant-Colonel G. Huddleston, the managing director, has been deputed to proceed to India again in connection with several important questions now under consideration. Meeting, 80, Bishopsgate, E.C., November 18, 12 p.m.

SERBIAN EXCHANGE.

Owing to the continual fluctuation and systematic depreciation in the value of the crown in its country of origin, and the abundance of crowns in the Triune Kingdom, where the dinar is the legal currency, says a Reuter message from Belgrade, dated November 11, the Minister of Finance ordains: (1) That in those countries where the dinar is the legal currency crowns may not be exchanged for dinars by State establishments. (2) That the payment of exports to other countries of the Triune Kingdom stipulated to be made in dinars may be effected in crowns, at the rate of exchange periodically fixed by the Minister of Finance. (3) That in cases where the State is obliged to make payment in crowns instead of dinars, payments shall be made at the rate laid down in paragraph 2 of the present order. The present order explains a previous order issued by the Minister of Finance on the currency of dinars and crowns.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put export advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

In Egyptian securities this week the tendency has been distinctly better, and there is a fairly general rise in prices to be recorded, thanks to a big revival in demand from Egypt; but business has been rather restricted by the lack of sellers on this side.

As regards Government securities, there is no change to record in prices, but there have been persistent buyers at the current level, with only very small sellers.

In Bank shares, Nationals have risen 3-16ths to 19 15-16 and Agriculturals 1-16th to 5¾, on Egyptian buying. There has also been a sharp rise of 3-16ths in Agricultural Pref. to 7¼, with a good many unsatisfied buyers. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have been exceptionally dull, and are ⅛ down at 17¾. Land Banks had a sharp move, changing hands in a small way as high as 7 at one time and finishing 5-16ths up at 6⅞.

In Railways there is no change to record.

Amongst Land shares the feature has been the demand from Egypt for Béhéras and Union Foncières. The former have risen ½ to 14½, and the latter ⅛ to 3¾, but there are practically no sellers here round current levels. Aboukirs, on profit-taking, receded at one time to 29s. 6d., but are closing only 9d. lower at 30s. 3d. Consolidated Lands have dropped 3d. to 2s. Delta Lands have been quietly picked up round the current level, and Foreign Trusts have improved 6d. to 14s. New Egyptians, although unchanged, have been quite an active market, and Egypt has also effected some purchases at the current level. There has been a renewal of inquiry for Egyptian account of Sidi Salems, which close 1-16th higher at 2¾, at which price some few hundred shares changed hands, with further unsatisfied buyers. Gharbiehs are also 1-16th firmer at 2¼, but Sudan Plantations, which entirely depend on local buying and selling, have receded 3-16ths to 8.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters have recovered ¼ to 11½, but Salts and Sodas have been under constant pressure, and, although a fairly substantial business has been done, the shares close 1-16th lower at 2 29-32. Khedivial Mails are unchanged, but there are practically no transactions owing to the lack of buyers.

Amongst the Oils, Anglo-Egyptian B, after improving to 5 11-16, receded at one time to-day to 5¼, and are closing at 5 5-16, a decline of 5-32nds. Roumanians have dropped 1s. to 23s. 9d., but, on the other hand, Traians have improved 1s., to 11s. 6d.

In Greek securities the 1881, 1884, and 1890 loans have recovered 1½ to 64. Monopolies have risen half a point to 56, and Funding one point to 63. The 1902 loan is also half a point firmer at 62½. On the other hand, the 1914 Loan has been pressed for sale for Continental account, owing to the depreciation in exchange, and closes 2½ down at 69. Some small transactions have taken place in "Currant" bonds at 94. Bank of Athens shares were done in a small way round the current price of £3.

BRITISH COMMERCIAL COMMISSIONER FOR BULGARIA.

It is announced that Captain W. B. Heard has been appointed Commercial Commissioner for Bulgaria.

Captain W. B. Heard joined the Levant Consular Service in 1900, and served in a Vice-Consular capacity at Sofia from 1909 to October, 1914. He was then promoted Consul, and after service at Port Said, was appointed Intelligence Officer of 29th Brigade, Central European Expeditionary Force. He was wounded, and after a period in England was appointed Consul at Serres. Later he was employed by the Enemy Propaganda Department, and subsequently in 1919 was sent on a special mission to Bulgaria, on which country he furnished a report. Captain Heard is proceeding to Sofia very shortly.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields: Gemsah production for week to November 9, nil (nil); Hurgada, 5,987 tons (5,925).

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

London Stock Exchange.	Price Nov. 5	Price Nov. 12
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	50	55
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	76	76
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	76¾xd	76¾xd
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	63¼	63¼
Greek 5%, 1881	62½	64
Do. 5%, 1884	62½	64
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	55⅝	56
Do. 4% Rents, 1889	52⅛	52⅛
Do. 5% 1890	62½	64
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	62	63
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	62	62½
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	56	56
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	71½	69
Do. 5% Currant	94	94
Montenegro 5% Loan	70½	70½
Persia 5% 1911	82	82
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	63	63
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	74	74
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	66	66
Do. 4% Unified	49	49
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅛	5⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	7¼
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17⅞	17⅞
Bank of Abyssinia	37/6	37/6
Bank of Athens	60/-	60/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	8	8
British Trade Corporation	10¼	10¼
Imperial Ottoman Bank	9⅜	10⅛
Imperial Bank of Persia	10⅜	10⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	6½	6½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅜	6⅜
London County and Westminster	16½	16½
National Bank of Egypt	19¾	19⅛
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6½	6½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	12¼	12½
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	65½	64
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	61½	61½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66xd	66xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	31/-	30/3
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	14	14½
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4⅜
Egyptian Consol 5/- (3/11 paid)	2/3	2/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	13/3	13/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	13/6	14/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅜	2¼
New Egyptian Co.	23/-	23/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅜	2¼
Sudan Plantations	8⅛	8
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	3⅜	3¾
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	11¾	11¾
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	1⅛
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	2⅜	2⅜
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5½	5½
Do. Do. Prefs.	3¾	3¾
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	99	99
Chinese 4½% 1898	73	70½
Do. 5% 1896	86	82⅜
Argentine 5% 1890	86½	82⅜
Do. 5% 1907	85½	85½
OIL.		
Anglo-Egyptian B	5⅛	5⅛
Anglo-Persian	26/6	26/9
Anglo-Roumanian	9/10½	9/-
Roumanian	24/9	23/9
Traian (Roumanian)	10/6	11/6

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Nov. 5	Nov 12
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	63⅜	61¾
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	6	62½
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		83	83
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		73½	73⅝
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		74½xd	74½xd
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		83	84½
Eastern		9⅜	8½
Mercantile of India A		37½	37⅜
National of India		58	58
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		4/-	4/-
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		⅜	⅜
Burma Corp.		13⅞	12⅛
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		15/6	16/-
Champion Reef Gold		4/3	4/-
Mysore Gold Mining		1⅜	1⅜
Nundydroog		17/6	17/-
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		14/6xd	14/-
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		22/6	22/6
Do. do. do.	(2s. 6d.)	24/3	18/1½
OIL.			
Assam Oil		3⅛	2⅞
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		3	2½
Brit. Burmah		2⅜	2⅛
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		19½	18⅜
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.		1⅞	1⅞
Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.		10	10½

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES

Continued—

RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	56	56
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	140½	140½
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	60	60
Bengal-Nagpur	119½	121½
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	108	109
Burma Railways	113	114
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13	13
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	12⅜	12⅜
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	13	13
Madras and S. Mahratta	112	113
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	132½	132½
Nizam's Guaranteed State	76xd	85xd
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	11⅜	11⅜
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	9⅜
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	92½	93
Do. Deferred	680	682
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	72	72
Bengal United Tea Ord.	17⅛	17⅛
British Indian Tea Ord.	9⅞	9½
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17	17
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	12/-	12/9
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	7⅜	7⅜
Consolidated Estates	7⅞	7⅞
Darjeeling Co.	19/9	22/6
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	60/-	60/-
Dooars Tea Ord.	3⅛	4⅛
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	⅜	⅜
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	3¼	3⅜
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	36/-	36/3
Hewagam Rubber Co.	1	1⅛
Jhanzie Tea Association	11¼	11¼
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	22⅛	22⅛
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	1⅜	1⅜
Lanka Plantations Ord.	29/-	30/6
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	57/-	57/-
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	50/-	2 7/16
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	1⅜	1⅜
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	33/9	1 1/16

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Sept. 26. Rs.	Oct. 16. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	68	60
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	292	292
Bank of Bengal	1975	1970
Bank of Bombay	2325	2100
Bank of Madras	1500	1500
Bank of India	172	160
Tata Industrial Bank	85½	73½
COAL.		
Baraboni	19	19
Bengal	935	900
Burrakur	50⅛	55⅛
East Indian	39	39
Equitable	47	47
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	72	71
Standard	68	68
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	250	265
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	1765	2015
Bowreah	385xd	385
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	700	680
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	592½	605
Central India	2760 / 1380	2935 / 1467½
Elgin	125	125
Gold Mohur	1500	1500
Khatau Makanji	4200	5100
Muir	120	120
New Ring	175xd	320
Phœnix	612½	730
Svadeshi	2770	2855
JUTE.		
Alliance	775x	794
Barnagore	220	217½
Budge Budge	729	734
Clive	331	340
Dalhousie	583	582
Delta	715	740
Fort Gloster	1020	1110
Gourepore	1250	1260
Howrah	54	54½
Kamarhatty	1006	1018
Kanknarrah	818	834½
Khardah	515	530
Kinnison	1045	1110
National	460	480
Standard	737	784
Union	880	960
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	100	93½
Bengal Timber Trading	460	500xd
Burn and Co.	350	350
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	226	226½
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	206xd	206xd
Howrah Oil Mills	44	44
India General St'm	180	200
Indian Iron and Steel	110 / 104	110 / 101
Marshall Sons and Co.	18	18½
Titaghur Paper	360	373

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 446.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

On Monday, very nearly two years after it was presented to the Government, the Final Report of the Dardanelles Commission was made available to the public. In some ways it is a disappointing document, leaving us still in doubt in regard to many points on which we should like to be not only enlightened, but aided in forming judgment; and from whatever angle it be regarded it must be admitted that its effect is depressing. To the lay mind it appears that almost every blunder that it was possible to commit was committed in the course of the operations. Neither the War Office nor the Admiralty appears in a favourable light; though, on the whole, the sailors on the spot seem to have formed the clearest idea of what the undertaking involved. The chief blame for failure, however, is in effect awarded to the politicians at home. The Government, for instance, when it was decided to embark on the adventure, did not give "sufficient consideration. . . . to the measures necessary to carry out such an expedition with success"; the difficulties were "much underestimated"; after the failure of the attacks there was undue delay by the Government in deciding on future action; and the operations were hampered by insufficient artillery and munitions.

The Commission holds that the plan of attack from Anzac and Suvla in the beginning of August was open to criticism; that the failure at Anzac was due chiefly to the difficulties of the country and the strength of the enemy; and that the failure to press the attack at Suvla (on August 7 and 8) must be attributed in great measure to a want of determination and competence in the Divisional Commander and one of his Brigadiers. Sir Ian Hamilton's personal gallantry and energy, his determination to win at all costs, and his optimism receive recognition; but the Commission is of opinion that it "would have been well had he examined the situation as disclosed at the first landings in a more critical spirit, impartially weighed the probabilities of success and failure . . . . and submitted to the Secretary of State for War a comprehensive statement of the arguments for and against the continuance of the operations." It is also remarked that Sir Ian appears to have regarded Lord Kitchener as a Commander-in-Chief rather than as a Secretary of State—in which, we may add, he was not singular. Finally, the decision to evacuate is approved. Many of the details of the Report, such as those dealing with the water supply and the medical arrangements, will well repay reading in the original, but lack of space forbids further reference to them here.

The situation in Roumania has not been clarified by the result of the elections. M. Take Jonescu and General Averescu persisted in their refusal to participate in the elections, and this abstention on the part of the Conservative-Democrats and League of the People is said to have reduced the poll by 70 per cent. M. Bratiano's party is reported to have secured a hundred seats, while one hundred and twenty members of the Nationalist, Peasants', and other independent parties were elected. The Conservative group, following the Germanophil, M. Marghiloman, has only five seats. Even if the Liberals should be able to secure a majority in the Chamber, M. Bratiano's position can hardly be regarded as secure enough to warrant the King in entrusting him with the formation of a Cabinet. The new Parliament ought to include representatives of Greater Roumania, and, according to all indications, these, to a man, are likely to swell the opposition to M. Bratiano, if only because they stand for a complete break with political traditions in the old kingdom and a fresh start on an altogether higher standard of politics. It is to be hoped that, whatever steps are taken, there will be no undue delay in straightening out a tangle which has already lasted too long, to the prejudice of Roumania at a time when she needs to be concentrating all her attention and energies on the problem of reconstruction.

A letter from the Serbian Society of Great Britain, which is printed elsewhere in this issue, sets out the two suggestions that have been put forward for the settlement of the Fiume controversy. The Italian frontier as drawn by the Secret Treaty of London (1915) was a thoroughly bad one, if only for the reason that, while leaving Fiume outside Italian territory, it placed part of the railway connecting Fiume with Slovenia under Italian jurisdiction. Such an arrangement, with the best of goodwill prevailing between the Italian and Yugoslav Governments, could not fail to be provocative of constant friction in the everyday relations between the two peoples. The Wilson line gives Italy the railway running down the Istria Peninsula and connecting Trieste and Pola, but leaves the line from St. Peter to Fiume in Yugoslav hands. The latter port the Yugoslavs are prepared to see made a Free State under the League of Nations—a solution which, however simple it may seem on paper, may well prove more difficult in practice. A municipal administration will have to be formed, and, with Yugo-

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slavs and Italians more or less equally balanced, the Council might comprise equal representation for the two nationalities under a neutral chairman. The chief crux will be the police force, which ought preferably to be homogeneous; but if it is to consist of Italians and Yugoslavs, the officers ought to belong to a third nationality.

Whatever may be the effect on the League of Nations of a refusal on the part of the United States to join it, there can be no doubt that their delay in coming to a decision on the subject of a mandate has added enormously to the difficulties of the Allies in dealing with Turkey. To this delay may be attributed to a large extent the increasing truculence shown by the Turks. The mere fact that the Allies could have no policy in regard to Turkey has emboldened the adherents of the Committee of Union and Progress to play for their own hand, with the result that Mustapha Kemal is now in a position to cause infinite trouble, if he decides to ignore the terms of the Turkish settlement. Unless steps are taken at once to reinforce the Allied troops in Asia Minor, the outlook for the handful of British troops there is precarious, and the doom of further thousands and tens of thousands of Armenians is sealed. The republic of Erivan has so far been able to hold its own against the Tartars: but any substantial accession of strength to the latter will probably enable them to put the whole country to the sword, and to massacre the Armenian refugees, who, to the estimated number of 200,000, are waiting there for an opportunity to return to their homes at Erzerum, Van, Kharput, and elsewhere.

The American attitude towards the question is, that as British troops had already been sent to Asia Minor, it was a simple thing to keep them there until a final settlement could be agreed upon. That may be so; but Great Britain cannot be blamed for supposing that behind the embarrassing idealism of the American President lay, if not altruism, at least a resolve to practise a modicum of what had been preached from the housetops. The crushing financial burden imposed on Great Britain by the war compelled the British Government to reduce at once its heavy military expenditure, and it was thought that a definite announcement that British troops would have to be withdrawn by a certain date would bestir the United States to throw themselves into the breach. They have not done so, contenting themselves with an undertaking to victual Armenia till next August; but the British garrison has been considerably reduced, and we are now confronted with the prospect of Turkish regulars or irregulars being left to their own devices, with the inevitable massacre of a population that has remained faithful to the Entente throughout the worst experiences of the war.

Speaking in the House of Commons on Tuesday, for the first time since his return from Paris, Mr. Balfour made a statement of the highest importance regarding Egypt and our relations with that country. After referring to what Egypt, like most other countries, suffered, directly or indirectly, in consequence of the war, and to the rumours and strange legends current in the East regarding the Government's policy, he continued:—"Let me say, very shortly, that in our view the questions of Egypt, the Sudan, and the Canal, form one organic and indissoluble whole, and neither in Egypt, nor in the Sudan, nor in connection with the Canal does England mean to give up any of her responsibilities. British supremacy exists; British supremacy is going to be maintained; and let nobody either in Egypt or out of Egypt make any mistake upon that cardinal principle of his Majesty's Government." The cheers with which these statements were received showed that the House still appreciates plain speaking on the rare occasions that it is fortunate enough to hear it; and that it is not likely yet to be led away by the handful of faddists who mistake licence for liberty, and are incapable of realising that the "gift of the gab" does not necessarily imply that its possessor is fit to govern himself—to say nothing of others.

Mr. Balfour very properly went on to say that "we desire in every way to associate the Egyptian native population with the government of the country," but he uttered a warning against indulging in "unrealisable expectations" which, if they were fulfilled, would damage the Egyptians even more than they would damage this country and the world. He concluded by assuring the Egyptians that, unlike their former masters, the Turks—"who," he remarked, parenthetically, "in Egypt at this moment still affect to be pro-Egyptian"—we shall pursue the policy that has made Egypt such a different place from what it was under Turkish rule. It is unfortunate that the memory of those days of sheer oppression appears to have faded utterly out of Egypt, and that all that many Egyptians know, or care to know, about the Turks, is that they are, or profess to be, good Moslems. The spread of education may effect a change in the outlook of the Fellah, but just now he is in no mood to grasp the truth. In Egypt Mr. Balfour's declaration will be received with little satisfaction, but almost certainly it will exercise a beneficial effect. The leaders of the Nationalists and Zaghlulites are quite shrewd enough to know that such a man would not make use of such words without first weighing them: and if they are capable of thinking out what course of action their use implies, they may yet find it advisable at least to moderate their demands.

Three other topics upon which Mr. Balfour touched were: the future of Turkey, the situation in Syria, and the Arabs; and it is refreshing to find them all handled with the firm grasp of a statesman instead of being shuffled round and evaded as they have been for so long in Parliament. As to Turkey, he admitted frankly that the state of unrest now prevailing in the Ottoman Empire is doing infinite harm and making it more difficult to solve the problem of the country's future; but he also made it quite clear again that the delay is due to America's delay in making up her mind as to her policy towards Turkey. He declared, however, that the Turkish people, who have had a great past, are not going to be wiped off the map by any conference in Paris, in London, or even in Washington. And he was not afraid to suggest that it might be advisable to apply the principle of self-determination to the Turks, as to other peoples. But what the boundaries of the future Turkish Empire will be, he confessed he was unable to say.

The question of Syria, Mr. Balfour said, has not yet been settled, and he wisely declined to commit himself to any prophecy about it. But he performed a useful service in stating categorically that there is not, and never has been, any truth in the reports which have been set about to the effect that Great Britain, being in military occupation of Syria, means—or meant—to remain the dominant power in that country. So far as England and France are concerned, there is no rivalry and can be no rivalry regarding Syria. It will be interesting to note whether this frank and explicit statement will put an end to the rumours referred to.

The Arabs who learn what Mr. Balfour said of them should be gratified. They had, he said, shown themselves faithful, brave, and efficient, and had lately, for the first time in centuries, played a great part in a great movement, with the result that the prestige of the Arab race has greatly risen. But the most significant part of his remarks in this connection was that in which he declared that he has every hope that we shall see a resuscitation of the great Arab civilisation. That is a bold thing to say, but for the sake of the world, no less than for the sake of the Arabs themselves, it is to be hoped that the future will justify the speaker's faith. The Arab civilisation was very different from the European, but it had many virtues of its own, and if it can be coaxed into renewed growth, on natural lines, the world at large will undoubtedly be the gainer thereby.

Some light is shed upon the workings of the Egyptian Extremists' minds by their decision to cele-

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brate as a National Holiday the anniversary of the day on which Zaghlul Pasha first put forward his demand for complete independence for Egypt. To them, it would seem, asking for a thing is synonymous with getting it, or, at any rate, as worthy of admiration as working for it. And these are the people who clamour for independence! Unfortunately, the first celebrations of this new Independence Day (Egyptian variety) did not pass off without violence. Both in Cairo and in Alexandria there were attempted demonstrations, and in both cities the police were attacked by the mob and it was necessary to call out Egyptian troops.

But the most important news from Egypt is that a *communiqué* has been issued from the Residency, announcing that the policy of Great Britain in Egypt is to preserve the autonomy of that country under British protection and to develop the system of self-government under an Egyptian ruler. The establishment of a constitutional system in which, under British guidance, the Sultan, his Ministers, and the elected representatives of the people may in an increasing degree co-operate in the management of Egyptian affairs is also mentioned. The *communiqué* concludes by declaring that the Milner Commission is to work out the details of the Constitution and to propose a scheme of government, which can afterwards be put into force. The first effect of the announcement appears to have been to bring about the resignation of the Cabinet. Such action was not altogether unforeseen. It is to be hoped that reflection may bring wiser counsels to the Ministers and responsible Egyptians, if not to the Mob.

Prince Alexander of Serbia has issued an appeal to the British nation to come to the help at this time of the Serbian people. There can be no doubt as to the need for such assistance. Earlier in the year the disastrous mistake—for which the blame must be shared by the Paris Conference and the Serbian authorities—was made of not proceeding drastically with demobilization in order that every available man should devote all his energies to the task of rehabilitating the devastated country. In place of this policy the great bulk of the Serbian troops were kept on a war footing, operating in the Banat, or in Montenegro, or watching the Italian frontier. Serbia was entitled to say to the Peace Conference that she had done her share in the war, and that she must leave her foreign relations in the hands of the Allied Powers while she set about her more pressing domestic concerns. In this way the country might have been ploughed and sown, and the outlook for the winter would have been happier. That Serbian interests would have been adequately safeguarded is proved by the experience of Fiume and the Banat.

Royal Exchange

ASSURANCE. A.D. 1720.

Policies issued to cover loss incidental to FIRE, LIFE, SEA, ACCIDENT, MOTOR-CAR, PLATE GLASS, TRUSTEE and EXECUTOR, ANNUITIES, BURGLARY, FIDELITY GUARANTEES, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY, THIRD PARTY, at lowest possible premiums.

REPRESENTATIVES:

INDIA: 1 & 2, Old Court House Corner, Calcutta. H. L. Bell, Gen. Man.
EGYPT—CAIRO: Everard Stokes, Gen. Man. Egyptian Branch.
ALEXANDRIA: Agents—Societe Generale de Pressage et de Depots.
CONSTANTINOPLE: Messrs. J. W. Whittall & Co., Ltd.
SMYRNA: Messrs. C. Whittall & Co.
CYPRUS (LIMASSOL): AGENT—NAJEM HOURY.

Head Office: ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON, E.C.3.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Parliament and Russia.

The Government's Russian policy has now been announced, but there is, of course, no certainty that it will not be reversed in a fortnight's time. There is to be no further aid to the various factions, and we shall no longer fight Bolshevism in its own house. On the contrary, a respectable Labour representative is being sent to Stockholm to interview the notorious Litvinoff on the subject of prisoners; and those who believe that the conversations will be entirely confined to prisoners, as is suggested in the official announcement on the subject, are probably rather unsophisticated folk.

The Prime Minister's statement on Monday night satisfied none of the parties. Sir Donald Maclean, indeed, "praised with faint damn," but his praise is so like his damn, and both are so like lukewarm water, that nobody can tell the difference. The Labour Party declare themselves anxious to be friends with Bolshevist Russia, which they profess to regard with affection as a democratic republic; but the Labour leaders, who are recruited from the respectable bourgeois class in England, are not really overflowing with enthusiasm for a Government which kills the bourgeois at sight on general principles. Mr. Arthur Henderson, who is a very solemn and portentous individual when he tries to be impressive, does his best to speak to his brief on behalf of Bolshevism; but he cannot forget that they examined his personal luggage and stole his clothes in Petrograd, and that the Bolshevist Press in Russia denounces him day by day as a traitor. The accusation is absurd; Mr. Henderson would never betray anything except his own inadequacy to deal with a big situation.

Most of the Coalition seem furious at the decision to abandon the fight against Bolshevism in Russia, and they are not in the least impressed with the plea that one cannot fight against an idea. After all, we fought successfully enough against the Prussian idea. The Northcliffe papers are also full of denunciations of a Prime Minister "shaking hands with murder"; but the public is not and never has been interested in the Russian adventure. They did not understand the situation in Russia; they doubted, and with some reason, whether the Government understood it; and the mere fact that the whole policy of intervention was inspired by Mr. Winston Churchill, gave many a respectable citizen a cold shudder down his back.

The Return to Isolation.

The argument has been generally advanced that if we abandon Russia, Germany will overrun that country. It is probably true, but it has failed to convince. The reports from Germany do not indicate any real revival of energy a year after the war; despite rumours of the possibility of Monarchist or Spartacist revolutions, general lassitude still seems to prevail, and no definite policy of reconstruction has been decided on. It therefore appears not very likely that Germany will possess the energy to dominate Russia in the near future, although no doubt that will be her ultimate aim. She cannot, indeed, expand in any other direction. The dream that Central Europe was going to control the rest of Europe has vanished altogether, like a professor's nightmare; and the collapse of German sea-power has ended all hope of oversea expansion. She is therefore driven back to the East; but she will hardly have the strength to do much in that direction during the next generation.

As to Russia itself, admittedly our ignorance is appalling. But all the efforts of all the friendship societies and the propaganda organisations which read papers on Russian music and generally dissect the Slavonic soul have fallen flat; for if an Englishman is not naturally interested in a subject, no known form of persuasion will make him listen.

The ordinary Englishman's attitude to Europe may be summed up as follows: He never wants to hear of Russia again, or to see a German again; he is ready to back up

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the Poles, and he has a rather vague idea that although he does not know where Yugoslavs and Czecho-slovaks live, they are generally on the right side of the hedge. But he would rather they did not make too much noise whenever they find it necessary to quarrel. For the rest, he means to keep friends with France, and to develop the British Empire, and those are really the corner-stones of his foreign policy. He is exhorted to grieve because the League of Nations idea is steadily losing support; but he felt towards that institution very much the same as towards the Athanasian Creed—both might be very good things in their way, but they were beyond ordinary comprehension, and had better be left alone.

America and Europe.

The reports from Washington as to American action over the Peace Treaty have therefore not disturbed anybody very much in England; indeed, they have probably done more to arouse a friendly feeling for the United States than all the brotherly speeches by Lord Reading and Lord Bryce at the inevitable Anglo-American dinners. It is undeniable that President Wilson's way of making peace led to a feeling, which was not publicly expressed out of courtesy, that his policy was autocratic and would not work; and we are all relieved to find that Americans appear to feel this even more strongly than we do. We on this side of the Atlantic are so used to the policy of splendid isolation for ourselves that we have always perfectly understood the average American's dislike of intervention outside his own continent.

There is general sympathy for President Wilson in his illness, which appears to have been brought on by his exertions in Paris, and later by his very natural and, in the circumstances, entirely proper desire to recommend his personal policy to his own people; but it cannot honestly be said that there is any general regret at the failure of his policy to secure support. The difficulties seem indeed to have been insuperable. The American public has always been very conservative, especially in foreign affairs, and it has never forgotten Washington's warning against entangling alliances. American books and newspapers recently published show conclusively that the country is faced with grave social and economic difficulties which urgently require attention, and it may be excused for thinking that home problems should come before foreign affairs. It is not selfishness, or lack of vision, which has made the United States jib at President Wilson's novel canons of foreign policy, but a very practical appreciation of the need for cleaning up one's own house before telling a neighbour how to clean his.

It must be confessed that something of the same feeling about the League of Nations exists here. A good number of meetings have been held in support of the idea, and a fair amount of people have attended them, as they naturally would to hear speakers like Lord Grey, Mr. Balfour, and General Smuts, all of whom have addressed audiences on this matter during the year. But the verdict of the ordinary political speaker is that "the thing cuts no ice; you feel you ought to mention it, like education or temperance reform, just to show how much you know; but more than an allusion bores people, and a whole speech on the subject could only be attempted by men with very safe seats."

A Novel Charge.

The Government has sometimes been accused of profiteering, but never so directly, or in such novel form, as at Oxford last week, when a learned economist brought a charge before the local Profiteering Tribunal, in which he accused the Treasury of profiteering on the ground that paper money which could be manufactured for less than a penny was sold to the public at a pound—obviously the most extortionate rate of profit conceivable. The complainant assured the puzzled tribunal that his complaint was to be taken seriously. Quite evidently they were nonplussed at the charge, and they hastily adjourned to consider their course of action.

Labour and Industrial Control.

The most important industrial event that has occurred for many years has passed almost unnoticed by the Press this week. During the last year or so Labour has added to its old claims for shorter hours and higher wages a third and far more novel demand—for a share in the management of the industry. The argument was that while Capital only gave its money, Labour gave its working life to the industry, and had therefore some right to a voice as to the conditions under which the business was carried on. The demand was opposed, and some employers of the die-hard character went so far as to say they would rather close their works than give Labour a voice in the management. But in the last few days the Government has conceded the principle on the railways. It marks a far more definite advance in the status of Labour than any strike could have won.

The details of the arrangement are lengthy and complicated, and cannot all be set out here. But, broadly speaking, the position is this: Before 1914 the railway companies had full control of their own lines, subject to Parliamentary statute. In 1914, and since, control has been in the hands of the Government, and the shareholders have merely received a guaranteed dividend. Now the control will be divided into three equal portions—the management representing the shareholders; the railwaymen, representing the operators, and chosen by the trade unions; and the public. Mr. Thomas, the railwayman, made a great point of the generosity and wisdom of giving the public equal rights with Capital and Labour; but after all it is the public that pays the fares and keeps both Capital and Labour going.

How rapid the change of status has been may be shown by a single comparison. In 1911 a railway strike was fought over the refusal of the railway directors to "recognise" the railway trade unions; in 1920 the two will sit at the same round table. It is quite certain that the change will affect other forms of industry, and that in every trade where Labour is organised there will now be a demand for a seat on the board for the elected representative of the workers. The experiment will be watched with considerable interest; its results, of course, depend very largely on the personal element, pure reason not being the exclusive prerogative either of master or man. Its most immediate reaction will probably be felt in the highly organised engineering trade.

Mr. Churchill as Journalist.

The critics of the Navy have provoked Mr. Winston Churchill to reply, and those who hold that he is a better journalist than statesman are impressed by the vigour of his polemic in the latest newspaper controversy. He points out that if the Navy had been as inefficient as its critics suggest, it is strange that the Germans did not discover the fact, since it would have been rather useful to them to have sunk the whole British Fleet in the first week of the war—which, according to those who attack the Admiralty, they could quite easily have done. As for the contention that the Admiralty is fossilised and stagnant, and stands in the way of any naval improvement with immeasurable quantities of red-tape, he remarks with truth that the Admiralty is recruited from the active list of the Navy, and that in order to ensure vitality at headquarters, the Admiralty is officered by men from the sea, who after two or three years' service ashore go back to the sea. Thus Lord Jellicoe's criticisms of the Navy ignore the fact that Admiral Jellicoe was himself in high office at the Admiralty almost immediately before the war; and Mr. Churchill asks pertinently why he did not point out the shortcomings when he was in office before the war, instead of writing a book about it after the war. There seems some force in the contention.

OCELLUS.

The War Office states that since October 25 eight vessels have sailed from Bombay and Basreh carrying 447 officers and 7,804 other ranks. Of the fourteen Territorial battalions and nineteen Territorial batteries which were in India when demobilisation recommenced after the interruption caused by the war in Afghanistan, ten battalions and nine batteries have been released, and the shipping programme arranged by the Indian Government will permit of the embarkation of the remainder of the Territorial Force units before the end of the present month.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, November 5.

More Disorder in Alexandria.

As the cables will have advised you, Alexandria has been the scene of another demonstration, with even more disgraceful results than that of the preceding week. The earlier part of the week was fairly peaceful, but a strike on the part of the Minet El Bassal carters again started excitement in the Gomrok quarter. They demanded a very substantial increase in pay, and their cessation of work completely paralysed the cotton market. The sidings became so congested that the railways had to refuse to accept any more consignments from the interior, while it became impossible to ship, and the managers of the Bourse deemed it advisable in the public interest to close it. The closure only lasted twenty-four hours, and shortly afterwards the strike was settled. But on the Thursday the low characters of the quarter took advantage of a parade of the carters to overrun the district and molest everyone they came across. In the course of their ramblings they stopped several cars containing officers and men, who only managed to get away by using the arms they carried.

Friday dawned peacefully, and in order to prevent any demonstration the Governor, accompanied by various notables, attended prayer at the Abu El Abbas mosque, which has by now become famous in this connection. But long before noon there were evident signs that the Extremists had arranged for a demonstration. Crowds made their way towards the mosque, while another large crowd began to assemble on the Mohammed Ali Square. At the conclusion of prayers the Governor and the "Imam" addressed the worshippers and enjoined them to go home; and when the congregation poured out and, with the crowd outside, commenced to form up into a procession, a police officer called upon them to disperse. No attention was paid to these admonitions, and the demonstration, which was larger than any previous one, started to walk towards the centre of the city. At the Mohammed Ali Square it was joined by the crowd already mentioned, and together they wended their way in quite orderly fashion across the square to Ramleh Station, and down the Boulevard Ramleh.

Where they were going was not quite clear. It is thought they intended to return to their starting point, but, unfortunately, as they entered the narrow end of the boulevard an ambulance, followed by another car, came up from behind and tried to pass. The driver apparently lost his head on finding that the crowd would not give him a passage, and, putting on speed, knocked over several of the demonstrators. This incident naturally upset the crowd, and the "agents provocateurs" quickly took advantage of it to get the demonstrators to attack the shops in the vicinity. While this was going on, a car belonging to the Frontier Districts Administration, and containing three Egyptian soldiers, arrived on the scene. They also appear to have lost their heads; for they suddenly started careering through the principal streets, firing wildly with their rifles as they went along. Their progress seems to have aroused the low characters of the Minet El Bassal quarter, for a large crowd of them suddenly appeared and started smashing and looting whatever shops were most handy. Order was restored by the police, who managed to obtain control of the situation without calling upon the British troops, but the damage done to the shops—most of which were European, and which included Morums Stores—was very considerable; though, as far as can be ascertained, the actual casualties were relatively small.

As might be expected, these events have considerably alarmed the European colony, and they are loud in their demands for the stoppage of these demonstrations, and for more energetic action on the part of the authorities. They are particularly indignant that the situation should have been left in the hands of the Egyptian police; for, although the latter eventually restored order, they obviously failed to carry out their most important duty—viz., the breaking-up, when it was first formed, of the demonstration, without which there would have been no such incidents, and no such menace to the European quarter as actually occurred.

The attitude of the authorities in this respect is very much criticised. Although no official explanation has been offered, the following appears to have been the reason for their action. As mentioned in my last letter, the utilisation of British troops in the course of the previous week's riot in Alexandria gave rise to protests, undoubtedly engineered by the Extremists. Pressure was brought to bear on the Government and the local authorities, not only through the Extremists' organs, but also by some of the notables of Alexandria, the latter of whom expressed their willingness to use their personal influence to prevent any further demonstrations or troubles, if the British troops were withdrawn from the districts in question. Numerous meetings were held by the Governor. It was finally agreed, on the personal assurance of the notables in question, to meet their wishes, and the acting Commandant of the Alexandria City Police undertook to maintain order by means of his police force, and to ask the military authorities to withdraw their troops.

This was admittedly a somewhat venturesome experiment, but the authorities appear to have been impressed by representations that the presence of the British troops would precipitate trouble and give rise to bloodshed, which might otherwise be avoided; and to have decided that, if after all the notables did not succeed in preventing a demonstration, it would in the circumstances be better to allow it to take place and regulate its progress by means of the Egyptian police rather than break it up at the outset and cause bloodshed, which it was desirable to avoid in view of the state of feeling in the country. As events proved, however, bloodshed

Morums Oriental Stores
Drapers & General Outfitters.
Head Office
60/3 Aldermanbury, Cambridge House, London, E.C.
CAIRO Ataba-el-Khadra Boulac Street. ALEXANDRIA Mohamed Aly Square.
TANTA, MANSURA, ASSIUT
JERUSALEM. — JAFFA.

W. MORPHY & SON,
Steamship Agents and
Commercial Representatives,
ATHENS, PIRÆUS, PATRAS,
SALONICA.

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was not avoided. It is true that, as far as can be ascertained, the collision with the ambulance was the starting point for disorders and that the mad career of the Frontier Districts' car aggravated the situation; but there is no blinking the fact that had this vast concourse of people not been allowed to enter the city and block traffic, neither of the so-called contributory incidents could have occurred. In other words, we have now conclusive proof, if such proof were indeed necessary, that whatever steps are taken to regulate these popular manifestations they are bound at one point or another to disturb public peace, and that they are therefore against public interest. Apart from that, demonstrations are actually forbidden both by military Proclamation and Egyptian Law, and there is consequently no reason whatsoever why they should be tolerated.

As regards the utilisation of the British troops, popular feeling may, quite naturally perhaps, resent their introduction to maintain public order. But when the menace to public peace offered by these demonstrations cannot be prevented by the official agents of the Government, and when they develop, as they have done during the past few weeks, on the slightest pretext, into an attack on Europeans, there can no longer be any excuse for refusing to allow British troops to reinforce the Egyptian police, if the latter cannot break up the manifestations when they start; and popular feeling must in this respect suffer the consequences of the disregard of certain members of the Egyptian community for the laws of the land. After all, the British Government is responsible not only for maintaining internal order but also for protecting European interests in the country, and it has a very plain duty to perform if the Egyptian forces are incapable of carrying out this work. At the same time it is as much to the advantage of the Egyptians themselves that public order should be maintained, for such occurrences as those of the past fortnight can but bring discredit on Egypt both politically and commercially; and, however the Extremists may feign to regard the political result, they cannot afford to ignore the effect which these troubles are bound to have on the commercial relations between their country and the rest of the world.

It is not easy to prophesy what is likely to happen next Friday, but there is no doubt that the situation is such as to call for energetic action on the part of the authorities, including, if necessary, the reinforcement of the Egyptian police by British troops, not only to calm the European communities of Alexandria, but also to give a lesson to those who are persisting in these popular manifestations and to prevent the latter spreading to the rest of the country.

As I close this, news comes from Alexandria that the Council of Ministers has decided to prohibit demonstrations and to take steps to enforce respect for the law.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, November 1.

A Year Ago.

To-day is the anniversary of the liberation of Belgrade after three years under the enemy. This day a year ago, while the last Austrian detachments were hurrying across the Save to escape the Nemesis at their heels, and blowing up the bridge behind them, huge crowds collected in King Alexander Street to meet the liberating troops and decorate them with flowers.

The tremendous events of this time last year, both military and political, filled men with hopes of the Millennium, but Serbia is to-day suffering from the reaction. Perhaps that is the reason that there is a strange absence of excitement or signs of celebration in Belgrade to-day; a few flags on a few houses, and a procession of schoolboys and girls who struck work and paraded the streets with the national flag and the Stars and Stripes in honour of President Wilson—nothing more. Perhaps the people are saddened by the political history of the past four months, during which the squabbles of the politicians have done the country more harm than they realise.

The Cabinet Crisis.

The political crisis is over, and Dr. Davidovitch is carrying on the business of Government. There are slight changes in the Cabinet; the Dalmatian, M. Biankini is Vice-President, and now M. Marko Dakovitch, leader of the ten Montenegrin deputies, is joining the Cabinet on the understanding that no partisan matters be dealt with, retaining full freedom of action in national matters. Well he may, for his distracted country needs every attention. The recent incident at Tsrmnitsa cost the lives of several Montenegrins, who were done to death defending their property. At Simunji, between Biélitsa and Tieklitja, a party of Italians and Nicholite Montenegrins ambushed a detachment of gendarmes, killing a sergeant, corporal, lance-corporal, and two privates. Cannot the Olympians at Paris put an end to this misery and internecine bloodshed?

—And a Municipal One.

The political crisis has been followed by a municipal one, which is now settled. The vote of want of confidence was based solely on the failure of the municipal authorities to secure an adequate supply of coal, petroleum, salt, and other indispensable commodities. A curious situation arose, as the Minister of the Interior quashed the meeting at which the vote was made, n the grounds that there was no quorum, but the resignations of the mayor and councillors were held good. The Opposition consisted chiefly of Independents, who at once opened negotiations with the outgoing Radicals, and even offered them the mayoralty, but the latter claimed a clean slate on return to power. In view of subsequent proceedings this was impracticable, and elections took place. The new mayor is Dr. Kosta Jovanovitch, a high official of the Ministry of Social Policy, the Deputy-mayor is Mr. D. Zhivaljevitch, director of the State Press; the former an Independent, the latter a Progressive. Both are men of good reputation, and it is hoped that they will be able successfully to cope with the difficult task of satisfying the immediate needs of the town and executing the scheme of modernisation and improvement which its enhanced importance and commanding position demand.

Croatian Nationalists' Meeting.

On the anniversary of the Declaration of Freedom, a large meeting of Croatian Nationalists was held at Zagreb under the presidency of Dr. Laginja, leader of the Narodni Club, who declared that the Croatian people are all in favour of union, but cannot permit an affront. Dr. Pavelitch and Dr. Drinkovitch also spoke, and Dr. Mehmed Spaho, in the name of the Serbian Mohammedans of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meeting passed a resolution accepting the minority clause in the Austrian treaty, demanding Fiume for Yugoslavia, and begging England and France to guarantee them justice in foreign affairs.

A More Optimistic Outlook.

With the return of Dr. Trumbitch to Paris, there is a distinct feeling of optimism in the air, based partly on confidence in the justice of their cause and partly on messages coming from Paris and notices in the French Press assuming a more favourable tone, partly on the good news of an improvement in President Wil-

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son's health and his rejection of the Tittoni proposal. Serbs feel that there is the beginning of a revulsion of feeling in their favour, that D'Annunzio's freak performance and the various "incidents" at Fiume have alienated a good deal of sympathy from Italy. The *Tribuna* reports that England is now more inclined to the Serbian point of view, that direct conversations are taking place between Dr. Trumbitch and Signor Tittoni, and that the Italian Delegation has decided to accept President Wilson's proposal.

Dissatisfaction with Paris.

The anniversary of the successful issue of the war has been signalled in a manner recalling its beginning—that is, by the presentation of an ultimatum damaging to the sovereignty of the State. Unlike the infamous incident of 1914, this ultimatum has come from allies, friends, and protectors, and is to the effect that the Conference in Paris will not permit the signature of the Treaty with Bulgaria until the Delegates of the S.H.S. have signed the Treaty with Austria. This has produced a most painful impression here, for the injustice of the Austrian Treaty, by which foreign Powers are given the right to interfere in Serbian internal affairs, while Serbia has no voice in the protection, *inter alia*, of the half million Slovenes who have exchanged Vienna for Rome, already rankled.

Even the moderate Press is in arms; the *Politika*, which, in spite of its name, is more a family than a political paper, published the first news of the ultimatum, which other papers declined to credit; and expresses the hope that the Government will refuse to accept it. Even the staid *Trgovinski Glasnik*, the Commercial Messenger, after a long leading article, expresses the same sentiment. But the *Pravda* points out that the Conference dares not admit any limitation of its authority, as the slightest concession would weaken its prestige and power to deal with the real enemy of Europe, Germany. No exception can be made in favour of China, or of Roumania, or of Greece, or of Yugoslavia; and so it prepares its readers for the inevitable. But the feeling of injustice is sinking deep and will leave a wound, for the Serbs feel that they have been hardly treated by the Allies. Bulgaria's war debts to Germany have been pardoned, but Serbia has to pay hers in full and with interest. "Bulgaria is excused from returning in full the enormous number of cattle which she has taken from us," complained a prominent Serb official recently, "on the grounds that it would ruin the country. Good heavens! What about our ruined country? What about our returned soldiers in the southern districts, who have found neither homes nor families, much less their stock?"

The Yugoslav delegates in Paris have submitted a request asking for consideration of their point of view on the Minority Question, and the question of the river steamboats which formerly flew the Austro-Hungarian flag but now belong to Yugoslavia or Yugoslavs, but which, by the wording of the Treaty, must be surrendered. This is evidently an unintentional effect of wording which will be put right.

The Serbs attribute their misfortunes in Paris to the absence and ill-health of their friend and protector, President Wilson. A pæan of thanksgiving has appeared in all the Press on the news of the improvement in his health and appearance of his activity once more. In practically all towns in Yugoslavia, some prominent street or square has had its name altered in his honour, and the Yugoslavs are convinced that his principles will obtain in Paris and finally justice be awarded, especially in the Fiume question. Italy's imperialism is in frank opposition to Wilsonian principles, and there is no suggestion of "self-determination" near the Italian frontier, nor anywhere where the Italian uniform is seen, as in Zadar (Zara) and Shebenik (Sebenico) in Dalmatia, and, above all, in Montenegro.

In a pessimistic leading article the *Politika* points out how the Great Powers are hurrying to secure their interests before the League of Nations can interfere; for instance, Great Britain is endeavouring to make "a new Egypt in Persia; Syria cannot escape a similar fate, while Mesopotamia directly links India with the Mediterranean." The hegemony which Germany was striving for in the Middle East has been secured by England, the more easily now that Russia is inarticulate. Japan has annexed a great portion of densely populated Chinese territory, and obtained the consent of Paris. The writer continues his lamentations on this "Diplomatic Nightmare" by not unnaturally complaining of the inefficiency of the League of Nations to prevent all this, or, at all events, to secure national justice once and for all for the little nations; while the Roumanians have marched on Pest, and are squabbling with the Serbs about the Banat; with the Czechs and Ukrainians, Ukrainians and Roumanians, Bolshevists and Russians, and the Baltic States, all fighting more than a year after the nominal cessation of hostilities.

Wolf Drive.

In spite of the mild spring weather, the following notice appeared in the *Pravda* of November 8:—

Because wolves have made their appearance in the district administered by me, and in collaboration with the Belgrade Shooting Association, I have resolved that on the 9th inst. there will be a wolf drive, in which will take part shooting men not only from my district, but also from the Belgrade Association of Shooting Men. Arrangements may be seen by those interested at the offices of the association at the "Café Shumadia." This for the benefit of the shooting world, for their information.—Given at the office of the Sub-Prefect of the Vrachar District, November 16, 1919.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, October 20.

The Chamber.

On October 14 the Bill authorising six-twelfths of the Budget for the period October 1, 1919-April 1, 1920, was introduced in the Chamber. M. Kolaroff, a Communist, opened the debate with a speech which amounted to an appeal for the increase in pay of functionaries, the confiscation of wealth and property, and its equal distribution. Unfortunately, he failed to indicate in what manner the very heavy payments he advocated were to be made possible. The Bill was voted and adopted at first reading. According to the statement of the Minister of Finance the Budget from April 1, 1919, to April 1, 1920, will amount, in round figures, to 1,700 millions of levas outgoings, and revenues of only 900 millions, leaving the huge deficit of 800 millions.

Protest Against Peace Terms.

On October 16 there was a memorable sitting of the Chamber, at which representatives of the various parties criticised the Peace Terms, and claimed a place in the sun for Bulgaria. M. Asen Tzankoff (Moderate Socialist) said the Treaty was horrible; its authors ought to be here to see how the population of the territory torn from Bulgaria was flying. Only one principle was observed in the Treaty: violence, vengeance and oppression. There was not a word in it regarding the exchange of prisoners, though the condition of Bulgarian prisoners in all camps is heartrending.

The declaration which M. Madjaroff, Minister for Foreign Affairs, read to the Chamber is a denial of the widely held opinion that Bulgarian claims are immoderate and imperialistic. Bulgaria has reduced her claims to the extreme minimum, to which her neighbours cannot make any reasonable objection. With Roumania, she asks the frontier of 1912, with Serbia the frontier which the Serbians themselves drew in 1913, when they dictated the Bucharest peace terms. The same thing applies to the Ægean coast, which the Greeks themselves ceded to Bulgaria in 1913 at Bucharest. If anyone should dispute Bulgaria's claims to these districts, she would gladly accept the results of a plebiscite taken on the spot by disinterested and impartial parties. Lastly, for Macedonia, autonomy is asked for, which would serve, not to disunite, but to bind together, the Balkan States.

After hearing all the speakers the Chamber adopted the following order of the day: The Chamber is deeply shocked by the contents of the Peace Treaty handed to

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the Bulgarian delegation. It sees in it an act of supreme injustice, vengeance, and punishment utterly unmerited by the Bulgarian nation. The national representatives of Bulgaria did not expect from the supreme tribunal of the Allied great States, convoked at Paris, violence, injustice, and a trampling on the great principles of nationality, liberty, and the independence of nations. The tearing away of parts of the living body of Bulgaria, the imposition of heavy and unbearable financial and economic obligations, fill the soul of the nation with the bitterest sorrow. The Bulgarian nation, which has not yet lost faith in the principle of world-justice, placed in such conditions of most terrible and extraordinary injustice, raises its voice through its national representatives, and vigorously protests before the civilised world against the violence and the vengeance inflicted upon her, by which she will be deprived of the chance of human culture and economic development, and even of human existence as a most modest member of the League of Nations.

The King and Thracian Refugees.

The unexpected Greek occupation of Xanthi set flowing a great flood of refugees from the threatened district. Last Wednesday H.M. the King, accompanied by the Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, made a short tour in Southern Bulgaria, and visited the refugees, whom they advised to return to their homes, where the Bulgarian administrative and the French military authorities will protect them against Greek excesses.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, November 9.

The Election.

The Turks are in the throes of a general election, which, according to all accounts, differs in no way from former elections in Turkey. I say "the Turks" advisedly, for the Christian elements and also the Jews are abstaining from voting or taking any other part in the proceedings. The Entente Libérale party, the bitter enemy of the Committee of Union and Progress, is also holding aloof, and it is reported that another political party, known as the Peace and Prosperity party, is following its example. A local paper, commenting on these facts, ironically asks who is taking part in the elections. The answer is, of course, obvious; for the results that have so far come to hand show victories for the Unionists. That party is supposed to have ceased to exist, but its ideals are certainly very much alive, and, in spite of all denials, it is beyond doubt that the so-called National Movement is nothing but a move in the Unionist game.

From various quarters come complaints against irregularities in the elections and demands for annulling certain elections that have been completed. These demands are also accompanied by complaints against the proceedings of the National Forces, which have been raised in Anatolia for the avowed purpose of resisting the partition of Anatolia. From various districts protests have been addressed to the Sultan and the Government against Nationalist extortions of money and goods, as well as Nationalist pressgang methods of obtaining recruits. The Government is, however, powerless, for it was only able to assume office after having come to some kind of understanding with Mustapha Kemal Pasha and the other Nationalist leaders, whose headquarters are at Sivas. Recently the Minister of Marine, Salih Pasha, met Mustapha Kemal Pasha at Amasia, and was informed of the Nationalists' desiderata, which, if accorded, would make the central Government a mere automaton worked by the Sivas "government." Naturally, the position of the Cabinet is extremely critical. The War Minister especially finds his position intolerable, for the Army is divided into two sections, one of which obeys the Central Government, while the other looks only to Mustapha Kemal Pasha.

Nationalist Aims.

The Nationalists make no secret of their intention to resist by force of arms any peace terms involving the session of any part of Anatolian territory, more especially to the Greeks, with whom, in spite of the line of demarcation recently fixed by a special mixed commission, there seems to have been further fighting. This will add further to the embarrassment of the Government, for if there is an *entente* between the Central Government and the Nationalists, acts of hostility against the Greeks become official and acts of war. On the other hand, repudiation of the Nationalists involves the paralysis of Government authority in Asia Minor; for the Nationalists have proved that they have the power to isolate the capital completely from Anatolia, so far as all communications are concerned, at any moment. It is said that if the present Cabinet falls, Ahmed Riza Bey will be called upon to form a new Government. There may be some truth in this, for it must not be forgotten that Ahmed Riza Bey left the Committee of Union and Progress more in sorrow than in anger, and there have been signs that he has still a soft spot in his heart for the old ideals.

The Christians in Anatolia.

Meanwhile the position of the Christians in Anatolia is far from enviable. It is true that there have been no organised acts of hostility against them so far; but the fact remains, and has even been indirectly acknowledged by an ex-Grand Vizier, that they are hostages for the favourable consideration by the Allies of Turkish peace desiderata. So uneasy is the feeling among them that considerable numbers have been moving to the Samsun district, in order to be near the British troops who are stationed there. But only a certain proportion of them can do this, and the outlook for the rest is most gloomy, for there is no one to protect them when the time comes for accounts to be settled.

The Allies hold one trump-card—Constantinople; for the average Turk, the "Effendi," who pulls the strings of mass movements, would not consider life worth living without the "Dersadet," the "Abode of Felicity." It is to be hoped that, failing adequate occupation of Asia Minor as a precautionary measure, the Allies will make up their minds to make the Turks understand very clearly that the slightest organised outbreak against the Christians of Asia Minor will inevitably involve the loss of Constantinople as a penalty.

The French occupation of Marash, Aintab, etc., following upon the British evacuation of those districts, has aroused a storm of indignation from the Moslem population, but the Armenians naturally welcomed the French with open arms. It is reported that the French have treated certain attempts to disturb the peace in drastic fashion, and, if this is true, the lesson should be of value to Mustapha Kemal and his brigand friends.

The Goeben: A Turkish View.

Mr. Walter Long is reported to have stated in the House of Commons that certain precautions have been taken to prevent the Goeben from being scuttled, and that a British prize crew is on board. The first part of the statement is correct, but not only is the second part absolutely incorrect, no British crew being on board, but the ship is flying two huge Turkish flags, and it is a fact that the local population at Ismid firmly believe that the Goeben is there to keep an eye on *us*. This is folly, of course, but it makes the task of the local British forces no easier.

SYRIA.

JERUSALEM, November 3.

The general situation is still obscure. In the politics of Palestine there seems to be a lull, but in Damascus great excitement and agitation are reported to prevail.

The recent agreement between Great Britain and France by which the former agreed to withdraw all her forces to the North of Palestine by November 1, has upset the whole country, as it leaves the land in the hands of the French, who have not yet gained the goodwill of the inhabitants. It is stated that the Damascenes hate France, and regard her as being unable to put them on their feet again because of the difficulties of her economic and financial situation. They also state that the French have not been dealing justly with the Moslems. On the occasion of the arrival of General Gouraud in Syria, an Arabic paper, *Al Urdun*,

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addressed him in a very harsh tone, telling him that they did not believe in French power, and that they refused his assistance. "We want to be friends with France," it said; "we do not want to be a part of France. Go back to your own country and stay there: we can only be friends if you return and inform those who sent you that we do not wish you here."

On October 28 a great demonstration was made by the educated people of Damascus. Its object was to protest against the partition of the country. Masses of people paraded through the streets. At the palace of the Emir speeches were made denouncing the present situation.

As yet it is not known whether the French have arrived or not. It is, however, expected that serious trouble will arise when the French find their way into the country. It is rumoured that the Arab Government has asked that the evacuation of the territory by the British be postponed until the country is more stable.

It is worth mentioning that on the whole the Moslems stand for the Shereef, although there is a small but very influential party of them who support France. The controversy between these two parties and other Syrian parties carried on in the Egyptian papers is very interesting. Pro-Shereefian articles are freely published in Damascus, and anti-Shereefian in Beyrout and Cairo.

The Latin and the Maronite population naturally support France; the Protestants are for England, as also are the Druzes. The Orthodox are divided, some being for the Shereef and some for France. The Shereef, who has given to other than Moslems very good positions in the Government, has gained much favour, and there are many Druzes and Christians, for example, who demand his rule.

Life is not very safe up in the North. Heavy clouds are on the horizon, and developments are awaited with intense interest.

CYPRUS.

Soli.

The site of the ancient town of Soli (Palaiòkhora), in the north-west of Cyprus, has been declared "a monument" under the Antiquities Law. The area includes various localities, the boundaries of which are fixed. The better known Soli, on the opposite coast of Asia Minor, near Mersina, which became Pompeiopolis, when restored by Pompey, contains very extensive and interesting ruins. It has been a question which of the two Solis gave rise to the term "solecism," which was given to the corrupt Greek *patois* of the inhabitants. The Cypriot Soli is said to have been an Athenian colony, while others say it was built by a Cypriot prince under the advice of Solon, who is known to have visited the island. It contained temples of Aphrodite and Isis. The present district of Solea is a fertile and attractive one. There were copper mines in the neighbourhood, as extensive slag heaps testify.

Dogs are being brought under municipal attention. According to late bye-laws of the Nicosia Council, dogs must be registered, on payment of a fee of 5s. A disc inscribed with a number, issued by the Municipality, must be worn by all dogs. It is probable that other municipalities will follow this lead, which is a new departure.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

EGYPT AND THE MILNER COMMISSION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of November 14 you appear to infer that when men of so long experience of Egypt as Sir Walter Miéville and myself disagree as to the advisability of the Milner Commission postponing their departure for Egypt till Turkey has ratified the Treaty of Peace, the Government may well hesitate as to the best course to follow. Further, you speak of my suggestion that Zaghlul Pasha and others should be invited to assist the Milner Commission, as a daring one, the great thing at the present time being to avoid any sign of weakness, as it would encourage the agitators. But is my proposal a sign of weakness? Perhaps you will allow me to deal with my suggestion rather more fully than I did in my letter to the *Times*, as I hope that I shall be able to persuade you, and possibly your readers, that the weakness is not on my side. Mr. Lloyd George has told us that the Powers have made up their minds as to the future of the Turkish Empire, and there is a complete agreement amongst all the Allies on the fundamental principles of the settlement. In the recent debate in the Commons Mr. Balfour, on behalf of the Government, tells us also that the Canal, Egypt, and the Sudan are part and parcel of the same question, and that we have every intention of maintaining our position in these countries. Such being the case, what object is to be gained by postponing the departure of the Milner Commission? Will not such postponement be interpreted by Egyptian Nationalists as an admission that Turkey's action may still influence the future status of Egypt?

Again, as regards my suggestion that the Egyptians should be called into consultation, I do not for a moment imagine that a unanimous vote on their part would cause us to evacuate our army of occupation or hand over the Sudan forthwith to an Egyptian Governor-General. But I see no reason why what I may term the parochial side of Egyptian administration should not be left much more to Egyptians than at present; and an elected executive can be controlled as well as nominated Ministers, who at heart are as hostile to our interference as extreme Nationalists. The success or failure of such a scheme will, in my opinion, rest entirely with H.B.M.'s representative, who, whilst avoiding interference in every detail of administration and legislation, should, nevertheless, see that the British Imperial side of the question is duly recognised. Guide, philosopher, and friend should be more his rôle than Dictator. It is up to the British Government to continue to find such a Resident, Agent, or whatever he may be called, and to remove him promptly should he prove a failure. At the same time, the British Government must, with the help of the Milner Commission, furnish their representative with the weapons to fulfil his mission. As the Protectorate is no longer "veiled," this should be no very difficult matter.

I am, etc.,
COLES PACHA.

Rushton Lodge, Taunton, November 18.

THE FUTURE OF TURKEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I share entirely your views on the subject of the future of Turkey. My convictions are the result of sixteen years in Arabia, India, and Mesopotamia; and one of them I beg to state, for it is one on which I have seen no discussion.

A settlement of Turkey on the lines of your advocacy, with a generous and friendly assistance of her new Government to a higher level of political spirit and practical administration will conduce to enlightenment in world Islam, will operate away from bigotry. A harsh settlement will have the reverse effect, will make impossible the creation of such a Turkey as could throw out beneficent moral forces, will lock the doors of Moslem hearts to Christian advances, will conduce to bigotry. The effect of this on the British Empire and on world welfare I need not dwell upon.—I am, etc.,

ANON.

Hodeidah, October 19, 1919.

THE FIUME CONTROVERSY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The renewed negotiations between Paris and Washington with regard to a compromise on Fiume have ended in failure, and thus the settlement of the whole Adriatic question appears to have reached a deadlock. The actual details of the various solutions proposed have not been placed sufficiently clearly before the public, and we therefore trust you will find space for the enclosed sketch map, which shows at a glance the rival American and Italian proposals.

It will be seen that the Wilson line assigns to Italy

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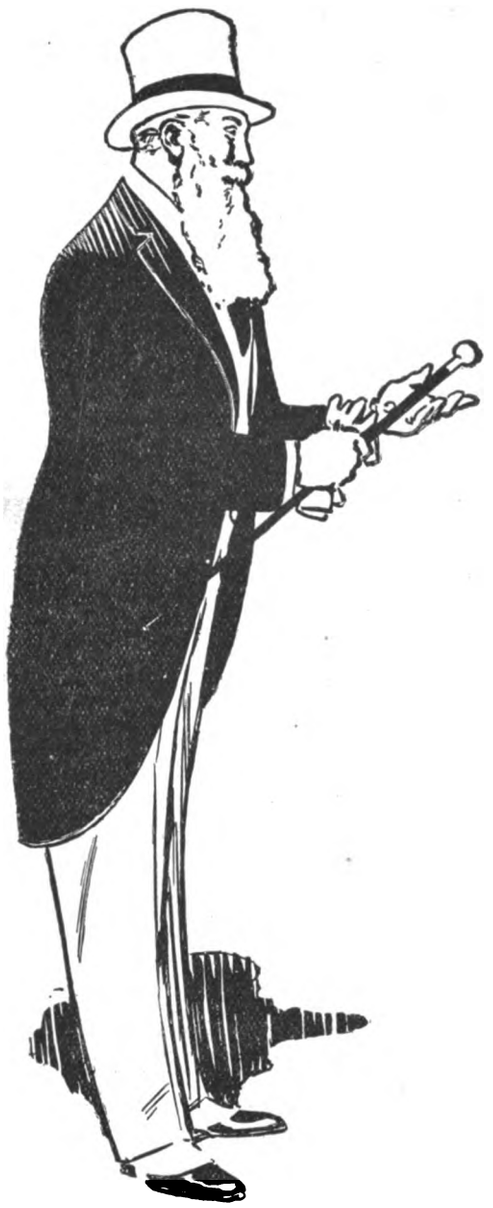

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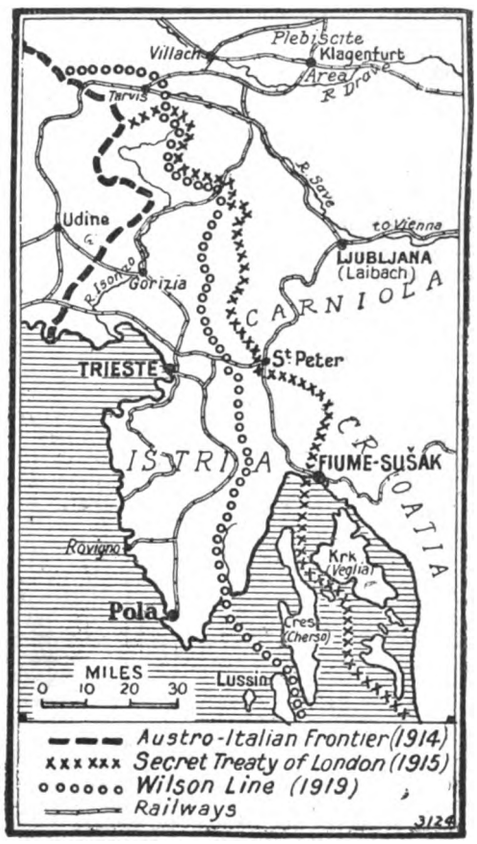
Gorizia, Trieste, and Pola, Central Istria with the railway connecting the two latter towns, and the island of Lussin, which has an Italian majority. On the other hand, it leaves to Yugoslavia the port of Fiume-Sushak (which contains a Yugoslav, not an Italian, majority), the railway from St. Peter to Fiume (Slovenia's only direct access to the sea), and the overwhelmingly Yugoslav province of Dalmatia (in which the Italians form 3 per cent. of the population), while the town of Zara, on its isthmus, receives special autonomy.

This line has been reached as the result of exhaustive inquiry on the part of the American experts at the Conference, and represents the only fair compromise between ethnography and strategy. It has the great advantage of reducing to a minimum the possibilities of aggression on either side. As it assigns over 300,000 Yugoslavs to Italy, and less than 45,000 Italians to Yugoslavia (24,000 of these



in Fiume itself), it will be seen that a very severe sacrifice is being demanded of the Yugoslavs.

The following resolutions, passed at the last executive meeting of the Serbian Society of Great Britain, seem to us to summarise the requirements of the situation :—

"1. That the territorial solution advocated by President Wilson is the only equitable compromise between Italian and Yugoslav claims, and should be upheld at all costs by the Supreme Council.

"2. That since (*a*) Fiume is the only adequate maritime outlet of Yugoslavia and of the whole middle Danubian region, and since (*b*) its annexation by Italy cannot be justified on ethnical, economic, or even historical grounds, the utmost limit of concesssion which could reasonably be urged upon the Yugoslavs is the establishment of the city of Fiume (in its pre-war boundaries) as a Free State under the sovereignty of the League of Nations."

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

ARTHUR EVANS (Acting Chairman).
ELINOR B. GROGAN.
ARTHUR HENDERSON.
JAMES BERRY
H. M. HYNDMAN.
MAY DICKINSON BERRY.
R. W. SETON WATSON.
J. ANNAN BRYCE.
GERTRUDE F. WILDE.
DAVID DAVIES.
GLYNNE WILLIAMS.
H. J. FYNES-CLINTON.

The Serbian Society of Great Britain, Room 39 (Ground Floor), Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.1.

THE BALKAN PROBLEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—One of the first things the average Englishman does on his return from a trip abroad is to write to the Press and say how in the few days he has spent in a certain country he has discovered the panacea for all their ills, and how, if only those in authority will accept his advice, there will be an end to all trouble and the land in question will become a veritable Utopia. Now I do not go so far as to say that I have discovered a cure for the Balkan troubles, but during an extended business trip I have discovered many things that may be of interest to your readers, and which, if placed in the right quarters, may help in the solution of what is certainly one of the most difficult problems that confront civilisation.

During my tour I have had the opportunity of visiting towns and villages. I have talked with Ministers of the Crown, with business men, and with peasants. One and all say the same thing, and on all hands the same question was put to me: "Why don't *you* come and rule us?" Would to God that we could, for I am convinced that British rule in some form or other would not only be the best thing for, but would be accepted with acclamation by, all the Balkan peoples. A more feasible suggestion was made to me by a prominent diplomat who had spent several years in London. He said: "You must remember, Mr. Stuart, that although we are a very ancient people, we are young in governing. We need to be taught how to govern. Why not send us some of your statesmen, who would be the heads of our chief departments of state for, say, ten years, and let them teach us how to govern ourselves. We would welcome them with open arms." And I can assure you that of all the Allied and associated races the British are the only people to whom this would be said. They are popular right through the Balkans. They are trusted and respected where the others are only tolerated.

I started by saying I had no cure for the Balkan troubles. Nor have I, but one thing I have learned, and that is that nowhere are the terms of the Treaty of Peace approved. I refer more particularly to the alterations of the frontiers. These have been settled more or less by men who do not know the country—save, perhaps, by studying maps—and in some cases, it seems to me, grave injustice is being done.

At present the Great Powers are not going the right way to secure a lasting peace. Millions of people are utterly dissatisfied with the new frontiers, tens of thousands are leaving their old homes and are now refugees in other parts of their own country, rather than stay and face the dangers of becoming alien citizens of another race. It is common talk throughout the whole of the Balkans that ere long there will be another outbreak, and all because the Powers are delineating the frontiers without properly understanding what they are doing.

We at home do not know the Balkans. I wish every Member of Parliament would make a tour through them. Let him spend three months—even one month—in travelling round and talking to the *people*. Let him come out with no settled convictions, but ready and willing to learn and accept the truth, and I guarantee that very soon the Balkan question would be settled once and for all.

I write this letter in the hope that the suggestions may lead towards the making of a practical and a final settlement of a difficult problem, a settlement whereby British prestige, British influence, and British interests would derive immeasurable benefit.—I am, etc.,

E. E. STUART.

46, Craigmillar Park, Edinburgh.

NATIONALITY IN THE BALKANS.

The introductory lecture of a course on "The Rise of Nationality in the Balkans" was delivered on October 16 by Mr. H. W. V. Temperley, author of "The History of Serbia," in his new post as Reader of History in the University of Cambridge. The lecturer pointed out that the Balkans should not be understood in too narrow a sense. Even in a physical sense they could be understood as extending to the Save, the Drave, Adriatic, and the basin of Klagenfurt. In the moral sense, also, the Balkans should not be regarded as a specialised study of a specialised subject.

The small States of the Balkans were important not only in themselves, but because of the influence they had upon the Great Powers. In that way it could be understood how the Greeks brought Turkey and Russia to war in 1828, how the Turks embroiled France and England in the Crimean War, and how, in later times, Austria's ultimatum to Serbia had all had world-wide historical effects.

The lecturer then proceeded to comment on the fact that so much of modern history was influenced by political and partisan considerations, even in the most remote subjects and in cases apparently far removed from political controversy—for instance, the disputes between German and French historians as to the nationality of Charlemagne and the long roll of English historians who advocated the theory of primitive democracy derived from Germany and in the ingrained Teutonic genius for liberty. All these were influenced in their arguments by considerations which were not purely scientific, and unfortunately they are not always conscious that they are so influenced. These considerations apply with much greater force to Balkan historians, especially in such questions as the nationality of Macedonia or the origin of the Roumanian people. Such questions, which were actually of serious importance at the present moment, necessarily could not be handled by natives of these countries in a proper spirit. England had the advantage of being relatively remote from these controversies, and it was the duty of English students of Balkan politics to see that their views were general and impartial, and not influenced by the fact that they were pro-Serb, pro-Greek, pro-Bulgar, or pro any Balkan nationality. The only method by which truth could be obtained was by resolutely holding the balance even between conflicting claims and views.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Bulgaria.

We have received from our Sofia Correspondent the following:—

In the journal *Zemledelchesko Znarne*, the official organ of the Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, in its leader of October 18, writes the following:—

Bulgaria will not perish! That which is done to-day at Paris with her fate may humiliate, parcel out, enslave her, but will not kill her. This is the burden of the speeches of all the representatives of the party groups on the Chamber relative to the Peace Treaty. The hope for mitigation is small. Willy-nilly, we must accept what is shamefully forced upon us.

But is the danger of our obliteration passed? England finds the peace terms mild, and France is not contented that Bulgaria has been sufficiently punished. Her Press demands the final enslavement of the Bulgarian race and its partition between its neighbours.

And they, our neighbours? They are only waiting for a favourable opportunity—from the south the Greeks, from the west the Serbians, and from the north the Roumanians—to rush against us, for swallowing us. The least pretext of internal disorder may put an end to the independence of the Bulgarian State.

Bulgarians! Preserve order and remain calm!

It is true that the present state of things is compromised; it brought all these evils to the fatherland. They ought to be changed to respond to the new needs of the time and the spirit of the generation. But . . . now is not the time. Let us have a little more patience! Let us remain alone masters in our humiliated and blood-stained land, and then let us recreate it. So preserve order and tranquillity until the signature and acceptance of the Peace Treaty and the occupying Powers depart, so that we ourselves, with untied hands and alone, may create our future. Then let us create the most ideal order.

Let Hungary serve us as an example. Her attempt to introduce internal reorganisation gave a pretext to the Roumanian oligarchy, greedy for pillage, to plunder her. Her condition to-day is more than terrible. And in the international relations we are worse off than Hungary. Our neighbours are waiting to revenge the evils inflicted during the war, and all the European Powers are unfavourably disposed towards the isolated Bulgaria. Our salvation is in our hands. Our native soil appeals to us for tranquillity. She demands from all her sons of the various callings and professions to exert their utmost efforts over themselves, to restrain their passions, and to preserve order and peace.

Turkey.

In a recent issue of the *Sunday Times* Mr. Crawfurd Price discusses the problem of Turkey, and advocates the application of principle to the Turkish Peace Treaty. He states that the traditional friendship of Great Britain was never very creditable, and goes on:—

Sometimes because the course represents the line of least resistance, often, again, prompted by ulterior motives, it is urged that it is to our interest to preserve the integrity of Turkey. The perennial scare of Moslem India is suspended over our heads like a sword of Damocles; we are threatened with Pan-Turanianism, Pan-Islamism, Pan-Arabianism, and sundry other of the movements so prolific in the Near and Middle East, and we are told by some that it will be more advantageous for us to preserve Ottoman sovereignty and make the Turkish State a vassal of the British Empire, than to give other nations a finger in the pie in Asia Minor.

He then says that where the principles of the League of Nations and British interests clash, it is the interests that must be affected. Finally, he says:—

The dangers of Pan-Turanianism and Pan-Islamism on their part are obvious, and cannot be lightly set aside. I shall attempt no examination of the potential importance of these movements here, but they may conceivably necessitate the repression of disorders within the Empire and punitive expeditions without. But, once again, what are our motives? Are we for self or for humanity? We may have to slaughter a few religious fanatics for interfering in political questions which do not concern them. We may have to teach the uneducated Asiatic, like the enlightened German, that "Pan" agitations, be they religious or political, cannot be tolerated where they entail the subjugation of nationality. But we must ask ourselves whether the mere possibility of these things warrants the continued domination by a minority of Turks of a Christian majority, which they have attempted, throughout their sovereignty, to exterminate by extortion, deportation and massacre? We shall have to resolve the Turkish problem sooner or later, and it will probably be easier and cheaper to resolve it now. And the way to its felicitous solution can be found not by toadying to defunct traditional friendship, international finance, or religious fanaticism, but by concern for the welfare of the nationalities involved.

The Near Eastern Settlement.

The *New Europe* lately debated the chances of a permanent settlement in the Near East, and, in view of the lack of considered policy, considers them remote. Of the treaty with Bulgaria it says:—

It is impossible to regard its terms with any real enthusiasm. As regards the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier, it was recognised from the first, even by the Bulgarian delegates themselves, that there could be no question of depriving Serbia of Macedonia, and that the most hopeful settlement of racial discord in that unhappy province lies in the direction of autonomy within the bounds of the new Jugoslav state—not on purely federal, but also not on extreme centralist lines. The amputation of the Strumnitza salient (which brought Bulgaria within five miles of the Vardar railway, and thus enabled her to threaten the connections of Belgrade with the Ægean) is a provision with which it is difficult to quarrel. But the very motive which justifies it deprives Serbia of all right to extend her frontier to the east of Pirot. Against this decision, which will virtually place Sofia under the guns of the enemy, we feel bound to protest most emphatically. Indeed, it is difficult to explain such a decision at all, save as the work of those who positively desire to perpetuate trouble between Jugoslavia and Bulgaria. As against Roumania, the treaty leaves the frontier of 1914 untouched. This, in our view, is not only an infringement of Bulgarian national rights, at a point where they are not open to contest, but is definitely contrary to the interests of Roumania herself, who would be well advised to restore to Bulgaria at least a very large section of the Southern Dobrodgea (which she annexed after the second Balkan war in 1913), and in particular the purely Bulgar district of Dobric-Balcik. For its retention there can be no justification, save the naked right of conquest; and common sense suggests that Roumania can only lose by thus perpetuating a quarrel for the sake of gains which are not worth insisting on.

The article ends by considering the question of the fate

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of Constantinople and of the expiring Ottoman Empire. Its conclusions are:—

The only safe course is to dictate the main territorial terms to Turkey without further delay, leaving the complicated financial arrangements to a special commission of liquidation. The essential points of the Turkish settlement are: (1) The assignment of Constantinople and its territory to the sovereignty of the League (failing America); (2) the restriction of Turkish rule to what Mr. Lloyd George, in a speech now famous throughout the East, described as "the Turkish home-lands"—namely, Central Anatolia; and (3) the complete severance of the Turkish and Arab worlds. It should not be at all difficult to draw the frontiers within which the Turks are henceforth to be confined; the real difficulty is to establish the boundaries between the various mandates or spheres of influence in territory passing from their control. But this task can best be accomplished after the elimination of the Turks. Further, it is necessary to draw a very sharp distinction between the Sultan's spiritual and temporal functions. The idea that any Christian Power—and, above all, one with so many Moslem subjects as the British Empire—should presume to decide for or against his retention of the Caliphate, is altogether preposterous. But it is no less preposterous that the Moslems of India or of any other country should attempt to introduce religion into the purely political problem of Constantinople. The time has come for the Sultan to return to Broussa or Konieh, whence he came—preserving, if it is desired, extra-territorial rights in one or other of the palaces and mosques of Constantinople. But so long as his office as Caliph is respected, the change is no concern even of orthodox Sunnites at a distance, while, so far as the Shiites are concerned, their interference would be as grotesque as an agitation of Scottish Calvinists in favour of the Temporal Power of the Pope.

Articles to Note.

"The Case of Kurdistan," I., II., and III., in *The Times* (November 15, 17, and 18).

MUSICAL NOTES.

This country never suffers from an absence of pianoforte recitals, though many of our pianists are merely advertised, listened to, and forgotten. We are a long-suffering people, and the immense number of lesser fry among our pianists is a witness at once of our patience and of our slow critical ability. Recently, however, London has had the opportunity of listening to people whom it is worth going miles to hear. In London during the last few weeks such eminent pianists as Busoni, Lamond and Cortot have been playing; and there have been several others whose names, though good, I do not think so worthy.

These three men have reputations both wide and high; two, Busoni and Lamond, have returned to this country, and the other, Cortot, has visited it, not only to maintain their reputations, but in a very impressive way to add to them. Of late we had heard overmuch the emotional player, the man who, with every crotchet of Chopin splashed a tear in the eye and pulled loose a heart-string. We had also the hectic technician who strove with long-haired energies to beat the pianola. To mention examples of such performers would be superfluous; but I may say that I do not think Jerusalem in all its glory will be without these. With the return of Busoni and Lamond we have gratefully seen how, in music, intellectuality is a far greater thing than emotion. We do not wonder at these masters' technique—for them physical difficulties do not exist; but their interpretation, which is passionately intellectual, simply staggers us. Hear Busoni in Beethoven, for instance, and you will probe (or think you do) the profoundest things in music; or hear Lamond in Scriabin (who may rank one day with Beethoven), and you will understand the incomprehensible. The point about these masters is that, unlike the majority of modern pianists, they reach the heart through the head. Their readings are always intelligible, and this fact makes their appeal absolutely sure.

In England to-day the position of the pianist seems very similar to the novelist's. There is a reaction against the playing of sugary melodies as there is against the description of pretty conventionalities; there is a tendency to play complex harmonies as there is to indulge in sordid intricacies. In neither case can we allow the head or the heart alone to rule. There must be a balance between the two, a new compromise between realism and romance. To my mind, Busoni brings to the young pianist what Hardy, for instance, brings to the young novelist. He and the other two pianists mentioned bring dignity, form, and, above all, continuous meaning, into their work. Having heard them play, you can almost guess their philosophy of life. They seem to realise that life is neither wholly "pretty-pretty" nor "ugly-ugly"; they do not obscure its issues by flooding us with a gush of emotion. In a word, and in opposition to the emotionalist school, they know that Life is greater than that medley of sad and joyful passions which is by some called Love.

ANDANTE.

ARAFA FESTIVAL AT KERBELLA.

We are indebted to the Acting Civil Commissioner in Mesopotamia for a copy and translation of the *Madhbata* (Manifesto) issued by some of the Guardians of the Holy Shrines, notables, theological students, and leading men of Kerbella and other Sacred Places on the occasion of the Arafa, 1337 A.H. (1919 A.D.). This Manifesto and a second, of similar character, were reproduced, with illustrations of the Hazrat-ul-Hussain and the Hazrat-ul-Abbas, Kerbella, as a supplement to the *Busreh Times*, September 22. The following is the translation referred to:—

It is not hidden that the Arafa day is a great occasion in the estimation of the Moslems; that all the public hasten to Kerbella from other parts in order to make pilgrimage to the sepulchre of the grandson of the Prophet. (May the blessing of God be on him and his posterity), and that caravans are in the habit of arriving at Kerbella from the first day of Zilhijjah and crowding there up to the 10th day of the month, when they would disperse gradually. This custom has existed since ancient days and olden times; but the greatness of the assembly used to differ in different years. In certain years some one hundred thousand persons used to gather here, while in the other years the arrivals were more or less, according as the conditions of the people and the exigencies of the times differed. A remarkable feature of the occasion in this year was the fact that the number of the arrivals at the Holy City of Kerbella came up to about two hundred thousand, and they were pouring into the town and forming crowds consisting of men and women, Arabs and Persians, young and old, and they thus used to gather together for this noble occasion until all the caravanserais, houses, precincts of the Holy Shrines, the schools, and the blessed mosques were overcrowded and the market places and streets were found to be too narrow to accommodate them. The people then lodged, group after group, on the roads near the gardens around the Sacred City. Banners and standards beneath which dense crowds could be seen continually to arrive from different quarters, while the people were singing songs of joy and raising their voices in delight for the fact that they had succeeded in arriving at Kerbella; and the inhabitants were receiving them with due honour and respect, taking them to the guest-houses and attending to their needs. It is well known that the assembly of such a great multitude of people in a single town for a period of ten days will surely lead to many thefts, great troubles, and scarcity of provisions, and that it will even lead to diseases breaking out. But we all thank Providence for the great bounties we have seen during the pilgrimage, despite the great number of arrivals and pilgrims. Notwithstanding all these, the people enjoyed great comfort, perfect security, and were happy and pleased with the freedom, ease, and tranquillity prevalent, and these all are due to the zeal and policy of the local government, which devoted all its attention towards maintaining peace, and even arrested over twenty habitual thieves and imprisoned them until the pilgrimage should end. They will then be set free. We repeat our thanks to Providence for His bounty, and pray to Him to cause our great British Government to endure.

Signed and sealed:—Saiyid Abdul Hussain, Killiddar of Hadhrat Hussain's Shrine; Nawab Muhammad Afzal Khan Qizilbash; Saiyid Hashim Shah; Haji Saleh Boloor Faroosh; Saiyid Ahmad al Wahab; Saiyid Murtaza Zia-ed-Din, Killiddar o Hadhrat Abbas's Shrine; Saiyid Muhsin Naqib of Ashraf; Saiyid Abdul Hussain Dadah; Saiyid Muhsin Nasrullah Zadeh; Saiyid Abdul Wahab Wahab Zadeh; Saiyid Hussain Wahab Zadeh; Saiyid Isa Bazzaz; Saiyid Muhammad Ali Thabit Zadeh; Shaikh Taha Mudarris; Shaikh Hamid Kammunah Zadeh; Saiyid Ibrahim Shahristani; Saiyid Hassan Damad; Saiyid Hassam, Naib Killiddar of Hadhrat Abbas's Shrine; Saiyid Muhammed Mehdi Bahr-ul-Olum Zadeh; Saiyid Habib Tabatabaee; Saiyid Muhammad al Zia-ed Din; Saiyid Saied Sharrufi; Mustapha Khan, son of Nizam al Olema; Shaikh Abdul Muhsin, Chief of the Masud Tribe; Saiyid Abbas Zia; Muhammad Rashid Chalabi, President of the Municipality, Kerbella; Saiyid Kadhem al Attar; Saiyid Tahir Riza Hindi; Saiyid Qasim al Wahab; Saiyid Hassan ibn Saiyid Nasrullah; Saiyid Abbud ibn Saiyid Nasrullah.

THE NEAR EAST.

The Manager of THE NEAR EAST *would be glad to be informed of any instances of difficulty being experienced in securing copies of the Paper. If any readers have friends who are not already subscribers to* THE NEAR EAST *and, in their opinion, are likely to be interested in the Paper, they are invited to send the names and addresses to the Manager, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.*

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE HOLY LAND.*

This well-written volume gives a complete, though condensed, account of the Palestine campaign from the earliest Turkish efforts against the Suez Canal in 1915 until the "crowning victory" in 1918. It is a straightforward narrative, free from any political or religious bias, and, being to a large extent a record of the writer's personal experiences, contains fresh and vivid accounts of the military operations in particular sections of the field not treated of in more general surveys. There is a chapter on the topography of Palestine and another on the history of Jerusalem, both useful summaries, while the outline maps greatly assist the narrative.

In developing his main theme Major Lock points out that the Suez Canal, "the most vulnerable point in the short sea route to India," was the most coveted object of our enemy's desire and the point of our most anxious defence. When, after the Turkish attack on February 3, 1915, our enemies proved to us—though happily the attempt actually failed—that it "was possible for them to achieve the almost impossible," it was seen that the true defence of the canal lay not in trenches on its banks but in an attack upon the enemy's base in far-away Palestine. When, therefore, after our failure to obtain any decision in Gallipoli, the Turks were once again assembling their forces to attack the Canal, the British Army was pushed boldly into the desert, supported by a railway and pipes of fresh water, both of which accompanied them as they advanced. Steadily all through 1916, with many a fight but no serious set-back, the advance was made until, in March, 1917, the outskirts of Gaza were reached. Here we received the two great defeats of the whole campaign. First, on March 26, when a withdrawal was made (it is not clear why, even now) "when complete success was almost within our grasp," and when it was considered by many who took part in the battle "that had we held on for a short time longer we should have captured the town and the whole of the (Turkish) force"; and, secondly, on April 19, an attempt which can only be described as a ghastly failure.

The coming autumn was, however, to retrieve all this. The whole British force was reorganised under General Allenby. The Turks energetically entrenched themselves in a position of great strength, thirty miles long, from Gaza—which they "converted into a modern military fortress"—to the oasis-town of Beersheba. Meanwhile, we held lines which ran along the northern edge of the Wady Ghuzzeh from Gaza to Gamli—twenty-two miles—while the accumulation of supplies, the organisation of water and other transport, etc., proceeded apace. The monotony of life in the British lines was relieved by occasional raids. The author has much of interest to say about this period. Life was not without its diversions and touches of humour:

"On one occasion, the General was going round the front lines, accompanied by the Intelligence Officer (who is the officer that selects the password, which is changed daily) and by the C.O. of the unit in this sector. Staying out rather later than they intended, it was dusk or dark when they approached one of the posts. The sentry challenged: 'Halt! Hands up.' Up went the General's hands in prompt compliance. 'Advance one and give the countersign,' continued the sentry. The General turned to the Intelligence Officer: 'What is the countersign to-day?' said he. 'Really I am afraid I have forgotten,' replied the Intelligence Officer, and both referred to the Colonel. 'When I left my quarters it had not yet come through' was his reply. The sentry remained obdurate. Then followed explanations, and after some parley and identifications the party were allowed to proceed. As they were leaving the General hurried again to the sentry, saying: 'Well, my man, you might just tell us now what the password is.' 'I am sorry, sir, but I haven't the least idea.'"

There is a good, if somewhat "tall," spy story belonging to this period:—

"To one particular 'hush-hush' spot rode up a General with his staff officer, both faultlessly attired, accompanied by the usual orderly The General asked to be shown round, and his request was conceded with the thoroughness and courtesy due to his high rank. His inspection completed, the General expressed his thanks and the party rode away, never to be heard of again—at least, not in that capacity. Shortly afterwards, a notorious spy was seen working as a coolie in the Egyptian Labour Corps. Perhaps that was the General."

On October 31 came the sudden dramatic capture of Beersheba, and events moved swiftly. The following week saw the complete penetration of the enemy's lines of defence, and the night of November 7-8 the beginning of our rapid pursuit. The "full cry" up the Maritime Plain was carried out with no serious check as far as the mouth of the River Aujeh on the coast and north-eastwards far into the mountains of Judæa. The first rush slowed off somewhat about November 22, and a pause had to be made while roads were constructed and guns brought up. Major Lock describes in some detail the stiff fighting around the dominating height of Nebi Samwel, the "key" to the taking of Jerusalem. "The bulk of the hill fighting fell upon the 75th Division, whose Indian experience proved invaluable." The weather, cold and drenching rain, was against us, and yet, despite all, on the night of December 8-9 the Turks, threatened by the risk of being cut off by our main attack upon the Jerusalem-Nablus road, withdrew from the Holy City, beaten and disorganised. Fighting was thus avoided in the city itself. Later they seem to have thought their withdrawal was premature, and on the night of December 26-27 they embarked upon a determined counter-attack. This just anticipated, but did not stop, General Allenby's plan for a general advance, and in a few hours the Turks found themselves hurled well to the north of their previous position, and the security of Jerusalem was ensured.

During February Jericho was occupied, and the two following months witnessed two very bold raids east of the Jordan, which successfully convinced the Turks that our coming main attack would be in that direction. During this time the author's personal experiences were with the 21st Corps in the Wadi Dar Ballat:—

"Except for occasional raids, our soldiering . . . throughout February and the early part of March was campaigning *de luxe*. The enemy had gone right back to the line of the Wadi Dar Ballat, leaving a no man's land in front of us about four miles across. . . . We therefore enjoyed immunity both from sniping and shelling, and could move about in front of our line without anxiety, even in broad daylight. . . . We thus had opportunities for training and preparing ourselves for the next forward push. The whole battalion was put through a course of musketry. . . ."

Aerial activity was the most interesting military diversion. One Hun machine was forced to land within the British lines and another returning from our lines pitched in enemy territory. The Turks, mistaking it for a British machine, opened fire, and the Hun pilot, thinking he had landed among enemies, "burnt his machine and surrendered to his own friends!"

"Campaigning *de luxe*! The wild flowers did all that lay in their power to add to the luxury. The warm sun of February and March, following the drenching rain of the winter, produces in Palestine a profusion of beautiful flowers that is probably surpassed nowhere. The countryside was literally carpeted with choice flowers of sweet smell and vivid colour. To mention but a few: there were red, white, and blue anemones; cyclamen, white, pink, and mauve; aromatic herbs; poppies and cornflowers; scarlet tulips; pink phlox; blue irises; velvety arum lilies, black and crimson; tall, stately hollyhocks. And the catalogue is scarce begun. Truly a floral Paradise."

In the middle of March came a forward movement. "With a genius little short of that which has made roads across the Himalayas and the Alps, roads were soon engineered down and up the steep sides of the Wadi." The local advance at the end of March is fully described, an advance which was suddenly cut short by the events in France, but which gave us the commanding hill of Rafat, which was fortified "on an impregnable scale," and "ultimately became the firm pivot on which was based the great sweep which conquered Palestine."

The chapter entitled "The Crowning Victory" gives a condensed account of General Allenby's wonderful offensive of September, 1918, which was so successfully "camouflaged" by a spurious activity in the Jordan Valley—while an overwhelming force was concentrated near the Mediterranean—as to deceive the enemy entirely regarding our real point of attack. The exactly-timed onset of the concentrated force near the sea, the great break-through of the massed cavalry, the cutting off of the enemy's connection with his base of supplies, and the synchronous swoop of the Hejaz troops upon the railway line at Deraa, all worked together with the exactness of a machine. In a single fortnight the enemy lines were utterly broken. "Samaria, Galilee, Eastern Palestine and Damascus had been conquered; three Turkish armies had been destroyed, with the loss of their entire war material; and over 350 guns and 71,000 prisoners had been captured." As the news travelled north the Turks were forced by the Arabs to abandon Beyrout without a blow, and some three or four days later British (*not* French) troops arrived by sea to take possession. Aleppo was entered by our cavalry on October 26, and the station of Muslimie, on the Baghdad Railway, seized. Four days later the Turks concluded an armistice, to be followed within a fortnight by their powerful masters.

The writer, in conclusion, correctly points out the—very undesirable—inaccuracy of calling this great campaign the "Last Crusade." "At the final battle the Moslems serving in our armies far outnumbered the Christians."

E. W. G. M.

* "With the British Army in the Holy Land." By Major H. O. Lock, with Maps. (London: Robert Scott, 1919. 7s. 6d. net.)

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"THE NEW MAP OF ASIA."*

In 1906, at the Cecil Hotel, Mr. William Jennings Bryan, after a short tour of India and a short stay in London, handed the present reviewer with pontifical amiability a holograph peace and fraternity message anent Anglo-Saxon friendship for the British Press. Arrived in New York, about to bid a third time for the United States Presidency, he lodged a violent indictment—with his countrymen—against British rule in India. Three years later the reviewer heard the same Mr. Bryan—we had almost said with Bret Harte, "the same Mr. Brown," sarcastic-like—in Buenos Aires, deliver to an audience of inoffensive Argentines his well-thumbed lecture entitled "The Prince of Peace." The Argentines laughed at this American "hard case," because they do not like the Monroe doctrine, and Mr. Bryan thinks that it is good for them.

And even President Wilson finally had to cut the tow-rope of this Prince of Peace; and we are wondering whether the author of the "Fourteen Points," which are beginning to look in the United States Senate more like fourteen hundred points, will implore our present author to stop writing about new maps which exist mainly in a distorted imagination. Having given a puzzled world the new map of Africa and the new map of Europe, Mr. H. A. Gibbons, late of Roberts College, Constantinople, now perpetrates "The New Map of Asia." It out-Bryans Bryan.

We will, however, congratulate our author on a faculty for plain English and simple exposition. Continents, even the largest, offer no obstacle race for him; he takes them easily in a sprint; and so that there shall be no question about the infallibility of his verdict he hits the winning-tape with his breast, quoting not an American, not even a South American, but an English statesman—Mr. Asquith. How flattered must Mr. Asquith be! If this book be a contribution towards Anglo-American peace and fraternity we are profoundly sorry that it has been written. Nevertheless, confident that its one-sidedness will defeat the efforts of its author, we recommend it warmly to our readers. The book is an onslaught on "European Eminent Domain" in Asia, with the single exception of the Philippines, which is an "accident" (page 127). Let us compare:—

None can doubt the material benefits to the Filipinos of American rule during the first fifteen years of our occupation of the islands.

and

The builders of the British Empire in India [let us substitute "of the United States in America"] had admirable qualities—qualities essential to the making of successful pirates and free-booters—resourcefulness, persistence and military genius developed under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. Ruffians though they were, earlier British administrators were free from cant. They did not hesitate to admit that they were out for the loot, and that might made right. They did not attempt to justify their actions. They did not speak of the blessings of the *pax britannica* [*americana*], and they never get angry over the unwillingness of their victims to laud their efforts (page 38).

Or, again, in the chapter on Persia (page 263):—

No commentary is needed to drive home to the reader the heartlessness, the immorality, the hypocrisy, the brutality of the European Powers in their relations with Asiatic races

We read on, and we cannot rid a humming noise from our ears: Pope's poor old friend, "Lo, the poor Indian," and a red one at that. Or, again, on Zionism in Palestine (page 213):—

Americans hope that this war is going to bring together [not "has brought"] every element of the American nation in a common brotherhood. Native-born and immigrant, white and black, Protestant and Catholic and Jew, Aryan and Semite and Indian have one allegiance—to the Government of the United States, for which all alike shed their blood on the battlefields of France. This sacrifice was demanded by a Government which does not make citizenship depend upon race, or religion, or colour. The same responsibilities are exacted of all, the same privileges are extended to all.

We have another humming noise in our ears; but we will only mention that it is of the nature of a coon song sung in the ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria on Fifth Avenue.

But despite the fanaticism, the pharisaism, the disingenuousness, the unctuosity of our author, some, nay much, of his mud sticks. You arise from his map of Asia (very indifferent, skimpy, are the five charts in the volume) with an admirable bird's-eye view of the most civilised, the most injured, the most virtuous of polygamous continents. The continent was builded when our author discovered it; he describes the structure very graphically; he then utterly destroys it. Constructive criticism is evidently not in our author's armoury. And yet the whole of Asia *was* there when he put up his telescope. He is a Genghis Khan come to bless Asia in the twentieth century, but the Anglo-Japanese Alliance is not to his liking.

* "The New Map of Asia." By Herbert Adams Gibbons. (New York: The Century Co.)

SALONIKA AND AFTER.*

Four years ago Mr. Owen, by his own modest confession in these pages, knew little more about Salonika than the fact that St. Paul addressed two of his epistles to the people of Thessalonica; in his most imaginative moments the idea of editing *The Balkan News* never occurred to him. He would probably have repudiated with indignation any suggestion that he was an authority on Near Eastern politics. But what the gods will, is; and so far has the author's hand become subdued to what it worked in that we now find him maintaining with all seriousness the view that Salonika was the decisive theatre of the war. Perhaps Mr. Owen would not have expressed that opinion quite so earnestly in, say, 1917; in those dreary months when there was nothing whatever doing in Greece he may even have thought once or twice that Shoe Lane was about as decisive a theatre of operations as Salonika.

But we will not quarrel with Mr. Owen over these controversial matters; we are too grateful to him for a delightful book. He seems to us to have caught the very soul of the Salonika front—and of Salonika itself, which, as he makes clear, was not quite the same thing as the front; and he has expressed it in that delightful style which has too long been missed by London editors from their tables. Life was not always easy in the Near East, and the difficulties of producing an English newspaper in anything recognisably like the English tongue at Salonika were enough to make angels weep; but *The Balkan News* achieved a fame of its own, and was far the most successful of the special newspapers on the various fronts. Once or twice the obstacles to publication seemed so insuperable that even Mr. Owen, surely the mildest-mannered man who ever dipped his pen in ink, confesses that he would have liked to murder somebody; unfortunately he does not give us the mortality statistics of his sub-editors.

"Salonika and After" deserves to be kept as a permanent record of the side-show that became something more. It is not a military text-book, but a record of life that redounds to the credit of the Army—and the author. A. W. T.

AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIMENT.†

Readers who hold that education means something more than setting up schools and colleges will be interested in this official account of the attempt made to furnish all the literate inhabitants of an Indian State with that desideratum known as "something to read." The initiative, as is usual in the States, was taken by the Ruler, who nine years ago set an American library expert to work with adequate financial provision: in the result, the State is now equipped with a central library, town libraries, and a system of circulating books in the villages, together with special provision for ladies and children, and what is known as a "Visual Instruction Branch," or, in other words, "Pictures." So far as we know, no part of British India has a comparable equipment, and the Gaekwar can at least claim to have pioneered an undertaking of genuine importance. The figures given show that a large amount of literature has, in fact, gone into circulation: a wealth of illustrations is furnished of library buildings and their internal arrangements, while the letterpress gives what appears to be a fair account of the difficulties experienced and the results achieved. We should be grateful for more information as to the class of books put into circulation and the relative popularity of the various kinds: American library methods are designed to give such details, and we hope the Curator will see his way to publish them, and so enable us to judge whether the undertaking is mainly recreative or mainly instructional.

BOOKS RECEIVED.†

"The Poems of 'Amr Son of Qamt'ah, of the Clan of Qais Son of Tha'labah." Edited and translated by Sir Charles Lyall, D.Litt. (Cambridge University Press. 21s. net.)

"Balkan Problems and European Peace." by N. Buxton and C. L. Leese. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

"How Jerusalem was Won," by W. T. Massey. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 21s. net.)

"Ottoman Land Laws." By Stanley Fisher, M.A. (London: Humphrey Milford. 12s. 6d. net.)

"A Brief Description of the Holy Sepulchre: Jerusalem and Other Christian Churches in the Holy City." By George Jeffery. (Cambridge: University Press. 10s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTE.

Very shortly Mr. Murray will publish "By Nile and Tigris: A Narrative of Journeys in Egypt and Mesopotamia on behalf of the British Museum between the Years 1880-1913," by Dr. E. A. Wallis Budge, Keeper of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities in the British Museum. A full account is included of the excavations in Assyria and Babylonia from 1792 onwards.

* "Salonika and After." By H. Collinson Owen. (Hodder and Stoughton 10s. 6d. net.)

† "The Baroda Library Movement." By J. S. Kudalkar. (Baroda Central Library. Price 3s. 6d.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919.	1919.		1338.	5680.
November 21	November 8	Friday	Safar. 28	Marheswan. 8
" 22	9	Saturday.....	29	29
23	10	Sunday	30	Kislev. 1
24	11	Monday	Rabia I. 1	2
25	12	Tuesday.....	2	3
26	13	Wednesday	3	4
27	14	Thursday	4	5

The Shah of Persia, who is now in Paris, has decided to prolong his visit.

M. Nano has been appointed Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London.

Prince Bibesco has been appointed Councillor of the Roumanian Legation.

Lord Oranmore and Browne has arrived in London from Castle MacGarrett, Co. Mayo.

Prince Ismail, the son of the late Prince Zil-es-Soltan, has arrived in London from Teheran.

Lord and Lady Barrymore have left Fota Island, Co. Cork, and have arrived in London.

General Gouraud left Toulon on November 16 on board the cruiser Waldeck Rousseau for Syria.

M. Slobodan Yovanovitch has been appointed Secretary of the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Prince Firooz Mirza Nosret ed-Dowleh, has returned to London from the Continent.

M. George Boncesco, who has retired from the Roumanian Diplomatic Service, left London on November 17 for Bucharest.

Dr. Ronald Burrows, Principal of King's College, London, underwent a second operation on November 18. He is progressing favourably.

The Persian Minister is now making satisfactory progress towards recovery, and hopes to be able to leave town shortly to recuperate.

The Maharaja Gaekwar and the Maharani Sahiba of Baroda had the honour of being invited to luncheon with their Majesties on November 15.

An Egyptological exploring expedition, under Professor W. M. Flinders Petrie, left London on November 19 for Cairo, to renew excavations at Lahun.

The Sultan of Egypt has bestowed the Order of the Nile (4th Class) upon Temporary Lieutenant P. S. Taylor, formerly Deputy Director of the *Palestine News*.

Sir Ian Malcolm left London on November 15 to assume his duties in Paris as director of the Suez Canal Company. His address for the present will be Hôtel Vouillement, Rue Boissy d'Anglais, Paris.

The marriage was celebrated on November 11, at St. Peter's Church, South Kensington, by the Rev. Canon C. S. Woodward, between Major Graham Yalden Thomson, I.M.S., and Clare Coral Mullard, of Llandudno, Wales.

The marriage took place on October 13, at Baghdad, Mesopotamia, between Captain Herbert John Todd, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Baghdad, and Nancy, younger daughter of Colonel A. E. Pullen, R.A., and Mrs. Pullen.

The marriage took place on November 12, at Meerut, India, between Capt. Cuthbert James Blaikie, R.A.M.C., son of James Blaikie, late S.E.D., and Helen Dorothea Campbell, Q.A.I.M.N.S., India, daughter of Colonel J. C. Campbell, late R.E.

An engagement is announced between Elliston, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Campbell, of Sydney, Australia, and Phyllis, younger daughter of Mr. Charles Caspersz (late Calcutta High Court), and Mrs. Caspersz, of 29, Pembroke Gardens, W.8.

The *Egyptian Gazette* states:—Mr. H. E. Wortham, the editor of the *Egyptian Mail*, who left Egypt on a visit to London some weeks ago, will not resume his editorial duties in Cairo. Mr. O'Farrell has been appointed editor of that Cairo daily paper.

The marriage took place on November 18, at St. Matthias Church, Warwick Road, London, between Guy Lynn, son of the late Graham R. Lynn, of Karachi, and Mrs. Lynn, and Ida Mildred Cookson, daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. S. Cookson, of Stafford.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Arthur Owen Playford Reynolds, eldest son of the late Playford Reynolds, of Bombay, and Cheltenham, and Anita, younger daughter of Herber W. Morrison, of 15, Thurloe Square, S.W.

An engagement is announced between Major Cyril G. Rossi-Ashton, D.S.O., only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Rossi-Ashton, of Iona, Agrapatana, Ceylon, and Crawley, Sussex, and Gladys, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Jonas, of Woldingham, Surrey.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Eugen Millington-Drake, of his Majesty's Diplomatic Service, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Millington-Drake, and the Hon. Effie Mackay, youngest daughter of Lord and Lady Inchcape.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in Calcutta early in the New Year, between Morice Carlos Bird, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. George Bird, of The Orchard, Esher, and Molly, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hinds, of Calcutta.

The engagement is announced between Mr. George Lingner (late Anglo-Russian Commissioner for the Caucasus), of 68, Warwick Road, Kensington, and Winifred Vera, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Chattaway, of The Manor Cottage, Sunbury-on-Thames.

The marriage arranged between Captain Randall E. Hunt, 51st Punjabis, younger son of the Rev. and Mrs. H. F. Hunt, of Cookham Dean, Berkshire, and Gwendoline Violet, younger daughter of Dr. R. Morrison and Mrs. Morrison, M.B.E., of Duffield, Derby, will take place at Duffield on December 10.

The marriage was celebrated on November 12, at St. Columba's, Pont Street, by the Rev. Archibald Fleming, D.D., between Captain James Herbert Grove White, M.D., I.M.S., youngest son of the late W. Grove White, of St. Helen's, Lucan, and 18, Elgin Road, Dublin, and Frances Katherine, second daughter of the late J. H. W. Rolland, of 4, Gledhow Gardens, S.W.

The valuable collection of Oriental works belonging to the library of the late Dr. Ernest Haas, formerly of the British Museum and of University College, London, has been presented to the library of the School of Oriental Studies, London Institution, by his widow, Mme. Alma Haas, and family. The gift comprises upwards of 300 volumes, dealing chiefly with Sanskrit and the other languages of India.

It is announced that the marriage was celebrated on October 11, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Ranchi (India), by the Rev. Canon Cosgrave, M.A., between Captain Dennis James Leonard, 57th Wilde's Rifles, F.F., only son of the late the Hon. J. W. Leonard, K.C., and Mrs. F. Lloyd Cayzer, of Kensington, London, and Dorothea Gertrude, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs. H. Cyril Veasey, of Gonda House, Ranchi (Behar and Orissa).

The Secretary-General of the Order of St. John has received from Mr. Lee Smith, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, a contribution on its behalf of 5,000 dollars to the restoration fund of the hospital of the Order in Jerusalem. This is the second American gift within twelve months in aid of the British Ophthalmic Hospital, which, though damaged by the Turks, is again in working order.

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In the arrangements made for the Royal Society of Arts is the following:—December 18, P. J. Hartog, C.I.E., M.A., member of the Calcutta University Commission, 1917-1919, on "Some Problems of Indian Education." And the following papers will be read after Christmas:—Sir John Hubert Marshall, C.I.E., M.A., Litt.D., F.S.A., Director-General of Archæology in India, on "Recent Archæological Discoveries in India"; and Sir Valentine Chirol, in the Sir George Birdwood Memorial Lecture.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—Mehmet Halil Bey, Turkish judge at Famagusta, has been granted three months' vacation leave and sixteen months' leave of absence from October 15. Halil Bey proposes to study law in London, with a view to being called to the Bar.

Mehmet Fehmi Effendi is appointed Judge of the District Court of Nicosia.

Mehmet Effendi Raïf will act as Turkish Judge at Famagusta.

Mr. A. J. Shettish has been appointed a Clerk in Division I. of the General Clerical Staff.

Mr. H. T. Miller is appointed temporarily Ordnance Surveyor in the Land Registry.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—Major Bayley has been appointed to act as Registrar-General.

M. Bonzom, French Consul-General at Alexandria, has been appointed Consul-General at London.

The *Sudan Times* understands that Dr. V. S. Hodson, M.V.O., has been appointed Director, Khartoum and Omdurman Civil Hospitals, in place of Dr. J. B. Christopherson, who has been placed en pension.

The appointment of Mr. James William Ronald Macleay, C.M.G., to be his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Argentine Republic is announced. Mr. James Macleay has acted in various capacities at many places, including Constantinople and Belgrade.

It was officially confirmed on November 12 that, with the approval of the King and in accordance with the decision of the Allied and Associated Powers, Sir Reginald Tower, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., had been appointed Administrator of the free city of Danzig, pending the appointment by the League of Nations of a High Commissioner. Sir Reginald has had a distinguished diplomatic career, his posts including Constantinople, Madrid, and Berlin.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Aram Raffi, Secretary of the Armenian Bureau in London, died on November 13 at the age of forty-three years.

The death is announced of Mr. John Albert Venn, M.D., M.R.C.P. He was the son of John Whalley Venn, the first municipal magistrate of Colombo.

The death occurred on November 9, at Buckleigh House, Westward Ho! North Devon, of Alexander Blakely Patterson, C.I.E., Bengal Civil Service (retired), aged 77.

The death occurred on November 8, at Newbold, Forres, N.B., of Colonel John Woodcock, late Madras Staff Corps (Hyderabad Contingent, in his ninety-second year.

Major Thomas Bott, late of the 6th Dragoon Guards, who served with distinction in the Crimean and Indian Mutiny campaigns, died on November 10. He was in his ninetieth year.

Reuter's Berlin correspondent reports:—The newspapers state that Mohamed Farid Bey, who succeeded Mustapha Kamel Pasha as leader of the Egyptian Nationalists, died here on November 15.

Captain W. F. Portlock Dadson, late Royal Marine Light Infantry, has died in London at the age of 86. He took part in the Crimean Campaign, receiving the medal with clasp and the Turkish medal.

Major Samuel Phillips, late of the Royal Irish Regiment, died on November 11 at Gaile House, Cashel, County Tipperary, in his seventy-first year. He served in the Afghan War of 1879-80, and had the medal for that campaign.

Colonel Charles Birch-Reynardson, late of the Grenadier Guards, has died of pneumonia at Hopetoun House, the seat of the Marquess of Linlithgow. Colonel Birch-Reynardson, who was born in 1845, was A.D.C. to the Viceroy of India in 1872-4.

Admiral Charles John Rowley died on November 11 in his eighty-seventh year. He saw active service in the Black Sea during the Crimean War and was second in command of the Channel Squadron in 1887-8. He had also served as Aide-de-Camp to Queen Victoria.

The *Indépendance Belge* announces the death of the Count de Lalaing, former Belgian Minister in London. Count de Lalaing, who was born in London in 1856, entered the Belgian Foreign Office in 1879, and was afterwards promoted to the Diplomatic Service. Before coming to London he served in Vienna, Bucharest, Berlin, and Berne.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

America has undertaken to provision Armenia till August next.

Mgr. Fumasoni Biondi, the Delegate-Apostolic to India, has been appointed Delegate-Apostolic to Japan.

It is understood that the Capitulations will at once be re-applied in respect of nationals of all the Powers which fought against Turkey in the war, including Greece and Serbia.

Relief operations in Bombay Presidency, in Bankura District of Bengal, and in Angul District of Bihar and Orissa, and relief works in Banka sub-division of Bhagalpur District, have been closed.

The *matinée* which was to have been given at the Globe Theatre by the courtesy of Miss Marie Lohr for the benefit of the Serbian Relief Fund, on November 24, has been unavoidably postponed.

M. Poulet and M. Benoit, the French airmen, telegraph from Karachi that they were obliged to stop their Paris-Melbourne flight during the day because Hindus mistook them for devils and tried to kill them.

According to an official return, 143,752 officers and other ranks were conveyed in transports on long sea routes last month. Of this number 9,812 sailed from Egypt, 21,697 from India and Mesopotamia, 10,670 from the Black Sea, and 9,991 from Russia to the United Kingdom. From the United Kingdom to India there sailed 28,095, and to Egypt 2,020.

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Editorial and Publishing Offices:

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1919.

THE FUTURE OF AFGHANISTAN

The Afghan question is still with us, and we see no immediate prospect of a complete solution. The victorious peace which was celebrated by such brave official trumpetings turns out on further inspection to have but little relation to peace, and perhaps less to victory; such as it is, it makes no claim to finality, and after a due breathing-space negotiations are to be resumed, though at the moment no prudent man would venture a confident opinion on the question whether the arguments to be advanced will be drawn from the ordinary diplomatic armoury or from the stores furnished by the chemist and the engineer. Our purpose to-day is not to discuss either the immediate past or the prospects of the coming winter, but to look somewhat farther ahead, to estimate the basic factors of the situation, and to arrive at a reasoned view of the future of the Afghan nation. Is there, in a word, any hope that they will develop into good citizens of the world, and friendly neighbours to the Indian Empire, or must we act on the assumption that their present attitude will be maintained for an indefinite period? That their attitude has been, and is, most inconvenient is a proposition which we need not urge. Their numbers are small, perhaps five or six millions all told, but small nations may be the cause of great evils, especially when the national characteristics are strongly marked, and, subject to little variation, these statements are certainly true of Afghanistan. The people are not destitute of qualities which might be of service to the world. They are laborious husbandmen, intelligent craftsmen, astute merchants; they fight well, and individually they are often excellent company. They have bad qualities also, particularly that perfidy which has become proverbial, and that overbearing insolence which makes them the terror of the Indian plains, and at present there is no doubt that the scale inclines against them. Let us see whether there are any influences at work likely to result in a reversal of the adverse balance.

There is first of all the economic motive. Afghans are poor, and it is conceivable that they may settle down to employ their undoubted qualities in the material development of their country. The prospect is not, however, very promising. Some of the land is fertile, but much of it is utterly useless; there is little scope for agriculture on a broad scale, and while the inhabitants may extend the production of such specialities as drugs or dried fruits, which can bear the heavy cost of transit imposed by the nature and position of the country, only a very sanguine man would suggest that the immediate prospect of gain is so strong as to justify the hope of any marked change in the attitude of the people. There is some evidence of the presence of mineral wealth, of copper, lead, and iron, but no great mining developments can be looked for until large supplies of coal or oil are located in accessible positions, and the fuel question must also govern the possibility of large-scale manufacturing industry, the materials for which would have to consist mainly of the metals, together with wool, which is now the country's most important export. Conditions in Asia must undergo a very great alteration before Afghanistan can regain its old position as a commercial centre for the interchange of Eastern and Western products; and, taking all these considerations together, the inference seems to be justified that economic development is likely to be slow, and to follow rather than precede an alteration in the national outlook. The religious motive offers even less prospect: the country is, to say the least, an unpromising field for any form of missionary effort, and at the present time the only propaganda likely to be important is Pan-Islamism in its most militant form, an influence which must serve to accentuate rather than mitigate all that is worst in the mental attitude of the people. Similarly, the only cultural influence to be expected is the creed of Bolshevism, which is already welcomed, and which in essentials is so closely akin to Afghan mentality that its general acceptance would not be matter for surprise. To what then can we look? Education, if education there should be, will be dominated by the religious and cultural influences to which we have just referred; the environment is not likely to tolerate an independent or enlightened Press; and the effect of travel and neighbourly intercourse is for some time likely to be deleterious rather than beneficial. We are forced to the pessimistic conclusion that Afghanistan is not for the present likely to be of any service to the world, and that she will be a worse neighbour rather than a better.

The prospect is, therefore, black, but at the same time there is a chance of better things. With the orderly development of Persia, of which there is more hope now than there has been for centuries, and with the establishment of saner political conditions in the country to the north, which is at the least a possibility of the near future, Afghanistan may find herself enclosed gradually in an iron ring of progressive civilisation, beset by neighbours who may not interfere with her internal activities, but who will stand no nonsense on the borders, and will at the same time bring opportunities of peaceful intercourse increasingly within her reach. The pressure of such an environment works slowly, but in the long run with relentless force; the contrast between advancing wealth and stagnant poverty, between ordered freedom and disordered licence, must eventually produce an impression on the more backward nation, and in the end civilisation will win. The process will indeed be slow. An Eastern despot might have hoped to attain the objective more rapidly by a wholesale deportation such as once befell the Hebrew race, and it is not entirely inconceivable that in the distant future the united wills of the civilised nations may determine on not less drastic solutions of similar problems, but failing such measures, which at the present day lie entirely beyond the limit of practical politics, there appears to be no alternative to the line which we have indicated, to fence such turbulent communities with a ring of civilisation. But the ring must be maintained intact; and this brings us to the practical lesson to be drawn from what may appear to be a somewhat academic argument. The chief responsibility must for the present rest on England and on India, because for eight long centuries the Indian plains lay open to Afghanistan, to be raided and devastated whenever economic pressure, or mere lust of spoil, provided the necessary incentive to a task in itself so easy that it bore the aspect of sport rather than of war. We had thought that the doorways to the plains had been effectively closed, but the events of last spring have taught us that our preparations were in some respects inadequate: the Afghans were led to believe that the time so greatly longed for had at last arrived, when the road to wealth and spoil could again be forced, and in the light of the most recent information we must admit that they had some excuses for their belief, erroneous as it proved. This must never happen again. The security of the North-West Frontier is now, as it has always been, India's most vital national interest, and it must be maintained for the future with such a margin of safety that not even the ignorance and lust of Afghanistan may venture on another effort. All internal reforms, however desirable in themselves, must be subordinated, if necessary, to this paramount claim, and when the new Legislative Assembly meets in Delhi, its members may fitly be reminded that the Afghans have been in Delhi, too.

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THE SITUATION IN TURKESTAN

By IKBAL ALI SHAH.

Nowhere probably in Asia has the Russian revolution altered the situation more definitely than in the Middle East; and the regions of the Uzbek Khanates, which have remained a forgotten land, now emerge into real and immediate strategical importance. Many travellers with an eye of scrutiny who visited Central Asia during the last four decades have affirmed that if ever the Tartars and the Uzbeks awoke to a sense of national autonomy it would come through outside influences, and the developments of affairs during the Great War have amply justified the assertion. Yet, paradoxical as it may seem, it is nevertheless true that while the Russians in years gone by had carefully checked the wave of national individuality among their subject races in the East, the overthrow of the Imperialist régime made it possible for the Central Asian people to revert to the old order of things and to regain their longed-for liberty.

But the circumstances of the recent fighting around Merv in the north-west of Afghanistan differ materially from those of the Persian or the British occupation of Herat of long ago. The question at issue is one of foreign dictation, and the consequences will not only react on the integrity of Afghanistan and Persia, but may also become equally menacing to the peace of the whole Middle East. In such a remote corner of the earth as Transcaspia it is difficult to despatch sufficiently strong forces of the Allies to strengthen the power of resistance of the Ameer of Afghanistan or the Shah of Persia: yet leaving those regions alone to the mercy of the Bolshevists may render the position untenable.

Simultaneously with the abandonment of the Caspian shores by the Russians, the Bolshevists have made overtures to the Turkomans and the Uzbeks to join the party through whose exertions alone, they declared, the self-determination of the Tatar race could be regained. There could not have been a more opportune moment or a cleverer perversion of aims. Consequently the Bolshevist "advice" was gladly taken by the Khan of Bokhara. There was, naturally, self-interest involved on both sides. The Khanate of Khiva proclaimed itself as a self-governing State, and Bokhara followed suit. Much blood was shed in Central Asia during the last three years of this war, when some discontented people, solely to attain their own political ends, did a vast amount of mischief. They even employed the Pan-Turanic propaganda with some results; but quite different influences were at work beneath the surface.

To examine the deeper vein of the political difficulty one must take into account the conditions prevailing when Bolshevist influence began to make itself felt among the Uzbeks. It is never redundant to say that in almost all diplomatic dealings with Asiatic peoples much attention has to be paid to their sentiments. With most of them religion is the first and last concern in life, and from an Oriental's point of view many of the canons of their faith have inextricable associations with their racial prejudices. Herein lies the root cause of the Russian collapse in Turkestan: in their Eastern march for conquest and annexation they had grossly blundered in neglecting the sentimentality of their subject races, more especially those of the people of the Khanates. It is therefore desirable that in any consideration of Central Asian problems, the previous conditions should be inquired into. Let it then be said that the Russians had not only ignored Uzbek sentiments, but, by injuring the feelings of those over whom their good fortune had made them conquerors, had actually inflicted a blow to their Imperial stability.

The Russian reduction of the Khanates was not approved by any neighbours of Khiva or Bokhara. Powers much beyond the Oxus had also looked askance at this movement, but chose rather to await further developments before making any active remonstrance. The frowning forts of Kushki Post—only eighty miles from Herat—engendered no friendly feelings in the hearts of the Afghans; nor did the Persians in Meshed think their town in perfect safety; while the Uzbeks, the Kerghiz, and the Turkomans fretted for liberty.

The projection of the Transcaspian Railway from Merv to three points north-west of Afghanistan has already involved the statesmen of Great Britain, Russia, and Afghanistan in considerable controversy. In explanation the Russians declared that the necessity of the undertaking arose out of a desire to open commercial routes in Persia and Afghanistan, and to a lesser degree with that of India, but the motive of the Russian policy lay in a quite different direction.

There are a few things which are not generally known about this project of the Transcaspian Railway, and one of them, which had for long been concealed as a State secret, is particularly illuminating. It shows how far the policy of carrying the railway on to three points in the north of Afghanistan was dictated by purely military considerations. The fact is that at times military communications are almost suspended between Russian posts on the frontier of Afghanistan, as the Oxus freezes during winter and the Amu-Daraya flotilla can do no duty. It was, therefore, to establish an additional avenue for military operations that the Murghab Valley line was laid to Kushki Post. The sum of 9,669,000 roubles which was spent in the construction of this line has been repaid twice over since its installation. Side by side with this one must bear in mind that the Russians have taken "a dear bit" of Afghanistan. The late Ameer deplored the loss of his rightful possession of Panjdeh. The Afghans have never forgotten the incident, and a great breach has ever since remained in their relations with Russia. Unnecessary bloodshed at Panjdeh has created a gulf never to be bridged over.

Now that the common enemy of the Allied and the associated nations in the name of Bolshevism is menacing the permanent disintegration of the Central Asian States, it is of importance to consider what measure of resistance can be offered, so that the sordid influence may not entirely shatter all hopes of returning peace in the Middle East.

In the past the people of this country were too prone to leave the Central Asian questions severely alone, as if it were a region which lay outside the British sphere of interest. Turkestan was not infrequently called a "land of a lethargic people." Consequently there existed—and still exists—save among a few students of world-politics, a somewhat hazy idea regarding the character of the people of the Khanates of the Middle East. This ignorance was perhaps not unnatural, for while Russia advanced in big strides in Central Asia, the British public became indifferent on the matter, probably thinking that it kept Russia from meddling in European politics. The scheme succeeded; and then we were startled by a rude awakening to the fact that Russia's frontier was common to a country which abutted on the bulwark of the Indian Empire—the North-West Frontier province. Diplomatic difficulties became frequent, and the safety of the peace of India was threatened. At one time it was the menace of an Imperialistic Russia bent upon territorial expansion; to-day the same danger looms up, though in a different guise. Bolshevism is at the door.

It is now pretty generally admitted that the "Labour Communism" which the revolutionaries have inscribed on their banners has won many adherents to the Bolshevist movement. It is also known that brute force has been employed in the furtherance of Lenin's principles. Hence one is disposed to view the subject with mingled disgust and alarm. Both factors have contributed towards winning over the Khanates; for labour conditions in Central Asia are quite as acute as in any other country. The assertion may be surprising, but when it is said that ever since Russia's entry into the last war, and right up to this day, the whole supply of cotton, silk, wool, and live stock is derived from the Khanates, it will be evident that noble Bokhara is not only a university town but also the great commercial centre of the Middle East. The last returns show that the annual output has increased as much as 31,715,000 roubles in raw material alone.

"The chief task," said Lenin, "which we set ourselves at the beginning of the war was to turn the Imperialist war into a civil war." This is the avowed policy of the Bolshevists. They have accomplished the overthrow of Tsardom, and it is of importance to endeavour to ascertain how far and how long this overthrow may affect the economic as well as the political equilibrium of Central Asia. If the matter be not faced and grappled with, it may submerge Asia in blood and render any efforts towards reconciliation sterile. Whatever may be the relations of the Allies towards the saner Russia of to-morrow, they, as guardians of smaller nationalities, must see that Bolshevist intrigue and propaganda are presently checked in Central Asia; otherwise that part of the East, as history bears witness, is always full of potentialities of conflict and war. I leave further consideration of the situation to more responsible parties. The object of this article is merely to point out the existence of a real threat as seen by one who belongs to those troublesome spheres.

DISCOVERIES IN GREECE.

The Athens correspondent of *The Times* has recently reported the excavations of some important ruins. In the village of Malia, near Candia, in Crete, have been discovered the ruins of an ancient palace, attributed to the Minoan period. Near by tombs containing skeletons have been brought to light. In Amphipolis, Macedonia, a colossal marble piece has been found in a space which was originally excavated by British soldiers. During the excavations adjoining the portico of the Temple of Æsculapius at Epidaurus (forty miles S.W. of Athens) a portico (*Stoa*) with mosaics has been found. Two further buildings have been discovered near the great reservoir, with columns, pedestals, and a statue of Hermes.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Montenegro. November 17.

Mr. McNeill asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (1) whether his attention had been called to a dispatch dated from Trieste on October 25, and published in the *Chicago Tribune* on November 1, which contained a summary of the Report of Count de Salis on Montenegro; if he would say why a document concealed from the House of Commons was allowed to be published in the American Press; whether, in view of such publication, he would reconsider his decision not to lay the report upon the table of the House;

(2) if he was aware that the summary of the De Salis Report published in America contained the statements that the Podgoritza Assembly was a bogus one from beginning to end, that Montenegro was in the grip of Serbia, that the Serbs were murdering the Montenegrins wholesale, and that the people of Montenegro were eager to maintain their independence of Serbia; whether the summary gave correctly the substance of the report; and, if not, in what particulars was it inaccurate?

Mr. Harmsworth: I have not yet seen the newspaper report, and until it has been received and examined within, I hope, the next few days, I can offer no comment on the subject.

Turkey.

In the course of replies to questions put by Brigadier-General Surtees and Captain Ormsby-Gore, Mr. Balfour said:—As regards the Turkish Empire, it is impossible for any Government which has taken part in the Peace Conference at Paris to speak of itself as to the policy which, if it were alone in the world, it would desire to pursue. This must be a common policy, and until a common policy is settled it would be action unfair to our Allies and friends if we were to map out the Turkish Empire in precisely the form in which we should like to see that great area ultimately arranged. It would be impossible to carry on any action between different Governments if that kind of procedure were once sanctioned. It is not our fault, it is the fault of the fact that until America has given a clear lead on this subject as to her own policy it is impossible that a common policy of all the Associated Powers, of which America is one of the most important, should be laid in clear outlines before the House.

It is quite true that the state of unrest which now prevails in the Turkish Empire—from Constantinople in the west to the furthermost limits of Mesopotamia in the east—is doing infinite harm and is making it more difficult to find a final and satisfactory solution of these difficult problems. Let us face the question and not reproach each other with evils and difficulties for which none of us are responsible. What is the use of saying it is a very unfortunate and very unhappy thing that Turkey should not know her own destiny? It is a very unfortunate thing. I am not going to pronounce upon the final destiny of the Turkish Empire, but this we may surely say with certainty, that a great historic population like the Turks is not going to be wiped off the map of the world by any arrangement which will ever be sanctioned by the Peace Conference at Paris, or London, or Washington, wherever the Peace Conference may meet. The Turkish people are there, and if all that we profess and all that we believe about self-determination and nationalities is to find its exemplification with regard to the Turks, as with regard to other peoples, it is as certain that there will be after the peace a Turkish Empire as it is uncertain at this moment what the precise bounds of that empire will be.

Syria.

Mr. Balfour stated his hope of a resuscitation of the great Arab civilisation. He then said:—So far as England and France are concerned, let it be quite distinctly understood that there is no rivalry, and can be no rivalry, between those Powers in Syria, and whatever difficulties present themselves in future it is our earnest wish, in the friendliest co-operation with the French, and with the warmest regard for our Arab Allies, to see all those difficulties brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

Egypt.

In regard to Egypt, Mr. Balfour said:—Egypt has suffered, as so many parts of the world have suffered—I might almost say the whole world—under that spirit of unrest which the world catastrophe has brought upon us. I have, for myself, absolute confidence that that unhappy state of things will be brought to an end, and I have the more confidence because General Lord Allenby is in control of the situation, and perfectly understands the duty that lies before him. I am told that the East is the birthplace of rumour and is full of the strangest legends as to the views and policy of the Government. Let me, therefore, say very shortly that in our view the questions of Egypt, the Sudan, and the Canal form one organic and indissoluble whole, and neither in Egypt, nor in the Sudan, nor in connection with the Canal does England mean to give up any of her responsibilities. British supremacy exists; British supremacy is going to be maintained, and let nobody either in Egypt or out of Egypt make any mistake upon that cardinal principle of his Majesty's Government. Having laid that down, let me make this addition to the statement, that we desire in every way we can to associate the Egyptian native population with the government of the country. We desire to further in all respects, I need hardly say, the prosperity of that ancient land. It is now disturbed and torn by a certain amount of dissensions and a certain amount of unrealisable expectations, expectations which if they were fulfilled would damage Great Britain, would damage the world, but would damage most of all the Egyptian population itself. The Government long ago announced that they were going to send out a Commission under the most competent presidency of Lord Milner to investigate the situation on the spot. To that policy they unalterably adhere, and until we get the report of that Commission it would be folly for me to sketch any project of legislation or reform. I think the Egyptian population and those who feel for them may rest assured that our desire is to associate them as far as possible with the work of administration in Egypt, and that, unlike their Turkish masters, who in Egypt at this moment still affect to be pro-Egyptian, we shall steadily pursue the policy of amelioration which has made the Egypt of the early part of the twentieth century an utterly different place for all its inhabitants, and most of all its native inhabitants, from what it was under Turkish rule.

Malta. November 19.

Colonel Amery (Under-Secretary, Colonies), replying to Captain Ormsby-Gore, said the Government had decided that the time had come to entrust the people of Malta with full responsibilty for the control of their purely local affairs. The control of the naval, military, and other services and functions of the Government that were connected with Malta as an Imperial fortress would remain vested in the Imperial Government. Some time would necessarily be involved in working out details and clearing up certain financial problems created by the war. At a later date he would come to the House for a measure of assistance for the finances of the island, which had been seriously embarrassed by circumstances arising out of the war and the subsequent reduction of the garrison and the dockyard staff. He hoped they might be able to dispose of these matters in the course of next year and enable the new system of local self-government to come into force in the early part of 1921. This decision had been come to on the advice of Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, the Governor of the island.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

Egypt. Indian Army Officers (Prisoners of War Pay.) Aliens: Miss Dora Kostich. Troops in Egypt. India: Army Education System.—Japanese Imports. Montenegro. (November 11.)

India: Afghanistan (Negotiations with Bolshevists).—Civil Service (Proportionate Pensions).—Officers' War Bonus Gratuities.—Civil Services (Leave, Pay and Pensions).—Punjaub Riots.—Kurdistan (Murder of British Officers). Belgrade. Asia Minor (Italian Military Garrisons) Trebizond (Military Representatives). Turkish Treaty. India: Indian Civil Service (Probationers).—Afghanistan (Viceroy's Proclamation).—Land Settlement (British Officers).—Punjaub (Prosecuting for Rioting).—Burma (Government). (November 12.)

S.S. River Clyde. Near East (Treaty with Greece). His Majesty's Arabian Guests. Demobilisation: Troops in India. India: Government of India Bill (Evidence).—Wolseley Helmets (Contract).—Afghanistan. (November 13.)

Asia Minor (Protection of Armenians). Montenegro Government Policy in Near East. Wireless Squadron, Mesopotamia. India: Provident Fund Deposits (Interest).—Medical Service, Mesopotamia (Furlough). (November 17.)

THE DE SALIS REPORT.

The *Chicago Tribune* publishes what purports to be a summary of the report sent by Count de Salis to the British Government. According to the correspondent who forwards the summary (under date of October 25, from Trieste): "After its dispatch to the British Government more than a month ago the Count, with Colonel E. G. Cheke and other British officers, were practically interned in Cettigne, and only permitted to go when a British cruiser arrived in Cattaro to take them home." The correspondent adds that the report "was known to Serbian secret agents almost as soon as it was sent." The "extract of the report," which, he states, he has succeeded in obtaining, is as follows:—

"Montenegro is in the grip of Serbia, who is ruling at the point of the bayonet. All the mayors are Serbians. The Serbs have one division in Montenegro. All the Montenegrin notables are in jail.

"The Podgoritza Skouptchina (General Assembly) was a bogus one from beginning to end. Everything was secret except the result. The Serbs are murdering the Montenegrins wholesale, particularly the notables who do not approve of the Serbian administration of the country.

"Montenegrins in the pay of the Serbs do not count where the will of the people is concerned. If King Nicholas had enough money he could have bought them. The royalists are stronger and also more popular than they were six months ago. The remainder of the population is silent. But all are ready to certify that they are suffering from Serbian maladministration and oppression.

"Rightly or wrongly, Nicholas is king of Montenegro. That has been recognised by all governments all through King Nicholas's years of exile. He is king, and the government cannot go back on that, and his Government, although a provisional one, has been recognised by the Allied Powers.

"How can we get the Serbs out of Montenegro? By means of an alien military force it could be effected, but probably the Allies will not act. An Allied command to the Serbians to evacuate would be disregarded. If the King went to Antivari the loyalists would join him at once over the hills. If he went *viâ* Cattaro he would be done in by the Serbians.

"We are up against a stone wall. The problem is not a simple one. How to get the Serbs out and self-determination of the people? Freedom of the Press and a fearless journal would do it."

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

I was much interested in a correspondence in *The Times* recently on the derivation of the name "Bloomsbury." One writer suggested that the old name was Bleomans-bury, and that the first part represented a personal name, Bleoman—*i.e.*, a man of colour. He added that the term "is used to designate a Moor, a black-a-moor." Another correspondent bore out this theory, adding that he himself had examined a prehistoric earthwork, near Rotherham, "called 'Blue Man's Bower,' from the man's name, Bleoman, or Bloman, a black man, or negro." So it seems that the district famous for boarding-houses and the British Museum very likely does owe its name to some old "Moor." The second writer I have quoted remarks that "one is reminded of the Blue Beard (black beard) of the old tale." I suppose Bloomsbury, like other parts of London, has its Bluebeards and its Sister Annes. But I shall like the place better henceforth by reason of the Eastern associations that its name will call up.

***

I have received from "A. W. B.," some of whose ribald rhymes have already appeared in these columns, some verses on the *Basra Times*. His efforts are too prolonged to be reproduced *in toto* here, but I give a few of the stanzas for the enjoyment of my readers:—

For really spicy, nevsy news,
Of all the papers and reviews,
Which, gentle reader, would you choose?
The *Basra Times?*
"The auctioneer will sell at ten
"A mule, a bullock, and a hen,
"Those wretched banks are closed again,"
says the *Basra Times.*
The Military Governor writes
That dancing girls in silken tights
Must not stay out too late at nights
in the *Basra Times.*
My gifts poetic, it appears,
They bore my choicest friends to beers.
I could go on like this for years.
(But Not in the *Basra Times.*—Ed.)

***

There is in the City of London a large and popular restaurant, which is extensively patronised by citizens who first saw the light of day in the Levant. I have visited it—the restaurant, I mean—myself, and I was struck by the number of obviously Near Eastern patrons who were doing their best, or their worst, for their precious 'tummies. Well, a friend of mine tells me that he was in the building the other day, having a wash and brush-up before lunch, when he heard the attendant and another person discussing a third party. "Say 'e is sixty, do you?" queried the attendant. "I don't think!" "Sixty? Every day of it," retorted the other. "Why, he has been lunching here for the past forty years—and very nearly every day at that." "Lunching 'ere for forty years?" demanded the man in charge of the soap and towels. "Lunching *'ere* for forty years! I can't swallow that. 'Uman flesh and blood wouldn't stand it." I do not know who the heroic luncher may be, but I should not mind betting that he came from somewhere east of—Brindisi.

CORSAIR.

MESOPOTAMIA.

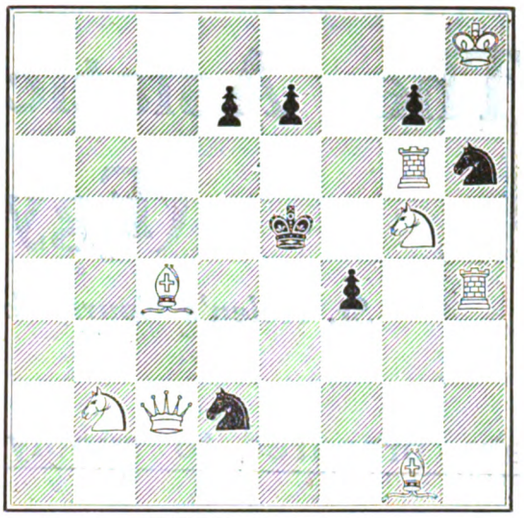
In a lecture given on November 10 before the Royal Geographical Society on "Surveying in Mesopotamia During the War," Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. Beazeley, R.E., said: Survey research work, he continued, had revealed the ruins of an elaborate irrigation system, by means of which the country in the remote past was covered with a network of canals. Some of these were 20 ft. deep, with steep embankments. The ancient city of Samarrah, at a period before the Christian era, was twenty miles in length and two and a-half miles in width, and, it is estimated, contained a population of 4,000,000. It had then miles of walls and warehouses, and constituted a centre of trade, on which caravans converged from a vast area. The present city of Samarrah was a mere shadow of its former greatness. Another city in Mesopotamia showed unmistakable traces of having been laid out on the lines which to-day characterised a modern American city.

Sir Francis Younghusband, who presided, referred to the important part which photography from the air was destined to play in research work in the future.

The German Imperial Standard captured at Jerusalem has been presented to the 5th Welsh Regiment.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 3.



White to mate in two.

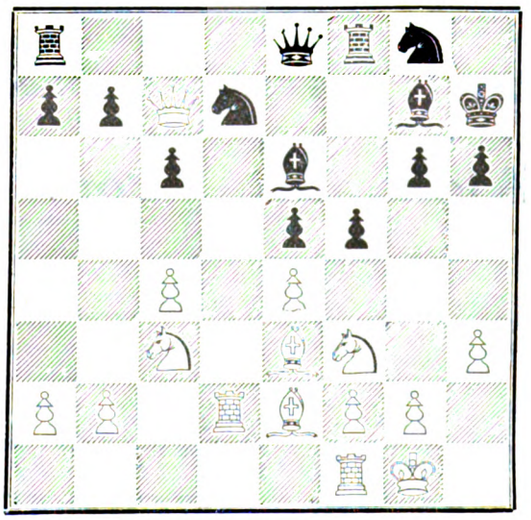
The above problem, by "G. W. M.," Philadelphia, took the first prize in one of the competitions of the Good Companion Club in 1913.

From the point of view of brilliance it is not surprising that the view should be taken in some quarters that the Hastings Tournament was rather disappointing. Games of the Morphy type were conspicuous by their absence, but that, of course, is only to be expected as the result of the work of the analyst. Openings are now such cut-and-dried affairs, and the lines on which a game is likely to develop so limited, that anything out of the ordinary must be very exceptional.

The solution to last week's end game is 1. . . . K—Q4; 2. K—K2, K—Q3; 3. K—B2, K—Q2; 4. K—Kt3, K—K; 5. K—Kt4, K—B2; 6. P—R5, K—K2; 7. P x P, P x P; 8. QP—Q5! K—Q3 (best); 9. P x P, K x P; 10. P—B5(ch)! P x P(ch); 11. K—B4, K—K2; 12. K x P and wins. K—Kt6, which seems the obvious move for Black, loses by 2. P—B5, KtP x P; 3. P—R5, K x P; 4. K—B3, and it is immaterial whether Black plays K—R7 or P—B5. In the former case White plays K—B2, and when Black plays K x P goes to Kt; in the latter P x P, and when Black plays P—K7 White plays K—Q2.

The following game was played in the Minor Tournament at Hastings. Opening, Queen's Pawn: White, Mr. H. E. Price; Black, M. A. Gibaud. 1. P—Q4, KKt—B3; 2. KKt—B3, P—Q3; 3. P—K3, B—Kt5; 4. P—B4, QKt—Q2; 5. B—K2, P—K4; 6. Kt—B3; P—B3; 7. Q—B2, P—KKt3; 8. 0—0, B—Kt2; 9. P x P, P x P; 10. P—K4, 0—0; 11. B—K3, P—KR3; 12. QR—Q(sq), Q—K2; 13. P—KR3, B—K3; 14. Q—Q2, K—R2; 15. Q—Q6(1), Q—K(sq); 16. R—Q2, Kt—KKt(sq); 17. Q—B7, P—KB4;

Position after Black's 17th move, P—KB4.



18. Q x KtP, P—B5; 19. B x RP, R—B2; 20. Q x P, R x B; 21. Kt—QKt5, Kt—K2(2); 22. Q x B, R—B3; 23. Q—Kt4, P—R4; 24. Kt—Kt5(ch), K—R3; 25. Q—B3, K x Kt; 26. Kt x R, K—R3; 27. Kt—Kt5, Kt—B3; 28. Kt—Q6, Q—K3; 29 Kt—B5(ch), K—R2; 30. Kt x B, K x Kt; 31. KR—Q(sq), Kt—Q5; 32. R x Kt, P x R; 33. R x P, Kt—K4; 34. Q—B3, P—B6; 35. B x P, Kt x B(ch); 36. P x Kt, K—R3; 37. Q—Q2(ch), P—KKt4; 38. R—Q5, R—Kt3; 39. Q—Q4, R—B3; 40. P—B5 resigns.

1. White anticipates Black's attack on the King's side.
2. Black had to lose something.

CARO-KANN.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The announcement that the Yugoslav Government has prohibited the export from Yugoslavia by the individual traveller of foreign money in excess of the value of £30 need not unduly alarm intending visitors to that country. Similar precautions have been in vogue for some time past in other countries suffering from a depreciated currency, where it is desirable that as much foreign money as possible should be held in the country to steady exchange. It is to be presumed that foreigners entering the country will be required to declare the amount of foreign money in their possession, and that the unexpended portion will be exempted from the £30 rule. The possibility of trouble can be minimised by recourse to letters of credit. The prohibition is far more serious for the Yugoslavs themselves than for foreigners; for if it were enforced according to the strict letter of the law it would virtually prevent anyone leaving the country for trade purposes, as he could not expect to find any large market abroad for kronen or dinars.

***

The Yugoslav export duty, to which I referred last week, is the subject of an important despatch from our Belgrade correspondent which will be found on page 569. It appears that the duty consists of a high tax ad valorem on meat, lard, corn, and flour, and that it has been imposed with the triple idea of providing revenue, restricting the export of food, and helping the exchange. Originally the tax took the form of a war profits tax on all articles of export, and was to be retrospective in effect, but this project was dropped in view of the storm of protest from the trading community. It need scarcely be added that the result of the export regulations has been to create a position of great uncertainty in trading circles, and that it is adding to the great difficulties that confront British firms who are trying to develop an export as well as an import business.

***

According to schedule the Athens Exhibition would have been over by now, but the undertaking has proved such an extraordinary success that the representatives of exhibiting firms unanimously voted in favour of extending the date of closing to November 23. During the second week of the exhibition the visitors numbered 16,000, making the total attendance 30,000. It is noteworthy that one of the most frequent visitors has been the King of the Hellenes, who has throughout taken the keenest interest in the exhibition, and whose active support has done much to make the exhibition an outstanding success. On one occasion the King enjoyed a flight in the Handley-Page aeroplane with which exhibition flights are being given for the benefit of visitors; on another he purchased a Drummond lathe.

***

The success of the exhibition is merely one more illustration that a policy of enterprise is nearly always justified, and it must be emphasised that this gratifying result means much more than the triumph of the individual exhibiter. The firms who were enterprising enough to exhibit at Athens represented not merely the most influential body of manufacturers in the United Kingdom, they also stood for British trade as a whole in the eyes of the Near East, and as a consequence of their efforts British trade as a whole will benefit in the future.

***

The forthcoming British Mission to South Russia under Mr. H. J. Mackinder, M.P., who goes as High Commissioner, is an event of considerable importance. Vast areas of South Russia have been freed from the Bolshevist peril by General Denikin's army, and the urgent need of the district is for economic development. It would not be going too far, indeed, to say that the existing régime there depends very largely on this factor. What is required above all things is a return as soon as possible to normal conditions of trade and commerce, and it may be hoped that the mission will be able to make arrangements which will enable the population to exchange their produce for British manufactures, of which they are in special need. No other country is so well able to give a helping hand to the people of South Russia as Great Britain, and I trust that British merchants will not be backward in this respect. In this connection I would point out to them that valuable as the South Russian market proved before the war, it is nothing to what it will be in the near future; and there is a great opportunity now to establish British trade with that region on a sound and lasting basis.

***

The excellent results achieved by the Anglo-Egyptian Bank during the year ended August 31, 1918, have been practically maintained during the past twelve months. There was a substantial increase in the gross profits from £273,900 to £325,800, but this was slightly more than counterbalanced by heavier expenditure, and the net profits of £142,000 are £3,000 below those of the previous year. A dividend of 15 per cent., tax free, was declared last year, and the directors also made a distribution of £100,000 in 20,000 shares, which amounted to a bonus of £1 per share. The dividend is again 15 per cent., tax free, but it is further proposed to give a bonus of 2½ per cent., tax free, making 17½ per cent. for the year. The allocation to the reserve fund is £10,000, making it £720,000, or £120,000 larger than the paid up capital. The reserve account for new premises receives £22,600. and the carry-forward is £40,000, as against £38,000 brought in. The balance-sheet shows the growing strength of the bank's position. Deposits have risen to £17,113,000, as against £12,545,000; cash stands at £3,604,700, as against £2,441,100, while the total of bills receivable is £10,443,800, as against £7,515,900.

***

A very satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Ceylon Land and Produce Company for the past year ended June 30. The available balance amounted to £39,318, including the carry-forward of £5,746 and £4,541 representing recovered excess profits duty, and after allocating £12,500 to excess profits duty, income-tax, and fees, and providing for the dividend on the preference shares, it is proposed to make a distribution of 25 per cent., with a bonus of 5 per cent., as against a dividend of 20 per cent. for the previous twelve months. The market outlook is now extremely favourable for companies producing tea, the indications being that in the near future demand will outstrip supply, and in the circumstances it may be anticipated that the present distribution will in due course be improved.

***

An interesting light is thrown on the effect of the rising rupee as regards companies operating in the East in the report of the Oriental Gas Company, which shows that in the year ended June 30 a profit of £5,600 was realised on exchange. Allowing for an allocation of £10,000 to renewals suspense account, the balance on revenue account amounts to £26,200, or £200 less than the previous year. Adding £5,300 brought forward and £1,100 from dividends and interest, the disposable balance amounts to £32,600, which it is proposed to utilise to pay the usual dividend of 8 per cent., carrying forward £6,800.

COMMENTATOR.

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Every description of Banking business transacted.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS:
Investigations in connection with, and the promotion, organisation and financing of, Limited Joint Stock Companies, with a view to exploiting agricultural, industrial and mineral resources, executing technical works, etc.

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Purchase and sale of goods on account of clients. Warehousing, Advertising and placing foreign products on the market. Agents for foreign companies and large commercial and industrial firms abroad. General Shipping Agents.

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Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.

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London Office: 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 3.

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GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,743,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 295,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 147,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,00 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,500,000 from Germany and Austria Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 23·12 Drachmæ to £1.

FREIGHT.—From England, 160/- + 10% primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 125·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·111 imperial quarter, pike = ¾ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

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Yugoslav Export Duty.

Serious Effect on Trade.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, Nov. 9.

The commercial world has recently been very perturbed by the imposition of an export duty. As originally laid down this took the form of a kind of war profits tax, by which the State took about three-quarters of the profit based on the difference of prices of commodities in the country and across the frontier. It was exceedingly comprehensive, uncertain in action, and retrospective, permits for export already issued being cancelled. Traders who had made arrangements and contracts were seriously affected, and a storm of protest broke out on all sides. The Government saw that they had made a mistake, and set to work to modify the original arrangement. The tax was limited to a high duty, ad valorem, on meat, lard, corn, and flour; other articles were exempt, but only provisionally, and the cancellation of permits to export was withdrawn.

This was, indeed, a welcome concession, but new announcements are being made, as anticipated, almost every day, and the state of uncertainty makes it impossible for merchants to enter into any engagements.

Purposes of Tax.

The motives of the Government were probably mixed; the tax was to have been a valuable source of much-needed revenue, to retain food in the country, and to help the exchange, which is crushing. The encouragement of export rather than handicapping it would be a sounder policy to help the exchange; but the Government wish to prevent the importation of kronen—whether Austrian or Hungarian—and lei, which are in as bad a condition as their own currency. As to keeping food in the country, in certain districts there is plenty, even abundance, the shortage in others being due to the difficulties of transport.

Another step taken to improve the exchange is the sale by the Denzna Centrala—a branch of the Ministry of Finance—of several million French francs at a comparatively low rate, about 220 for 100 dinars, which has certainly had a tonic effect. It has been suggested that they would do well to restrict imports, at all events luxuries; for instance, large quantities of chocolate have been imported from Switzerland and paid for in good money against a very heavy exchange, and a great deal of this has been re-exported to Hungary and Roumania for inferior currency. There is a prohibition on the export of foreign paper; for instance, American dollars, of which there is a substantial amount in the country lying idle, the release of which could be well employed in the payment of necessary imports.

Export Restrictions.

After considerable discussion the Government has issued another order allowing free internal circulation and trade in all commodities except sugar. Exports are divided into three categories: First are articles which may be exported without restriction; such are fruit, vegetables, wine, alcoholic drinks, cordage, cement, various ores, and domestic products. In the second category are articles which may be exported without restriction of quantity, but subject to an export tax; such are articles of food, which may be exported to the following extent: wheat and flour, 8,000 truckloads; maize and maize-flour, 12,000 truckloads; beans, 100 truckloads; hay, 2,000 truckloads; hemp, 200 truckloads; cattle for slaughter, 20,000 head; sheep and goats, 30,000 head; swine, 25,000 head; horses for slaughter, 2,000 head. The exportation of other articles is forbidden. The export duties are as follows: Wheat, 45 dinars; flour, 40; maize, 40; beans, 80; cattle for slaughter, 1,500 dinars per head; small stock, as sheep, goats, etc., 50; swine, 400; horses, 500; lard, 450 dinars per 100 kgrs.; building materials, from 2.15 to 15 dinars, according to quality. Goods may be despatched only when the exporter has satisfied the authorities that payment will be made in good money, and when the export duty has been paid.

It will be gathered from this that the Government proposes to use this tariff as a source of revenue, and to ensure the importation of good money; while it is desirable to retain food in the country, as there is undoubted distress in some districts, especially in the south, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in Dalmatia; yet communications are so difficult that the producers in the rich districts north of the Save and the Danube would suffer great hardship in having large stocks of surplus stores on their hands if exports were entirely forbidden.

British Firms' Difficulties.

British firms who have been sufficiently enterprising to begin an export as well as an import business have found all this uncertainty very irritating, but patience and perseverance overcomes all obstacles, and these are indispensable qualities for those pioneers who are doing good work in establishing a footing for British industry and commerce in this new market. The difficulties are indeed considerable; the crushing exchange makes it very difficult for Yugoslavs to buy cheques on London; communications are slow and uncertain. It is true that there is far less looting on the railways, and conditions within the country have improved, but the Fiume question is having a paralysing effect. Goods shipped from England months ago are held up at Fiume, and British subjects who go there to try to get their property are exposed to insult, and even physical danger, while goods destined for Yugoslavia have to be unloaded at Trieste, and even Venice, which occasions an immense amount of trouble and expense.

There is hope that some of the minor difficulties will gradually disappear. The parcels post with England is expected to be restored by the New Year. A British banking firm is offering a large loan to the municipality, which should enable the authorities to carry out some of the much-needed improvements in Belgrade, and at the same time should give an opening for British firms. There is no further talk of the foundation of an Anglo-Serbian bank. All who wish to see British enterprise suitably supported and represented in Yugoslavia will regret this, if only on purely patriotic grounds. At present the British colony here do all their business through the Franco-Serb Bank, where they meet with most courteous consideration. This bank was established here before the war, owing to which, of course, it has passed through difficult times, but it reopened its doors directly the country was free, and has been a boon to British residents and visitors.

EXPORTS TO TURKEY AND BULGARIA

The special list D, of articles prohibited from export to Turkey, Bulgaria, and Black Sea ports, covering many specified kinds of war materials, has been abolished by an Order in Council dated November 14, which appeared in the *London Gazette* of November 17. By the same Order list E is abolished, and the articles specified in it—namely, vehicles and articles used for land transport, telegraphs, and telephones, and materials needed in connection with them, may now be freely exported to Bulgaria without licence.

Of the large number of articles included in list D all are now free for export except the following:—Armoured motor-cars, implements and apparatus designed exclusively for the manufacture of munitions of war or for the manufacture or repair of arms, of war material for use on land or sea; and apparatus which can be used for the storage or protection of compressed or liquefied gases, flame, acids, or other destructive agents capable of use in warlike operations, and their component parts. These excepted articles are under a stricter formal prohibition from export than before. Another Order in Council of November 17 forbids their export, except under licence, to all destinations.

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Constantinople Business Letter

Outlook for British Trade

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

CONSTANTINOPLE, November 9.

Business generally continues to be very quiet, but it is very pleasurable to be able to report that agents state that they are finding British firms much easier to deal with than heretofore. Possibly the advice given on the subject of Near Eastern business in THE NEAR EAST has not fallen upon deaf ears, but, in any case, firms who follow that advice will certainly not lose by it. There still seems to be a tendency to attempt to do business without the intermediary of an agent. Generally speaking, this is not wise. Every firm doing business out here should have some sort of a representative permanently here. Even in England it is necessary to send commercial travellers to customers. The commercial traveller is simply a travelling agent. Here in Turkey it is all the more necessary to keep in constant touch with customers, and to have someone specially to look after the firm's interests.

Soft Goods.

The soft goods market seems to be pretty well flooded with goods mostly of Spanish manufacture. The designs of English cloths have been skilfully imitated, and these goods, of an inferior quality and at a low price, seem to find a ready sale. At the same time, so far as finish is concerned, British cloth easily holds its own, but the strikers in England should remember that wages increased mean cost increased, and if our competitors do not also have to increase their cost, this means loss of trade. *Verbum sap.*

There are also large quantities of hosiery from the United States on the market, but the goods do not seem to be giving satisfaction. It is complained of them that they are not up to sample.

On the whole, the outlook for British trade in the Near East is decidedly rosy, and when the country is at peace once again British commerce should benefit by an increasingly valuable market.

South Russia.

On November 4, there was a well-attended meeting of the Russian section of the British Chamber of Commerce. Mr. W. Seager, agent for the Cunard S.S. Company, took the chair, and among the Committee members present were Mr. Tcharikoff, former Russian Ambassador in Constantinople; Mr. Waugh, British Consul-General before the war; and Mr. S. Bilinsky, Director of the National Bank of Turkey.

It was stated at this meeting that members of the British Military Mission in South Russia are willing to do all in their power to assist British merchants, and this should be of very great value, seeing that we have officers as far north as Kharkoff. It was also suggested that firms interested in South Russian business would do well to follow the example of one firm that has established a representative permanently at Rostoff, with the preliminary object of studying conditions at first hand. It appears that one of the greatest hindrances to business at the present moment is the disorganisation of the railways, and that although there are many British experts at work already, many more are urgently needed.

Mr. Tcharikoff stated that there is a great shortage of hardware and tools in South Russia, and that with regard to the question of permits for exportation, he understood that the permission to export maize was at present available, while with regard to other goods the Russian Trade Committee here would be willing to furnish British merchants with letters of recommendation to the Ministry of Trade in Russia, with a view to hastening the granting of such permits. Mr. Tcharikoff reminded the meeting that Russia was still carrying on a great and desperate war, which naturally rendered business a very complex matter.

Firms interested in South Russian trade should communicate with the Secretary of the British Chamber of Commerce, Mr. W. Smith-Lyte, British Consulate, Galata, Constantinople.

BULGARIAN TRADE NOTES.

Tobacco Deal.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, October 20.

Mr. Ery Kehaya, president of the Standard Tobacco Co., New York, and Mr. A. H. Jackson, London, have purchased 10,000,000 lb. of the choicest Bulgarian tobacco for 220 million levas. The Bulgarian leva, which had depreciated so far that 152 levas were quoted per pound sterling, is now rapidly rising. If the Chamber agrees to the export of the surplus grain, amounting to one milliard kilogrammes, a sharp rise in the value of the leva is to be anticipated.

November 4.

Record Shipment.

On Tuesday the s.s. "Jacona," built in the United States in 1908, sailed from Burgas for New York on her first voyage. Her cargo consisted of nothing but tobacco, of which she is carrying the record amount of 10,000,000 lb.

In view of this year's excellent crops, a measure is being introduced in the Chamber authorising the three State banks (the National Bank, the Agricultural Bank, and the Co-operative Bank) to form a consortium which will have the monopoly of the purchase and export of the surplus grain, with the object of improving the value of the leva by disposing of the stocks for gold.

The traffic returns of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended October 20 amounted to £E16,332, making the total for the year £E158,417. The corresponding figures for 1918 were £E13,442 and £E176,066.

PROPERTY RIGHTS IN ROUMANIA.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest reports that a decree law of October 7 prohibits all dealings in mining or industrial property rights in Roumania until the expiration of the period of six months after the signing of the general peace. The law is not clearly expressed, and from its literal meaning it would seem that all property rights, industrial and mining, must remain in their present legal ownership until the expiration of the period mentioned. This means that transfers of factories or mines to other owners than the present is prohibited, and it is to be presumed that any modification of existing ownership, such as takes place at the forming or the dissolution of a partnership, or the acquiring of such property by a new company, are equally prohibited for the same term.

Needless to say, any such strict rendering of the law into actual practice will be fraught with difficulty to the industrial circles of this country, and it is hoped that some modification of the text will be brought into operation should there be any serious intention of applying the restrictions. It must not be assumed from the above that foreign co-operation is not heartily welcomed in Roumania. It simply represents a desire that Roumanian industries should be run by Roumanian companies under Roumanian incorporation. There is no reason why British interests should not do this, as the Roumanian company laws are very liberal and permit of two foreigners to one Roumanian having seats on the boards of directors. There is, therefore, no reason to suppose that British capital invested in Roumanian industries is in any danger from Government interference.

PUBLIC WORKS IN TUNIS.

A programme of railway, port and water-supply developments in Tunis, published in the *Journal Général* of October 26, has been approved by the Tunisian "Commission de l'Outillage Economique."

According to the report, the total length of the Tunisian railways is 1,993 kilometres. On the Bone-Guelma Railway the company are exploiting 1,551 kilometres, 499 kilometres of which are of normal gauge and 1,052 of narrow gauge. The Sfax-Gafsa line extends for 442 kilometres, narrow gauge. The work laid down in the programmes of 1907 and 1912, it is stated by the Director of Public Works, is to be completed first. This includes the reinforcement of rolling stock and the extension of the Tunis-Teboursouk line to the Salines terminus.

The construction of new lines—including a line from Poul-du-Fahs to Maktar, Kalaa-Djerda Haidra, and eventually Tébessa; branches on the Pont-du-Fahs-Kalaa-Djerda line; a line from Gabès to Ben-Gardane, with branches at Médinine Zarzis and Hount-Souk, and a line from Tozeur to Nekta—is under consideration. The provisional cost of the new undertaking (626 kilometres), together with the completion of the work referred to, is estimated at 270,952,000 frs. The Commission are also contemplating the construction of two additional lines extending to the Algerian frontier. With regard to routes, the construction of 2,400 kilometres, at an estimated cost of 83,000,000 frs., is under consideration.

At the Tunisian ports the work will consist principally of the creation of quays, landing stages, etc., at an estimated cost of 33,500,000 frs. For the supply of drinking water to the principal Tunisian centres the programme provides for a total expenditure of 30,000,000 frs. It is hoped that the realisation of these important schemes will bring a new era of prosperity to Tunis. A second programme is being prepared in connection with agricultural water supply.

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India's Trade in 1918-19.

Position of United Kingdom.

The review of the trade of India for 1918-19, advance copies of which have just reached this country, is of special interest, since it deals with a period of transition which saw the close of the war and the commencement of the return of normal conditions. It was a period of exceptional incident. "The silver crisis, a rise in exchange, the failure of the monsoon over wide areas, a virulent epidemic of influenza—responsible, it is estimated, for a death-roll of six millions—and the Armistice illustrate," Mr. Findlay Shirras points out, "if illustration were necessary, the unique diversity of this year." We shall have occasion to return to the review, and in the present article will merely refer to some of the more notable features of India's commerce during the period.

The overseas trade amounted during the year to Rs.423 crores (£282 millions), showing a marked increase on the figures for the previous year of Rs.393 crores (£262 millions) and of Rs.370 crores (£247 millions), the average of the pre-war quinquennium. The effect of the rise in the values of commodities on these figures was naturally very marked. Thus, while the imports of merchandise in 1918-19 show an increase of nearly Rs.19 crores on the figures for 1917-1918, if the prices obtaining in the former year are applied the value would be Rs.10 crores less than the previous year. Similarly as regards the exports, which actually show an increase of Rs.43 crores, or 22 per cent., on account of higher prices.

Imports and Exports.

The imports amounted to Rs.169 crores (£113 millions), the value being the highest recorded with the exception of the last normal year before the war. The most noticeable features with regard to the imports are (1) the large increases of Rs.4,69 lakhs, or 60 per cent., in the value of iron and steel, and of Rs.4,57 lakhs, or 106 per cent., in the value of imports of cotton twist and yarn; (2) increases in imports of silk manufactures, raw cotton, wood, railway plant and rolling stock, mineral oil other than kerosene, apparel, machinery, etc.; and (3) the decrease in the imports of kerosene oil, matches, and timber.

The value of the exports was Rs.239 crores, against Rs.233 crores in the previous year. The main features of the trade are the decreases of Rs.14 crores in the value of exports of food grains, of Rs.12 crores in the exports of raw cotton, and the surprisingly large decrease of Rs.10 crores in the exports of jute manufactures. There were also decreases of Rs.3 crores in seeds, Rs.3 crores in raw and tanned skins, Rs.2 crores in tanned hides, Rs.1 crore in raw wool, and Rs.1 crore in oils. Jute, cotton, grains, hides and skins, tea, and seeds were the six chief exports of the year. During the past thirty years the first place in the export list has been taken on seventeen occasions by raw and manufactured cotton, seven times by jute, and six times by food grains. On the present occasion manufactured jute heads the list with the record total of Rs.52 crores, figures which, it is pointed out, are in excess of the total exports of raw and manufactured cotton by no less than Rs.7 crores.

Direction of Trade.

The most important feature of the review, and that which will be read with the keenest interest by British merchants and manufacturers, is that dealing with the direction of trade. There are no marked changes to record compared with the figures of the previous year; the statistics given merely bring out the marked extent to which during the war period Japan, and to a lesser degree America, have been able, owing to the preoccupation of the merchants of the United Kingdom with the preparation for war, to obtain a substantial share in the Indian market.

The main features of the year under review were the increases of Rs.15 crores in the imports from Japan and of Rs.4 crores in those from the United States, the increase in exports to the United Kingdom of Rs.10 crores, of Rs.3 crores in those to the United States, and of Rs.4 crores in those to Asiatic Turkey (in the latter case, of course, mainly to Mesopotamia), and the decrease in imports from the United Kingdom of Rs.5 crores.

The British Empire's share of the total trade came to 54 per cent., as against 55 per cent. during 1917-18, while the share of the Allies came to 26 per cent., as against 34 per cent. for the previous year. As regards imports, the British Empire's total amounted to 58 per cent., as against 70 per cent. for the pre-war period, this being due to the large decrease in imports from the United Kingdom. On the other hand, the shares of other parts of the British Empire increased from 7 per cent. to 12 per cent. As regards exports, the British Empire's share amounted to 52 per cent., against 42 per cent. for the pre-war period. The former enemy countries had about 14 per cent. of the export trade, and this, it is gratifying to state, has been almost entirely taken by the British Empire.

Japan.

The second place to the United Kingdom in the import trade is taken by Japan with 19.8 per cent., and this country is third in the export trade with 11.6 per cent., as against the United Kingdom's 28.5 per cent., and the United States with 13.1 per cent. The imports from Japan in the past year amounted to Rs.33 crores, against Rs.18 crores in the previous year and Rs.3¾ crores in the pre-war trade period. In other words, since the war Japan has increased her exports by almost ten times. Cotton manufactures make up the bulk of this increase, her exports of piece goods last year amounting to 238 million yards, as against about three million yards before the war, and represent 51 per cent. of the imports, as against 28 per cent. Other commodities in which Japan has increased her trade are apparel, metals, woollen manufactures, hardware, beer, tea chests, paper and pasteboard, machinery, millwork, chemicals, haberdashery and millinery. On the other hand, there has been a decrease in India's imports from Japan of matches, glass and glassware. As regards Japan's imports from India, which amounted to Rs.29 crores, it is interesting to note that raw cotton was responsible for 80 per cent. In other words, Japan was taking India's cotton and returning it in the form of manufactured articles.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended November 6 were:—Cattle markets, £931; general markets, £605; total, £1.536. Total for year, £48,744. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918 ended November 7 were:—Cattle markets, £871; general markets, £545; total, £1,416. Total for year, £44,630.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated November 12:—

Weather dry everywhere except in Southern India, Burma, and the head of the Bay.

During the week ending Saturday, November 1, preparations and sowings spring crops and harvesting autumn crops continued. Harvesting paddy continued Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Southern India. Sowings continued Madras. Plucking tea continued Assam. Cotton picking continued Burma. Central Provinces, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Punjab, and parts Bombay. General crop conditions good, but rain wanted parts of West Bengal and parts Bihar and Orissa, and urgently wanted Punjab, where crops suffering drought.

Bombay cotton market dull. Fully good Broach, April-May, Rs 562. Piece-goods market strong. Calcutta jute market quiet, but steady. Hessians inactive. Heavy goods quiet. No change in bank rate.

Reconnaissance survey by North-Western State Railway, 19 miles, and Hukong Valley railway preliminary survey by State for metre gauge railway line between India and Burma sanctioned.

By a fire at Grozny, Northern Caucasia, nearly five million poods [over 80,350 tons] of oil were destroyed.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS.

A LEADING YUGOSLAV CONCERN wishes to engage a young first-class English Correspondent, introduced in the British trade, to organise and lead its British Department.—Address offers to the Export and Import Company, Ltd., Zagreb (Yugoslavia), Frankopanska ulica 1.

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The New Levant Company.

British Interests in the Near East.

Lord Carnock presided at a meeting of the Central Asian Society, held on November 19, at 22, Albemarle Street, London, W., when the Right Hon. Sir Maurice de Bunsen, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.V.O., delivered an address on "The New Levant Company."

Sir Maurice de Bunsen at the outset gave a brief history of the old Levant Company, which extended over a period of 244 years. He said that the company had its origin in 1581, when a small body of merchant adventurers were sent to the East to see if facilities could be given to traders from England. One of them was Sir William Harborne, who became the first English Ambassador at Constantinople. As a result of his exertions the first capitulation between England and Turkey was signed, which put the trading relations and the privileges of the growing little English colony there and in the East on an equal footing with the Venetians, the French, the Poles, and the peoples of other nations. On his return Letters Patent were issued to a small company which was for a long time known as the Turkey Company and which was the beginning of the Levant Company. Probably the principal reason for the establishment of closer relations with Turkey in the East being desired at that time was that Queen Elizabeth, from whom the company received its charter, was looking out for friends to help her in the approaching conflict with Spain, the period of the Armada being then approaching. One of the duties and privileges imposed upon the Old Levant Company was that of nominating and selecting all the Ambassadors and Consuls who were sent to the Porte and the Near East. The company had its charter renewed from time to time, and what was known as its Great Charter was granted by James I. in 1606. This was the principal document on which it afterwards relied. In 1825 it was decided to bring the company to an end. In a letter to the directors, Canning expressed his appreciation for all their services, adding that they were not to blame for anything, that he had no reproach to make, but that their privileges and their great position were inconsistent with the needs of modern times. He therefore called upon them to give up their privileges and to resign their charter. Perhaps the general public who are informed on those subjects had not given the Old Levant Company credit for all it did, for the very important part it played in history, and for the services it rendered in the development of the vast and prosperous trade of Great Britain.

Dealing with the New Levant Company, Sir Maurice de Bunsen said that it had its origin in the following circumstances. Before the war, it had always been said as a reproach against British banks that they did not do enough for the British trader in the way of helping him in starting business in a foreign country, and that they should follow the example of the German banks by taking a share of the risks of merchants who were doing business in foreign countries, and not confine their attention to banking in the strict sense of the term. Then was started the great institution of banking interests known as the British Trade Corporation, the object of which was to remove from the British banks the reproach which had hung over them for so many years, and to do something for British manufacturers and traders in their relations with foreign countries. Since the conclusion of the war it had put this policy into effect, and one of the first things it did was to start the Levant Company, taking over all its shares with the exception of some which had since been taken over by the general public. The object of that company was to assist British traders and manufacturers to establish themselves, and to maintain their position if they were already established in foreign countries. In the very short time which had elapsed since it came into being, the Levant Company, of which he had the honour of being a director, had created a number of agencies, and British companies had been established over a great portion of the Near East. It had agencies at Constantinople, all over the Balkans, including Bucharest, Athens, Salonika, Belgrade, Sofia, Aleppo, Damascus, Baghdad, and other places.

One of the enormous difficulties with which the new company had struggled since the beginning of its career was that no one was able to say to whom some places belonged. The Peace Conference had not been able to make up its mind about the great problem as to what was to be the ruling power. The consequent uncertainty was detrimental to serious trading relations. The company did not know what power to deal with or what prospects there were for serious business. Then another enormous difficulty which had to be contended with by British merchants and manufacturers in starting business in the various countries in the Levantine Seas after the war was that these appeared to have been swept clean. After the war, they appeared as if a swarm of locusts had swept over them. Their currency had sunk so low as to have no value at all. The result was that their peoples had their pockets full of their own currency, but no business could be done with them on that basis because British merchants could never get that currency converted into a pound. If British merchants were to do business with them, it must only be by a system of barter. A branch of the Levant Company had been established in the Sudan with its headquarters at Khartoum. The company had difficulties to struggle against, but he was sure it would be said that it was animated by the same patriotism and the same spirit of adventure and enterprise as the old Levant Company. (Applause.)

Lord Carnock remarked that he himself spent some years in Constantinople and in various parts of the Near East, and used to watch, sometimes with anxiety, the somewhat fluctuating fortunes of British commerce. It was mainly owing to the sturdy determination and pertinacity of British merchants that we were able, in great measure, to retain our position against the most strenuous and active competition. He agreed with Sir Maurice de Bunsen regarding, and fully appreciated, the very great difficulty there was arising from not knowing who were to be the future masters or administrators of many of the regions in which the Levant Company conducted its operations; but he did hope there would be no question of allowing any of the countries which might have mandates over these regions establishing preferential tariffs or any exceptional privileges for their own nationals. (Applause.) The Levant Company would have to keep a careful and watchful eye to see that there was complete freedom for trading, and absolute equality of commercial terms, otherwise we might find that undue, and perhaps unjust, competition would hamper our future. He was glad to hear that the Levant Company was not going to restrict its activities to its present area, but to look far into the future, and extend them still further Eastwards. There was vast scope for the company's activities, and he felt quite sure it could render immense benefit in promoting British trade in the East. (Applause.)

EGYPTIAN COTTON CONDITION.

A Reuter message from Cairo, dated November 11, states that the cotton condition of Lower Egypt is 94 per cent. of the average, of Middle Egypt 100 per cent., and of Upper Egypt 93 per cent. The damage caused by the pink bollworm is much lighter than in the last three years. The second picking is almost over. The available ginning outturns are practically similar to last year's in Lower Egypt, being 99.61 for the Sakellaridis, compared with 99.74. The Ashmouni outturn is better, being 106.89, compared with 104.55.

YUGOSLAV CURRENCY.

Re-marking of Crown Notes.

A Reuter message from Belgrade reports that the following statement is issued by the Serbian Ministry of Finance :—"In order to stop as soon as possible the enormous influx of paper crowns occasioned by a criminal abuse of the situation arising from the stamping of crowns last January, the Minister of Finance orders an immediate re-marking of the crown notes now in circulation in our territories. The new marking will not be applied to those notes which were not previously stamped or to those bearing a foreign stamp. Regarding those notes bearing a doubtful or indistinct stamp or one in a foreign language, these may bear the new mark consisting of an adhesive stamp, providing that original stamping clearly shows that it has been affixed by the established authorities in the territories, even if only temporarily. In cases of doubt, benefit is given to the bearer of the note. The authorities charged with the revision of the stamps are ordered to carry out their duties without vexatious measures. The State and also autonomous authorities are instructed to accept at the State and autonomous treasuries all crown notes with the exception of those which have never been stamped."

FOREIGN MONEY IN YUGOSLAVIA.

Export Regulations.

A Reuter message from Belgrade, dated November 15, states that a decree has been issued prohibiting the export from the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes of foreign money in excess of the following amounts :—French francs, one thousand; English pounds, thirty; American dollars, one hundred; Swiss francs, six hundred. Further, if a traveller is carrying money in more than one foreign currency, the total must not exceed the value of 1,000 French francs, the exchange per French franc for this purpose being fixed at 30 francs to one English pound, 10 francs to one American dollar, 1.60 franc to one Swiss franc. In the event of this order being contravened, the traveller's money will be confiscated by the Customs at the frontier and paid into the State Treasury, while he himself will be prosecuted on a charge of carrying contraband, with very heavy potential penalties. Orders have been issued to the Customs officials to exercise the very strictest control in the above connection.

DISTRESS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agriculture Department, dated November 14 :—Our telegram, dated November 7. Relief operations in Bombay Presidency, in Bankura district of Bengal, and in Angul district of Bihar and Orissa, and relief works in Banka sub-division of Bhagalpur district, have been closed. Valedictory doles for recipients of gratuitous relief being distributed in Sadar sub-division of Bhagalpur. Numbers on relief :—Bihar and Orissa : works, 371; gratuitous, 29,476. Feudatory States of Orissa : works, 3,051; gratuitous, 6,888. Central India : works, 3,400; gratuitous, 4,800. Hyderabad : works, 15,000; gratuitous, 15,000. Madras figures not reported.

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Engineering.

MOTOR SHOW REFLECTIONS

(From a Correspondent.)

Now that the Show is over, it is possible to deal with the large number of models, of all sizes and types, that were on view much more easily than could be done during the exhibition. As regards the success of the show, from a spectacular point of view there is no need to say anything; in fact, that it was visited by nearly 290,000 people during the eight days it lasted speaks for itself.

To speak of its larger aspect first, British motor manufacturers have every reason to feel proud of their great achievement in producing such a variety of pleasure cars in the short space of time at their disposal. When it is remembered that during the past twelve months they have had to finish up immense army contracts and entirely to reorganise their works for peace productions, a process involving the scrapping of practically the whole of their special plant and the replacing of it by new machinery and the getting out of entirely new designs and drawings, it will be seen that they had really very little time at their disposal to get ready for the show, the first, by the way, which has been held for six years. They might well have been excused had they contented themselves with turning out cars of pre-war design and type. Instead of that, however, they realised that buyers all over the world were looking to them to maintain the lead they had secured in 1913, and saw to it that no buyer should be disappointed, and that no other country, either America at the Chicago show or France at the Paris Exhibition, should produce anything that should be better or more efficient in any way than the cars they could turn out. Every branch of British industry, it is safe to say, has been stimulated and encouraged by the splendid example of the British motor industry.

As usual, the show was divided into three portions, the cars and chassis being arranged in the main hall, with the bodies in the annexe, and the accessories, components and sundries, such as clothing, in the gallery Even then, the space at the disposal of the exhibitors was far too small, and it is certain that next year's show, to be successful, will have to be held in some larger building, as the Crystal Palace, or in some temporary erection put up for the purpose.

This year the cars were sharply divided into three general groups or classes, namely, the light cars, those of medium size and the big and luxurious productions of from 40 to 60 h.p. or thereabouts. Almost all of these showed radical departures from pre-war designs, and in quite a large proportion it was easy to note innovations that plainly showed that the lessons taught by aero-engine practice had not been neglected.

It was in a fine sporting spirit this year that the promoters of the show threw it open to foreign as well as to British cars. Such a course naturally led to a certain amount of grumbling on the part of those who wished to secure space which they found had been allotted to American, French, Belgian, or Italian makers, but there is no doubt the policy was sound, inasmuch as it enabled us to see the best that could be turned out of other workshops, and to judge for ourselves whether our products were in any way inferior. If they were not, well and good; if, on the other hand, there was room for improvement, we should have an opportunity of seeing our shortcomings and remedying them before we put the 1920 models on the market.

From a very close and lengthy examination of the cars and accessories on view, as well as from practical experience with several of the show models on the road, I am able to say definitely that our manufacturers have kept the lead they had established in 1913, and that in no respect was any foreign product other than inferior, and in some instances greatly inferior, to our own. Whether in engines, chassis, springing, lighting and starting sets, bodies and accessories, this was equally true; and as I believe that, in some respects, several of the British cars will be improved still further before the promised quantity production begins, we have every reason to feel proud of the industry which did so much for us in war, and which will do so much for us now that we are at peace.

Still, speaking generally, it was noticeable that our cars were lighter than those of pre-war days an improvement largely due to advances made in metallurgy, to new alloys, and to progress made in machine tool design and operation. In car lighting and self-starting sets designers and manufacturers have made great strides, and whilst at the last show only one car was fitted with a self-starter as an integral part of the chassis, this year practically every car shown was equipped with one of these as a standard.

Another departure from pre-war practice, due almost entirely to the experience we have had in building engines for aeroplanes, was in the valve arrangement, overhead valves being fitted on by far the greater proportion of engines. It is, perhaps, only natural that aero-engine influence should be so marked. At the beginning of the war we had, as a nation, only a very few aeroplanes in this country capable of flying any distance or at any height; by the time the Armistice was signed we were ahead of every other country in their production. New types of engines, each bigger and more powerful than their predecessors, were continually being evolved, and the weight of these engines, in proportion to the power they developed, was continually being reduced. Perhaps this reduction of weight per horse-power is one of the most important things British motor-car manufacturers have learned. It may not seem much to say that modern science has enabled us to reduce the weight of a certain powered engine and chassis by a couple of hundredweight or so, as it is certainly true that weight reduction does not mean quite so much in connection with car building as with aeroplane production.

But it must be remembered that lightness, combined with equal speed, stability, strength and power, means more economical running. It means less wear and tear on tyres and a less consumption of fuel. Taking two cars of equal power, the one a pre-war design of a certain weight and the other one of our modern productions weighing considerably less, the lighter car will be cheaper to run, will get away from a start more quickly, will climb hills better, and will attain higher speeds on the level.

The subject of stream lining, or of designing parts in such a way that they offer the least possible resistance to the wind or to air pressure when running, has also received a good deal of attention. This is again due to tests made and experience derived in connection with aeroplane work. The old idea of designing by eye, so as to get a good-looking, but often inefficient, design, has been abandoned. No longer does a maker turn out an outline merely because it looks smart or rakish. Instead, design is now a matter of many and often lengthy experiments in wind tunnels with a view to ascertaining which models offer least resistance for speed work. At one time it was not realised how wind pressure cut down speed; it is barely recognised to-day in cycle and motor-cycle building. Aeroplane practice, however, has shown us that even at speeds of 100 to 120 miles per hour from 5 to 6 per cent. increase in speed can be obtained by making the wires used in construction of a properly designed stream line oval section instead of round, as in ordinary practice.

Other respects in which a visit to the show made it obvious that we had learned a good deal from air work were in the placing of controls and in their design and construction. The concentration of weight at the centre of gravity is another direction in which we have learned a great deal, and as a result the new models are practically free from oscillation, are much more stable in grease, and can negotiate corners at a greater speed.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

A New Fire Engine.

A fire-fighting machine of an entirely new type that has recently been put into the service of the London Fire Brigade will interest many municipal authorities in the East who are anxious to introduce modern methods and modern equipment in their brigades. The machine is a handsome motor van, fitted with an engine of the War Office subsidy type, and a gear-box giving four speeds and reverse. It is designed to attain a maximum speed on the level of twenty-five miles per hour. The principal use of this emergency tender is to assist in fire fighting in enclosed spaces, as, for example, in basements and cellars, and also to provide greater safety for firemen when they work in a vitiated atmosphere. It is equipped with powerful searchlights and cluster lamps to illuminate the scene of a fire at night. The power for these lamps is obtained from a dynamo driven by the car engine, and giving a current of 100 ampères at 100 volts. Two searchlights are carried, each being of 3,000 candle-power. An electrically operated fan, capable of pumping 400 cubic feet of air per minute, is coupled to a motor. The object of this fan is to pump clear air into smoky basements, sewers, etc., with a view to enabling the firemen to see what they are doing. On each side of the van are compartments containing two sets (four in all) of self-contained breathing apparatus of the Proto type.

These enable four of the crew of the vehicle to live in an atmosphere of poisonous gases for one hour. The Proto equipment includes a leather helmet, goggles, and a breathing apparatus, providing a supply of oxygen and caustic soda to absorb the carbonic acid which results from respiration. There are many other equipments of the vehicle, too numerous to be described here. The machine is, in fact, completely equipped with the most modern devices to render it entirely efficient for the work for which it is destined.

Outlook in Syria and Palestine.

There are opportunities, an authority points out, for great expansion in the agricultural activities of Syria and Palestine, and as this is the industry upon which these countries almost wholly depend, there are prospects of early developments in this direction. It is not well known that before the war not more than 10 to 12 per cent. of the total area was under crops. Drought is the chief drawback, and an equable distribution of rain during the winter season is an important factor. The climate ranges from tropical heat in the Jordan valley to perennial snow on the upper slopes of the mountains. Cereals, vegetables, and fruit are the principal crops, and tobacco, cotton, and hemp are cultivated successfully. Wheat forms 50 per cent. of the grain crop, which annually averages upward of 3,000,000 tons. Grain is winter-sown and harvested in June. Barley is produced at the rate of half a million tons annually, and is the next most important cereal. Indian millet, maize, and sesame (an oil-producing crop) are also grown. Green crops yield some half-million tons each year, and are chiefly consumed in the country. Fruit is represented by the olive, vine, mulberry, and orange. Vine production annually reaches 350,000 tons. It should be realised that Syria is a land of small holdings, with the methods of the peasant cultivators extremely primitive. The average size of a holding is governed by the extent of land which can be tilled by a pair of oxen. The wooden plough, with the light iron nose, superficially breaks the soil after the first rains, when speed is of much importance, and the ground retains the moisture better than if it were deeply ploughed. Attempts in the past to introduce European implements have not been very successful, because of the failure to realise fully the peculiar agricultural conditions of the country. Many agricultural implements were introduced recently to the natives, who, when accustomed to them, prefer them.

Water Power in the Balkans.

We have frequently referred in these columns to the advantages of the utilisation of water power in the Balkans and the

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neighbouring countries. Under the new state of affairs the question of the value of water power has become a matter of first importance in all schemes of reconstruction in every country. In France, for instance, according to recent reports, schemes are before the Chamber for the utilisation of the Rhone which, if carried through in their present form, provide for the generation of power equivalent to about 400,000 kw. continuously, and, according to Reuter, will conserve approximately 5,000,000 tons of coal. But the great value of water power cannot be more evident and convincing than in Italy, for Italy, like the Balkans, has been endowed by Nature with water in such ways as to be conveniently utilised for irrigation or power in falling, and thus has greatly contributed to the economic prosperity of that country. Its use for agricultural and industrial purposes is continuously increasing, in the case of the former for the more intensive cultivation of the soil, and in the case of the latter to relieve the manufacturers of the expense entailed by importing foreign coal. The Italian Government has prepared new schemes for the construction of dams and artificial lakes in Calabria and Sardinia, in the former case chiefly for the development and distribution of motive power, and in the latter chiefly for irrigation purposes. It is estimated that in Calabria 170,000 h.p. will be made available, whilst in Sardinia 20,000 hectares of land can be watered and power developed to the extent of 11,000 h.p., which in part can be utilised for pumping the water into the irrigation channels. Let us hope that the Balkan States will also pay attention to the utilisation of water power. The rivers Danube, Vardar, Morava, Save, Drin, Ibar, Maritza, and their numerous tributaries, lakes, and waterfalls can transform the Balkan Peninsula at a comparatively moderate expenditure into one of the most prosperous regions of Europe, and a most important and safe waterway between East and West.

British Cars in India.

In last week's notes reference was made to the competition in India, and to the apparent success of the American and Japanese engineer manufacturers in those markets. According to official statistics the imports of motor-cars into India during five recent months, April 1 to August 31, were, from the United Kingdom, 87, value Rs.6,99,392; from the United States, 1,963, value Rs.50,50,217. Commenting on these figures a correspondent says that, with an exchange of 10 rupees to the pound sterling, English manufacturers could place thousands of cars in that country. The Americans, he says, are selling because there is nothing else to buy, and the public have got tired of waiting. The figures, it must be admitted, are very unsatisfactory, but in the circumstances some allowance must be made for the British manufacturers of motor-cars, of whom, speaking last week at a dinner of the British Motor and Allied Manufacturers, H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught said that "No one could fairly accuse British motor manufacturing and allied industries of being in any sense asleep." He referred to the part played by the industry in the war, and said that without motor transport he did not believe the war could have been carried on a colossal scale as it had been. However, now that the trade war has commenced British motor manufacturers must look after the export trade; above all, the Indian market must receive attention.

The ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Palestine Co., Ltd., will be held on November 25.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the week ended November 7 were 4,920,000 francs against 1,250,000 francs.

Mr. Henry J. Wenham has resigned the chairmanship of the Egyptian Agricultural Company, but retains his seat on the board. Mr. E. W. P. Foster has been appointed an additional director, and succeeds Mr. Wenham as chairman.

The following official information respecting the rates of exchange in South Russia has been received in London from Taganrog, dated November 6:—Unofficial exchange for British notes during past week: highest, 900; lowest, 800. Cheques on London: Highest, 710; lowest, 635; all for exceedingly small amounts.

STAMPING OF SHARE CERTIFICATES.

The Roumanian Legation in London notify that by the decision of the Department of Industry and Commerce of the Roumanian Government, No. 8,648, of May 16, 1919, the notice published on page 14 of the "Journal" of July 3 last, relating to the registration and stamping of share certificates in companies incorporated under Roumanian law, is extended also to those companies which, although sequestrated or placed under the control of the Roumanian Government, have for various reasons been released from control.

Therefore, persons and companies domiciled in the United Kingdom who hold shares in companies incorporated under Roumanian law, which, on or after August 28, 1916, have been sequestrated or placed under the control of the Roumanian Government, including those companies which for various reasons have been released from control, are hereby notified that, in order to comply with the provisions of the Decree-Law of the Kingdom of Roumania, No. 1,353, of March 29, 1919, and the decision of the Department of Industry and Commerce of the Roumanian Government, No. 5,452, of March 5, 1919, they must within 25 days from to-day's date present their share certificates in such companies to the Roumanian Legation, 4, Cromwell Place, London, S.W.7, for the purpose of being viséd and stamped.

In the case of shares which were held by the present owner prior to August 28, 1919, proof must be produced in support of this.

With regard to the securities which have been transferred or negotiated since August 28, 1916, proof must be given that on that date they were not held up by or for account of subjects of countries with which Roumania has been at war nor in the meantime have been so held.

The share certificates must be accompanied by a schedule in triplicate, giving the numbers and denominations of the shares held.

The following is the full list of companies to which the present notice refers:—

Societatea Romana de cai ferate Buzau Nehoiasi.
Societatea anonima pentru distribuirea produselor petrolifere.
Magazinele generale si antropozitele "Obor."
Societatea anonima romana pentru fabricarea acumulatorilor electrici.
Societatea anonima "Suter."
"Saturn" Societate anonima pentru industria si comertul petrolului.
Banca Transilvania.
"Victoria" Societate de asigurari.
Societatea romana pentru industria de bumbac.
"Urania" Societate anonima de asigurari.
Societatea Rahova pentru industia lemnului.
Societatea Diana.
Societatea "Arges."
"Sartia" societate anonima romana de transporturi interne si antrepozite.
Societatea "Behles."
Societatea "Dacia-Romania."
"Ceres" societate pentru comertul si industria agricola.
Societatea de petrol "Steaua Romana."
Banca de Credit Roman.
Societatea "Tisita."
Banca Generala Romana.
Societatea forestiera "Union."
Societatea "Goetz."
Banca Comerciala.
Societatea "Tretorn."
Societatea Oesterreichischea-Verkers-Bureau.
Societatea anonima Electrica "Ganz."
Societatea romana pentru industria si comertul petrolului.
Societatea de petrol "Ilianta."
Societatea Astra Romana.
Societatea "Carpatina."
Societatea Titeiul.
Societatea de petrol Baneasa.
Societatea Loteria de stat.
Societatea anonima "Aries."
Societatea textila de industrie.
Societatea "Asfaltul."
Societatea anonima "Tudor."
Societatea "Phonix."
Fobrica de cherestea Ilfov.
Societatea Germana-Romana pentru valorificarea matelor.
Societatea Union pentru industria de petrol si furaje.
Societatea anonima pentru fabricarea otelului "Vultur."
Societatea "Turcoaia Granit."
Societatea anonima Moara Comerciala.
Societatea "Orion."
Societatea "Electrica."
Erdoel Industrie.
Societatea Express (in liquidation).
Societatea Filaret.
Fabrica de tricotaje Societate anonima romana.
Societatea Coroana (Fabrica de produse chimice).
Societatea Lignitul.
Lloydul Roman.
Petrol Blok.
Societatea Luther (Czell).
Societatea Luther pepiniera.
Societatea "Nationala" de asigurari.
Societatea Generala de asigurari.
Banca E. Gheorghieff.
Societatea "Concordia."
Societatea "Vega."
Societatea Credit Petrolifer.
Societatea Lotru.
Societatea "Forestiera."
Fabrica de zahar Chitila.
Societatea "Agricola" de asigurari.
Societatea de petrol "Standard."
Societatea "Lessel."
Societatea N. Feher and Co.
Societatea de petrol "Aurora."
Societatea de transport "Danubiul."
Societatea de sticle "Gruia-Dudesti."
Societatea de transport "Auxiliara."
Societatea de impletituri si tesaturi.
Societatea de camionaj "Mulag."
Societatea punerei in valoare a padurilor (Bacau).
Societatea Actien Gesellschaft Petrol din Nurenberg (Ploesti).
Societatea Berliner Holz Comptuar din Filiasi.
Societatea anonima de produse chimice Marasesti.
Societatea "Agrara" (masini agricole).
Societatea anonima de produse chimice.
Societatea anonima silvica romana.
Societatea de navigatie de vapoare pe Dunare.
Societatea "Stella."
Societatea Austro-Ungara-Romana.
The Putna Saw Mills Comp., Ltd.
Compania generala de electricitate.
Societatea Carbon.
Societatea Ceahlaul.
Societatea Caminul propriu.
Societatea Coroana Romana.
Fabrica de hartie "Campulung."
Societatea Silvica "Nehoiu" (Jud. Bazau).
Societatea "Bistrita" (Jud. Neamt).
Societatea anonima de punere in valoare de paduri (Jud. Neamt).
Societatea "Doamna" (Jud. Neamt.)
Fabrica de industrie textila "Buhusi."
Banca Suceava.
Societatea Eichler (P. Neamt).
Rizeria Romana (Braila).
Uniunea Soc anonime de elevatoare (Braila).
Banca Romana Iasi (Braila).
Tramvaele din Iasi si Uzina de electricitate (Iasi).
Fabrica de tabacarie Concordia Iasi.
Societatea Doamna (Iasi).
Societatea Furtuna (Iasi).
Societatea Erderti (Bacau).
Societatea "Marnero" Silvica (Bacau).
Banca Unirea Commerciala (Constanta).
Societatea "Doljiul."
Holz comptoir company (Dolj).
Societatea cooperativa (Botosani).
Societatea cooperativa Viitorul (Botosani).
Societatea Germano-Romana din Telega.
Societatea Union (Prahova).
Societatea Victoria (Prahova).
Societatea Uzinele metalurgice (Prahova).
Fabrica de hartie Busteni (Prahova).
Societatea Continental (Campina).
K.K. Oelsyndikat (Ploesti).
Societatea Vasilatu (Valcea).
Societatea anonima pentru import si export Bucuresti.
Societatea anonima de electricitate Siemens Schuckert Bucuresti.
"Carpati" Societate anonima.
Fabricele unite "Konzelmann and Moessner" Galati.
Fabrica de postav "Olentenia" Cralova.

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Near East Markets.

TURKISH FRUIT CROPS.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows, under date November 1 :—Since our previous report, dated October 1, we have to record considerable activity in all dried fruits Markets are firm and prices have been steadily advancing. The British Food Ministry has ceased purchases of sultanas, but Continental demand has considerably developed. Supplies both of sultanas and figs are diminishing, and stocks in the interior are very much reduced.

The fig packing houses have now closed down. Arrivals are limited to small and irregular supplies of natural figs of inferior descriptions. American buyers are inquiring for fine sorts of Naturals, but, for want of supplies, very little business has materialised. The British Food Ministry has bought some limited quantities of G.A.Q. Naturals, and would probably have increased its acquisitions had shippers been able to offer more freely. Interest now attaches to the statistical movement of the season, which has been as follows :—

Sultanas.

Total sales reported on the Smyrna market to date, 143,500 bags; total sales reported on the Vourla market to date, 8,500 bags—152,000 bags. Bags this season have averaged 2½ to 2¾ cwts, making the above quantity equal to about 21,000 tons. Estimate of stocks :—Smyrna market, 1,000 tons; Vourla district, 1,000 tons; Magnesia, Cassaba, Axar, Nymphio, Salihli, Alascheir, etc., 5,000 tons—7,000 tons. Estimate of total yield, say, about 28,000 tons. The quantity of 21,000 tons sold up to date has been distributed as follows :—Shipments to the United Kingdom up to date, 13,500 tons; shipments to the Continent up to date, 6,000 tons; shipments making per s.s. "Belgravian" and "Castillian" for the United Kingdom, estimated at about 1,000 tons; shipments making per s.s. "Calypso" for Amsterdam, 500 tons—21,000 tons.

Of the visible stocks now remaining, and estimated at about 7,000 tons, the Continent is more than likely to absorb a considerable portion before the end of the year. In our preceding report we referred to the causes which had influenced farmers in rushing their produce to market. According to advices received from all producing districts, farmers have practically cleared the bulk of their fruit. Existing stocks, now concentrated in the main centres, are in strong hands, and will only be released for sale gradually over the next four or five months. On the present showing, therefore, there appears to be little chance of any decline in values, and although, as usual in December, export activity will lessen, stockholders are alive to the statistical position, and are likely to wait for the resumption of business in the new year before selling out.

Red Raisins.

The yield of red raisins at Vourla and Carabournou has been disappointingly small, the production being estimated as follows :—Vourla district, 1,600 tons; Carabournou district, 180 tons—1,780 tons. Sales to date :—Vourla, 1,200 tons; Carabournou, 50 tons—1,250 tons. Stocks existing, say, about 530 tons. Arrivals commenced towards end-September, and market opened rather hesitatingly at 88s. to 90s. per cwt. c.i.f., but, under the influence of Continental inquiry, prices soon improved, and have since steadily advanced, good average quality marking 100s. and the choicer growths ranging from 105s. to 125s. c.i.f. Total shipments to the United Kingdom consist of 10,637 bags, say about 250 tons. The remainder of the production will be entirely shipped to the Continent.

Figs.

Total arrivals to date amount to 32,000 loads, equal to about 7,000 tons. The United States have secured the bulk of this quantity. Shipments so far to the United Kingdom, consisting entirely of G.A.Q. Naturals, total 826 tons, and it is estimated that a further quantity of about 7,800 tons is in lighter in course of shipment. Arrivals from the interior have now practically ceased. Some stocks are still available in the disturbed areas, but transport difficulties militate against much of this fruit becoming available in the immediate future. Some limited shipments have been made to the Continent, Canada, and Australia.

The Outlook.

In all our reports since July last we consistently pointed out the unfavourable outlook of both sultanas and figs and the difficulties which shippers were likely to encounter in the course of the season. The forecasts we made earlier in the year have been very closely borne out by actual results. The sultana districts lie almost entirely in the zone under Greek military occupation, and the measures which were taken by the Greek authorities to safeguard the gathering of the grapes have been successful, and have assured the collection of the yield in its entirety. In some of the more outlying districts some fruit has doubtless been lost, or, if collected, will later on in the year find its way to market, and add somewhat to the weight of the production. The railway companies have also made every effort to facilitate the transport of dried fruits, having given during the past two months the preference to fruit over all other traffic.

As regards figs, the bulk of the orchards lie in the Meander Valley, which, as we have already explained, is under the divided occupation of the Greek and Turkish forces, and is the scene of continued strife. In our August report we clearly set forth the conditions prevailing in the district, and expressed the conviction that not more than 25,000-30,000 loads would be available for transport to market. It is due to the initiative of two or three shippers, who sent their agents into the disturbed areas, and succeeded thereby in bringing down some 7,000-8,000 loads, that the quantity of 32,000 loads has reached our port, and been shipped off to this date.

Prices now ruling for both sultanas and figs are firm. Very few figs are left for shipment. Sultanas have advanced 7s. to 10s. per cwt., according to quality, and this advance is likely to be maintained.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.

There is little fresh to report. The distribution has been delayed by the difficulty of finding warehouse accommodation for supplies.

Sultanas.

Supplies in this country at present are nothing like sufficient to meet requirements. Messrs. Giraud's latest report on the position in the Smyrna district, which will be found in the adjoining column, gives a slightly more encouraging picture of the outlook.

Coffee.

On the whole, the market has been steady. Two thousand one hundred and fifty-seven packages were offered at auction this week, and met with a very small demand. Nicaragua bold greenish made 135s. 6d. for home consumption, while peaberry was done at 130s. to 132s. 6d. Transactions have taken place in Costa Rica at 150s., Mysore at 145s., and Guatemala at 125s., while prices for Jamaica have ranged between 95s. and 155s. Stocks of Brazilian amount to 104,324 bags, as against 197,880 a year ago, while supplies of Central American total 159,467 packages against 127,140, and of other kinds 81,691 packages as against 21,752. The futures market has been quiet. Quotations: December, 123s.; March, 119s. 9d.; May, 116s. 3d.; July, 115s. 3d.; and September, 113s.

Sugar.

There has been a brisk demand for free sugar for manufacture, and also to a lesser extent for export. The result has been that prices have moved upwards, and have reached a record level, American granulated having been done at 116s., White Java at 114s., and Mauritius at 112s. Java is quoted for January at 81s., and Mauritius at 77s. 6d.

Oilseeds.

A hard tone has characterised the market. Indian linseed has come to business at 50s. per cwt., while the English description is quoted 60s. Transactions are being effected in new crop Argentina at 35s. for January shipment. Rapeseed has been steady, with little business resulting. Toria to Hull is quoted 40s. 6d. January-March.

Oilcake, etc.

There has been practically no change in the prices of oilcake. Oils are very firm. Linseed has been done at 93s., while rapeseed has come to business at 104s. Transactions have taken place in soya bean oil at 90s., common Indian cottonseed at 84s., and fine Indian cottonseed at 91s.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended November 1 :—

The activity of last week in opium has not in any way abated this week, resulting in a large exchange of cases, amounting in all to 104, which, taking them on an average of 160 lb. per case, brings up the aggregate to the grand total of 16,640 lb. The prices paid for this opium range from 12s. to 20s. per lb., as to quality and strength, and the Far-Eastern markets are by far the largest buyers, with a few cases of soft shipping elastic qualities presumably for Cuba.

Within the past fortnight inquiries for the drug from the Central Powers have been reaching our usual shippers, but hitherto we cannot say whether any business has resulted. Anyway, as Germany is altogether depleted of stock, it is very likely that this market will come in for important supplies very soon. Taking all this, therefore, into consideration, we foresee higher prices will rule in the near future, notwithstanding that London and the States are convinced that prices will drop further before the year is out. The Exchange for dollars and sterling has been steady at last week's figures. The arrivals are now 847 cases against 57 last year at even date. In pre-war times the arrivals from June to November were never or very rarely under two to three thousand.

CONDITIONS IN CYPRUS.

(From a Correspondent.)

As winter approaches, the cost of most articles continues to rise, including fuel—wood and charcoal. Wages have advanced to double and treble pre-war rates. A tour in agricultural districts reveals considerable change in conditions. In the plains the sowing of cereals is being pushed with commendable activity. The demands on Government for advances of seed corn are large. The fall of the price for locust beans (carobs) from £7 15s. to £5 11s. the ton has come as a blow to the large class of growers. Passing to the hill districts, the prices obtained for wines and spirit are a great boon in all wine-producing villages, where so many depend upon this industry

In the vine-producing areas the value of the best land has been greatly enhanced. To take a few examples. Land is sold in Cyprus by the *donum*, which is roughly (for the *donum* differs in different districts) one-third of an English acre. Prior to the war the best vine lands were valued at from £8 to £10 the *donum* (roughly, £24 to £30 the acre). An average price would, perhaps, have been about £3 10s. the *donum*, or £10 10s. the acre. In some recent sales from £100 to £140 (£300 to £420 the acre) has been paid. Good garden land realised at pre-war prices £10 to £30 (£30 to £90 an acre), according to circumstances—position, soil, irrigation rights, etc. Lately as much as £90 (£270 an acre) has been asked and given. The price of grapes has been quadrupled; that of vegetables, as well as of meat and fish, at least trebled.

An Issue of Notes.

By an Order in Council, the officer administering the Government has sanctioned the issue of notes not exceeding in value £700,000. It is probable that this will include notes of 6d. up to £60,000 or more. This is to meet a great dearth of small change, which not infrequently occurs during and after the carob season.

Under the stimulating title of the *Commercial Driver of Cyprus*, a guide is to be published in English, and should appear on December 31. The object is to encourage island trade in European markets.

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CREDIT NATIONAL OTTOMAN

(Established by Imperial Decree dated January 1, 1917.)

Subscribed Capital	-	*£T. 4,000,000*
Paid-up Capital	-	*£T. 2,000,000*
Reserve Fund	-	*£T. 140,000*

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Codes Used:
Scott's 1906 - 10th Edition. A.B.C. 1901—5th Edition. Palios 1919.

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COMPANY MEETING.

Assam-Bengal Railway.

The forty-ninth general meeting of the Assam-Bengal Railway Company, Ltd., was held at the offices, 80, Bishopsgate, London, on November 18, the chairman, Mr. James M. Rendel, presiding.

The Secretary, having read the notice of meeting and the auditors' report, the Chairman said:

I have now to present to you the report of the directors for the financial year which ended on March 31. It may, I assume, according to the usual custom, be taken as read. The result of the year's working, speaking broadly, is that while there has been a large, and, as we believe, unavoidable increase in the expenditure, this has been practically set off, and, indeed, taking the system as a whole, including the Mymensingh Bhairab Bazar Branch Line, which we worked for the Branch Line Company, rather more than set off by a corresponding increase in the gross receipts. In the circumstances this is perhaps as good a result as we could have ventured to look for, and may be considered, therefore, as satisfactory.

The increase in the working expenses is due to some extent to the cost of repairing the damage caused by the earthquake in July, 1918, which was of a somewhat serious character. In the main, however, it is to be ascribed to the continued rise in wages and salaries, and the cost of fuel and of all necessary material of every kind, which has been the direct and unavoidable consequence of the war, and has affected all railways alike, in India as elsewhere. How far this rise will go and how much of it will be permanent it is impossible to say. What is clear is that the general standard of working costs has been definitely raised to a much higher level than we were accustomed to before the war. This emphasises, if emphasis were necessary, the need for economy wherever economy is possible. This is fully realised, I am glad to say, by the agent of the railway, Mr. G. Anson Bayley, and the very competent staff of officers acting under him. We are confident that they are doing, and will do, everything that careful supervision and technical skill can do to meet the situation.

But, apart from economies, what we must look to to reduce the balance is to increase the receipts. If the line is to cost more, may we not hope that it will also earn more? From this point of view it is satisfactory to know that during the year under review the gross earnings of the whole system amounted to just over 87 lakhs, being larger by upwards of 10 lakhs, or over 13 per cent., than the gross earnings of the previous year. It is the highest that has been obtained. During the current year, so far as it has gone, the same process has continued, and at a very much greater rate. For the half-year ending September 30 last there has been an increase for the whole system, including the branch, of nearly 13 lakhs, or over 33 per cent. We cannot, of course, expect that the expansion of the traffic can be maintained on anything like this scale. But we may fairly hope from present indications that the steady development of the traffic, which was arrested by the war, has now been resumed, and is once more assured. The most significant fact about these figures is the remarkable growth of the passenger traffic. In the year 1917 the Railway Board sanctioned, as a war measure, a large increase in the passenger fares. The primary object was, I believe, to ease the pressure on the railways by restricting the passenger traffic. The actual result has been a great augmentation in the receipts from that traffic. Experience has shown that it can easily bear the increase imposed on it. Notwithstanding this increase, there has been, concurrently with it, a large expansion in the volume of the traffic. Looked at as an experiment in rates, the measure has so far been entirely successful.

You will have seen from the report that Col. Huddleston, the managing director, is to visit India during the present cold season We believe, as a general principle, that visits of this kind are of great value to the administration, and ought to be repeated at frequent intervals. But on the present occasion there are two special reasons why we have asked him to go. In the first place, very important proposals as to the future of the Port of Chittagong are under discussion between the Government of India, the Port Commissioners, and the board, and it is very desirable that the board should be represented on the spot, not merely in the interests of the railway, but in order that the mercantile community may have the fullest opportunity of making their views known to the board, in personal discussion, and may be satisfied that in working out the details of the new arrangement their views have been fully and sympathetically considered. But besides this the board feel that after the interruption of progress caused by the war we are making, as it were, a new start under conditions which have greatly changed, and that in these circumstances there are all sorts of questions affecting the future policy and development of the line which it is highly desirable that the managing director should have an opportunity of studying in India in personal conference with the agent. It will be remembered that when Col. Huddleston last visited India two years ago the sole object of his mission was to come to a settlement with the Railway Board, if that were possible, on the question of the transfer to the railway of the Dacca-Mymensingh Line. As I told you a year ago, he was unfortunately unable to succeed in that object. The position, as it has since been developed in correspondence with the India Office, is, as we understand it, that no final decision adverse to this railway will be taken without giving us an opportunity of being heard once more on the subject. We are not proposing to reopen the question at the present moment. But we hope that during his forthcoming visit to India Col. Huddleston may find an opportunity of discussing it, at least informally, with the responsible authorities in that country

He then moved that the report and statement of accounts be received and adopted, which was seconded by Lieut.-Colonel G. Huddleston, C.I.E., V.D., and unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman then moved that Col. Sir Walter Lawrence, G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., C.B., be re-elected a director, which was seconded and carried unanimously.

(*Continued at foot of next column.*)

The auditors were reappointed, and a vote of thanks to the staff in India and at home for the able way in which they had carried out their duties terminated the proceedings.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Market Still Firm.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Although the tone of the market continues firm, business to some extent has been adversely effected by the easier tendency in American cotton prices. Since a week ago there has been a substantial decline in Liverpool and New York. Spinners and manufacturers remain very difficult to deal with, and concessions from top rates have not been easily obtained. Although the outlook for supplies of Egyptian cotton is favourable, prices continue to go against buyers. The crop continues to make steady progress. It is reported that spinners in the United States are continuing to purchase freely in Alexandria. In yarns made from Egyptian cotton prices have again been put up in sympathy with the rise in the raw material. A fair business has been done in home counts with an increased turnover in qualities suitable for America. Bolton spinners are in a stronger position than ever before in the history of the trade. Demand in piece goods for Egypt has not by any means spent itself, and in a variety of goods a fair turnover has taken place. Other Near Eastern outlets seem to be a little quieter. India has sent a very large inquiry. Although a good part of it has not been practicable the sales have been of considerable weight. A steady business has been put through for China and Singapore. It is now quite usual for manufacturers to want delivery in the second half of next year. American yarns have been well held, especially twists, but the turnover shows some falling off. In both single and two-fold descriptions India and China have given healthy support.

MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.

Messrs. Glyn Mills Currie and Co., as bankers, and acting under instructions from the Mortgage Company of Egypt, are prepared to purchase a limited amount of the Four and a-Half per Cent. First Charge Debentures at a price of £82 per cent. net to sellers. In order to make delivery of the debentures with unmatured coupons attached holders of registered debentures who wish to avail themselves of the above offer will have to reconvert their registered debentures into debentures to bearer, in accordance with the conditions endorsed upon such debentures, prior to presenting the same for payment. Debenture holders desirous of tendering their debentures for sale under the conditions above named can obtain a copy of the circular letter dated November 14, 1919, and the necessary form of tender specifying the identifying numbers of the debentures offered for sale on applying to Messrs. Glyn Mills Currie and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.3.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

STAMBOUL, Oct. 25.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Opium.—The crop of opium ended two months ago, and our stock, owing to dispatches to Constantinople, diminishes from day to day. The market price of opium is £T5½ to 6 the kilo.

Cereals.—The crop this year has been plentiful. Prices have a tendency to rise. They are :—

Corn.—A wagon of 15,150 kilos c.i.f. Haidar Pacha, Constantinople, £T1,200.

Barley.—A wagon of 15,150 kilos c.i.f. Haidar-Pacha, Constantinople, £T750.

Manufactures.

The activity on the market has been more marked this week. Four vessels have arrived, three of them from England and the other from Italy, loaded with manufactures. The demand remains very strong for the Russian ports—Odessa, Novorossik, Rostoff, and the rise of the rouble—the Kerensky rouble—from 210 to 140-130 per pound Turkish, and the Romanoff from 65 to 45, is calculated to maintain, if not to increase, this tendency.

Manchester prices have lately undergone a new increase of 10 to 15 per cent. In Italy stocks are almost exhausted, and the shortage of raw materials and of fuel, as well as the strikes, hinder further production.

Produce.

Sugar.—The strong demand for Java sugar has caused a rise in price at centres of production, and this commodity has been done at £70 the ton. America has ceased offers of sugar for the Continent, and factories are not turning out more than is required for the Allied countries. All the same, this increase in prices has not yet been reflected at this market. Quotations :—£65-£66 the ton for disposal, in transit.

Coffee.—Quiet, without change.

Oil.—Arrivals, 50,000 cases of American. Price unchanged at £T5.20-5.30 the case. Arrivals from Russia and Roumania have not yet commenced.

Exports.

Owing to the complete suspension of traffic on the Angora-Eski-Chehir line, more than 300 wagons with various commodities—cereals, mohair, wool, opium, fruit, etc.—are held up.

Opium.—Seventeen cases druggist new Karahissar and Ak-Chéhir have been sold at Ps.715-720 the oke, and 23 cases druggist second quality at Ps.660-700 the oke. The market has been weak following the discouraging news received from New York.

Mohair.—Arrivals of the week, 636 bales; sales, 300, at Ps.76-82 the oke.

Wool.—Arrivals, 214 bales. No sales.

Silk.—The high level continues. There is a very active demand. Twenty bales Broussa have been sold at £T14.75 the kilo, against £T13.35 last week.

Cereals.—Arrivals of the week, 42 wagons. The market is weak, with a tendency to improve in view of regular arrivals from Anatolia.

FEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRIES

The following appointments were made at the annual meeting of the Federation of British Industries on November 12, Sir Vincent Caillard relinquishing his position as president on the termination of his year of office :—President, Mr. W. Peter Rylands, Messrs. Rylands Brothers, Limited, Warrington. Vice-Presidents, Mr. Godfrey Isaacs, Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, Limited; Mr. Philip Lockhart, W. and A. Bates, Limited, Leicester; and Sir William Pearce, M.P., Association of British Chemical Manufacturers. In addition, the seven retiring vice-presidents were re-elected.

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Paid-up - £5,000,000

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

The report of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank for the year ended August 31 last states that the gross profits, after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts and all taxation are £325,803, and deducting the expenses, amounting to £182,823, there remains £142,980 net profit for the year. To this is added £38,000 brought forward, making £180,930. The directors propose paying a dividend of 10s. per share free of tax on December 1, making 15 per cent. for the year, and bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, also free of tax, transferring to reserve fund £10,000 and to reserve account new premises £22,644, carrying forward £40,000. A branch has been opened at Haifa; arrangements have been made for opening a branch at Port Sudan, and other extensions are under consideration. Meeting, 27, Clement's-lane, E.C., November 25, 3 p.m.

Bawdwin Syndicate.

The report of the Bawdwin Syndicate for the year ended March 31, 1919, states that the profit and loss account shows a credit balance of £2,099. The balance at credit of appropriation account at March 31, 1918, was £3,220, and with the above sum, less refund under articles of association of £273, leaves a credit balance of £5,047 to be carried forward. Since the closing of the books further repayments of excess profits duty have been received amounting to £13,470, and this sum will be shown in the accounts to March 31, 1920. The refund of this amount completes the £17,368 paid by this syndicate on account of excess profits duty; this is subject to income-tax and to a deduction in accordance with Article 88 of the company's articles of association. Investments at cost, £104,451, remain at the same figure as last year, and are represented by £83,615 fully-paid shares in the Burma Corporation, Ltd. In accordance with the resolution passed at the extra-ordinary general meetings, held on January 23 and February 10, the capital of the company is now reduced to £105,000, divided into 150,000 shares of 14s. each. This reduction has been effected by cancelling uncalled capital to the extent of 6s. in respect of each of the shares which have been issued and by reducing the nominal amount of all the shares from £1 to 14s. each.

Ceylon Land and Produce.

The report of the Ceylon Land and Produce Co. for the year ended June 30 states that the amount at credit of profit and loss account is £29,031, which, with sum brought forward, £5,746, and excess profits duty recovered £4,541, makes £39,318. It is proposed to pay on November 25 a final dividend of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares (making 25 per cent. for the year) and a bonus of 5 per cent., both less tax at 6s. in the £, transferring to revenue reserve fund £7,500, and carrying forward £6,718.

Piccadilly (Ceylon).

The report of the Piccadilly (Kelani Valley, Ceylon) Rubber and Tea Estate for the year ended June 30 states that the accounts show a net profit of £1,982, which, with the amount brought forward, £1,432, shows a net balance for appropriation of £3,414. The directors propose to pay a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., placing to reserve fund £1,000, carrying forward £1,120.

Central Tea of Ceylon.

The report of the Central Tea Co. of Ceylon for the year to June 30 states that the net amount at credit of profit and loss account, including balance brought forward, is £7,816. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, less tax, and to carry forward (subject to excess profits tax, if any) £3,816.

North Anantapur Gold.

The report of North Anantapur Gold Mines, Ltd., for the year ended June 30 last states that revenue expenditure amounts to £30,869 and the receipts, after allowing for royalty due to the Indian Government, aggregates £49,315, leaving a profit of £18,446, against £21,855. The total credit at profit and loss is £24,637 and the debit £12,976, leaving a credit of £11,662. A balance dividend of 2s. 6d. per share and a bonus of 6d. per share on the Preference and 6d. per share and a bonus of 6d. per share on the Ordinary shares was paid on November 1, which absorbed £8,313, leaving £3,349 to be carried forward. The distribution for the year was 5s. per share on the Preference and 1s. per share on the Ordinary shares, both less income-tax. The company's financial position is strong, the total liquid assets being £63,083 and the liabilities £5,367, leaving a credit balance of £57,716. In addition to this, the materials and stores at the mine are of a value of £8,643. Underground development work measured 1,551 feet, against 3,051 feet. It was estimated by the superintendent that the reserves of ore at the close of the year amounted to 11,000 tons, or a decrease of 9,000 tons as compared with the quantity computed at June 30, 1918. In addition, however, to the 11,000 tons mentioned, there were some 3,000 tons of ore in the mine which will probably be recovered from pillars remaining. The lateral development work on the main reef at the 450 and 550-feet levels proved disappointing, and although reef formation, with occasional short shoots of quartz carrying small quantities of gold, has been followed in these drivages, no payable ground has been opened up by them. It has been decided to explore the mine at greater depth and systematically to test the reefs at surface, the latter to ascertain whether there is justification for sinking trial shafts in hitherto unexplored sections of the property. In the last report shareholders were advised that an option had been secured on favourable terms over a copper property in Northern India. This is known as the Baragunda Copper Mine and is situate in Chota Nagpur. Arrangements have been made for the speedy exploration of this mine below the known workings. Meeting, 6, Queen Street Place, E.C., November 27, 2 p.m.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the contracts given below, and must be made by the dates mentioned:—

Great Indian Peninsula Railway.—Supply of (1) galvanised corrugated sheets, (2) Sheffield tools, (3) jim crows and screw jacks, and (4) ramps. (Spec., No. 1, £1; No. 2, 10s.; No. 3, 7s. 6d.; No. 4, 2s. 6d.; Secretary, 48, Copthall Avenue, London, E.C.2.) November 25.

Madras Corporation.—Supply and delivery of about 67 miles of English stoneware pipes, from 4 in. to 18 in. internal diameter. (Spec., 5s.; Messrs. J. Manserch and Sons, 5, Victoria Street, S.W.1.) February 2.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The transfer books of the capital stock of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Co., Ltd., will be closed from December 1 to December 15 (both days inclusive) for the preparation of warrants due to stockholders who are registered on the company's books on December 15. No transfer deeds of the capital stock will be received during the time the books are closed. Warrants will be posted on December 31.

The transfer books of the debenture stock of the South Behar Railway Co., Ltd., will be closed from December 15 to December 20 (both days inclusive), and the capital stock from January 1 to January 8 (both days inclusive), for the preparation of interest and dividend warrants due to stockholders who are registered on the company's books on December 12 and 31 respectively. The warrants for the debenture stock interest will be posted on December 31, and for the dividend on the capital stock on January 14.

Owing to the continued difficulties caused by the war and the uncertain conditions of trade the directors of the Bengal United Tea Co. are unable at present to consider the question of payment of the interim dividend usually made in November on the ordinary and preference shares.

The directors of the Balijan Tea Co. have declared an interim dividend of 6 per cent. (12s. per share).

The directors of the Indian Electric Supply and Traction Co. have declared an interim dividend of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares, payable on November 26.

The directors of the Bank of British West Africa have declared an interim dividend of 4 per cent., less income-tax, for the six months ended September 30, 1919, payable December 1.

The directors of the Highland Tea Co. of Ceylon have declared an interim dividend of 4 per cent.

The general meeting of the Imperial Ottoman Bank will be held on December 10 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., at 1 p.m., to receive a report from the committee, with the accounts for the period ended December 31, 1918, and to replace the retiring members of the general committee.

The directors of the Assam Company announce an interim dividend of 7½ per cent., or £1 10s. per share, less tax, payable on January 1 next.

Cyprian Mining Company.—The receiver proposes to a make a distribution of the assets of the company. Particulars and proofs of any claims not already admitted by the receiver must reach him not later than January 15, 1920.

The Transfer Books of the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., will be closed from November 22 to December 1, both days inclusive, to admit of preparation of Interim Dividend of 4 per cent., less income-tax, for the six months ending September 30, 1919. Warrants will be posted to shareholders on the evening of November 29.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Egyptian and Foreign Trust, Ltd., will be held at Dashwood House, 9, New Broad Street, E.C.2, on December 22.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.—Registers of stockholders will be closed from December 4 to 31, inclusive.

Burma Railways.—Transfer books will be closed from December 15 to 31, inclusive.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has been a fair amount of business passing this week in Egyptian securities. Egypt has again been buying, but transactions have been rendered difficult by the absence, in many cases, of sellers, and within the last day or two demand has somewhat died down, probably in consequence of the fresh disturbances reported.

In Government stocks some business has taken place in Egyptian Unifieds at 76½, showing a decline of ¼, and some thousands of the 3½ per cent. preference have been done at 63½, an advance of ¼.

In Bank shares Nationals have remained a very firm spot, and have been in constant demand for Egypt. Agriculturals have also been wanted, but not much business has been passing, as sellers have been rather scarce. Agricultural preferences are ⅛ down at 7⅛, there being small sellers in the market, and, for the time being, buyers have withdrawn. There is also a decline of ¼ to record in Anglo-Egyptian Banks. In Land Banks, some few hundred shares changed hands in the neighbourhood of 6¾, a decline of ⅛ since last week. Amongst other land shares, Aboukirs are 9d. easier at 29s. 6d., Béhéras have continued to be wanted, but there are no sellers. Egyptian Consols (4s. 2d. paid) are 1½d. lower at 2s. 1½d. Delta Lands are 3d. down at 13s. There is a good local demand for Foreign Trusts, but very little business has been done, as there are very few sellers at the current level. Gharbieh Lands and Sidi Salem have also been in demand for Egyptian account, but no business has been possible owing to the lack of sellers. In New Egyptians some few thousand shares have been taken round 23s. Union Foncières have continued in strong enquiry from the other side, and the price closes ⅛ up at 3⅞. Sudan Plantations have dropped ⅛ to 7⅞.

Amongst Miscellaneous shares the only feature of interest has been a decline of an ⅛ in Salt and Sodas to 2 25-32.

In Oil shares, Anglo-Egyptian B have been a dull spot, and are closing ¼ down at 5 1-16. Roumanians have jumped to-day to 26s. 3d., a rise of 2s. 6d. since last week.

In Greek stocks the tendency has been rather weak. The Monopoly Loan is down half a point to 55½. Rente has dropped sharply 2½ points to 50. The 1881, 1884, and 1890 Loans are all offered at the current price of 64. The 1914 Loan has shed a further point at 68, but Greek 5 per cent. "Currant" bonds continue in demand at 94.

TURKISH DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders are informed that the estimated gross receipts from the conceded revenues for the year 1918-19 applicable to the service of the Unified Debt and Lots Turcs were £T5,906,664, as compared with £T5,448,061 in 1917-18 and with £T5,436,165 in 1913-14, which was the best year on record. The provisional receipts for the first six months of the current financial year are understood to be about the same as in the corresponding period of 1918-19.

Colonel Herbert Leonard Mitchell, R.A. (retired), of Cornwall Gardens, S.W., Mutiny veteran, a Deputy Governor of the Canada Company, a director of the Indian and General Investment Trust (Limited), who died on July 5, aged 83, left estate of the gross value of £336,562, with net personalty £336,237.

MAISEL'S PETROLEUM TRUST.

The manager in Roumania of the Maisel's Petroleum Trust, Limited, reports, under date October 29, that the Anglo-French Petroleum Commission, which has been investigating the damage suffered through the war by petroleum undertakings in Roumania belonging to the Allies in order to report on claims submitted for compensation in respect thereof, was about to proceed to visit this company's properties for that purpose. A claim for £200,000 was submitted by the company in 1916 and a further revised claim is now being prepared by the company's representatives on the spot.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Nov.12	Price Nov.19
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	55	55
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	76	76
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	76½xd	76½
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	63¼	63⅜
Greek 5%, 1881	64	64
Do. 5%, 1884	64	64
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	56	55½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	52½	50
Do. 5% 1890	64	64
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	63	63
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	62½	62½
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	56	56
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	69	68
Do. 5% Currant	94	94
Montenegro 5% Loan	70½	70½
Persia 5% 1911	82	79
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	63	62
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	74	74
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	66	64½
Do. 4% Unified	49	45
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅜	5⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¼	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17⅜	17⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	37/6	37,6
Bank of Athens	60/-	60/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	8	8
British Trade Corporation	10¼	10
Imperial Ottoman Bank	10⅜	9⅝
Imperial Bank of Persia	10⅜	10⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅝	6⅝
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅝	6⅝
London County and Westminster	16⅜	16⅜
National Bank of Egypt	19 1/16	19 1/16
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6½	6½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	12½	12½
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	64	64
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	61½	61½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66xd	66xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	50
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	30/3	29/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	14½	14½
Do. Pref.	4⅝	4⅝
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/2 paid)	2/-	2/1½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	13/3	13/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	14/-	14/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅛	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	23/-	23/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅛	2⅛
Sudan Plantations	8	7⅞
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	3¾	3⅞
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	11⅛	11⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	1⅛
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	2 29/32	2 29/32
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅛	5⅛
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅛	3⅛
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	99	99
Chinese 4½% 1898	70½	72
Do. 5% 1896	82½	84
Argentine 5% 1890	82½	82½
Do. 5% 1907	85½	85½
OIL.		
Anglo-Egyptian B	5 5/16	5 1/16
Anglo-Persian	26/9	27/-
Anglo-Roumanian	9/-	9/-
Roumanian	23/9	26/3
Trajan (Roumanian)	11/6	11/6

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Nov 12	Nov. 19
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	61⅜	61½
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	62⅜	63½
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959		83	82
Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40		73½	73½
Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938		74½xd	74½
BANKS.			
Chartered of India		84½	86
Eastern		8⅛	8⅛
Mercantile of India A		37⅜	38
National of India		58	58
MINES.			
Balaghat Gold Mining		4/-	4/-
Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.		⅛	⅛
Burma Corp.		12 5/8	13 3/8
Burma Ruby Mines Ord.		16/-	15/xd
Champion Reef Gold		4/-	3/9
Mysore Gold Mining		1 3/16	1 1/8
Nundydroog		17/-	14/6
Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.		14/-	1/6
Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.		22/6	17/10½
Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)		18/1½	21/3
OIL.			
Assam Oil		2⅞	2 3/8
Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.		2⅜	2⅛
Brit. Burmah		2 1/16	2⅜
Burmah Oil Co. Ord.		18¼	17¾
D. 6% Cum. Pref.		1 1/16	1 1/16
Do. 5% Cum. 2nd Pref.		10¼	10¼

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES

Continued—

RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	56	56
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	140½	141½
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	60	59xd
Bengal-Nagpur	121½	121½
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	109	109
Burma Railways	114	114
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13	13
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	12¾	12¾
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	13	13
Madras and S. Mahratta	113	112½
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	152½	132½
Nizam's Guaranteed State	85xd	85
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	11⅜	11
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	9½	9½xd
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	93	92½
Do. Deferred	682	670
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	72	77
Bengal United Tea Ord.	17½	17 7/16
British Indian Tea Ord.	9⅛	9⅛
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17	17
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	12/9	12/6
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	7⅜	7⅜xd
Consolidated Estates	7⅜	7⅜
Darjeeling Co.	22/6	23/4½
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	60/-	66/3
Dooars Tea Ord.	4 1/16	85/6
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	29/32	1⅛
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	3⅜	3⅜
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	36/3	34/9
Hewagam Rubber Co.	1⅛	1⅛
Jhanzie Tea Association	11½	12
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	22⅛	23½
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	1 1/16	1⅛
Lanka Plantations Ord.	30/6	30/6
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	57/-	60/-
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	2 7/8	2⅞
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14⅜	14½
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	1 1/16	1⅛

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON NOVEMBER 3.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	19¾
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	90
" " Div.	Frs.	119
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	13⅜
" priv.	£	4⅛
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	121
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1⅞
Building Lands of Egypt	£	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	3⅞
Société des Immeubles	£	6⅛
Bonded Stores	£	6⅛
Unifiée	£	15½
Privilégiée	£	77⅜ex
Land Bank of Egypt	£	64⅜ex
Nungovich Hotels	£	6⅞
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6⅛
" " Fond.	£	5⅛
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	445
" Ord		4½
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	105/-
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	21⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	4½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	6
" Jouissance	Frs.	110
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		159
Egyptian Markets		32/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	22/-
" Div.	Frs.	370
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	325
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	275
Egyptian Salt and Soda		5½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	58/6½
" Fondateur	Frs.	687
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	97
" 1903 "	Frs.	419½
" 1911 "	Frs.	294
Consolidated Land	P.T.	284
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	7

The ordinary general meeting of the Alexandria and Ramleh Railway Co., Ltd., will be held at Alexandria on December 3.

The Secretary of State for India notifies that with effect from November 14 the acquisition rate for gold imported under licence into India has been increased from Rs.11 annas 11 to Rs.11 annas 13 per sovereign. The rate for gold bullion has been correspondingly altered from one rupee for 9.622 grains of fine gold to one rupee for 9.570 grains of fine gold.

In order to remove the danger to passengers disembarking at Tangier, caused by the overcrowding of the boats and motor launches in which they are landed from steamers, regulations have been drawn up by the Foreign Representatives, in agreement with the local authorities. A copy of these regulations (in French) may be inspected at the Shipping and Transport Section of the Department of Overseas Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 447.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

According to Berlin reports, Roumania, in her reply to the Entente, repeats the desire not to separate from her Allies which was expressed by King Ferdinand at the opening of the Bucharest Parliament; but she declares that she is not able to carry out all the demands of the Superior Allied Council. She is ready to do all that is required of her for the protection of national minorities in the newly acquired regions, and to give way on the Bessarabian language question; but she declares she cannot renounce her claim to territory on the left bank of the Theiss. If this report be correct, it will be interesting to see the next move of the Powers in a distinctly difficult situation.

No words can be too strong to denounce the stupidity and villainy of a plot against the life of M. Venizelos, and the news will be received with as much relief abroad as in Greece that the conspiracy was restricted to a very small coterie of retired and, consequently, personally disaffected officers. Greece has had many occasions in the past to be grateful to M. Venizelos, but it may be doubted whether more reliance has ever been placed upon his administrative ability and statesmanship than at the present moment, when the country has been deprived for so many months of his personal magnetism. A hundred and one problems in Greek affairs have been left unsolved because they were felt to require the magic touch of the Prime Minister. With political difficulties at home overcome, the outlook for Greece's material prosperity is so bright that it is impossible for any group of malcontents who would attempt to plunge the country into civil strife to be actuated by any love for Greece.

In the early days of the Armistice British soldiers were welcomed wherever they went, and in the Near East especially it was felt that they were not as some other Allied troops were. As far as their reputation depends upon themselves it is safe to say that it stands now as high as ever, and it is therefore surprising to learn from our Smyrna Correspondent that the landing of fresh troops at that port has, to put it bluntly, not been welcomed. How far the phenomenon is due to purely local causes and how far to far-reaching political hopes and fears—not to say manœuvres—it is almost impossible to judge from a distance, but it should not be difficult to reassure the British community in Smyrna that our troops are there for pacific purposes, and not for any military adventure.

There appear to be no limits to D'Annunzio's extravagances. He has "raided" and "annexed" Zara, is reported to have in view other raids of a similar character, and is even said to have talked of "marching on Rome," whenever it should please him to do so. The Italian Government and the Italian Press profess great indignation at these performances. Naturally that feeling is present, and acute, in Yugoslavia. The Yugoslavs have, through their official Press Bureau, issued urgent protests and warnings. According to one of the latest reports, however, the Belgrade Government has reached the conclusion that "there exists no real motive" for anxiety regarding the vagaries of the poet and his followers. The whole question, it states, will shortly be dealt with by the Paris Conference, "and a solution found which, it is said, will satisfy our legitimate aspirations." The Yugoslav Government nevertheless thinks it wise to maintain its precautionary measures, and few people will be ready to question that wisdom. Italy—official Italy—has her hands so full at home just now that she is hardly in a position to deal faithfully with D'Annunzio.

It is announced from Sofia that the Bulgarian Government has embarked on the policy of effecting wholesale arrests with a view to establishing responsibility for the war. Smarting under the natural resentment caused by conditions of peace far more onerous than had been expected, the Bulgarian people may well wish to see the authors of their misfortunes punished; but, to judge from the list of those arrested, it would seem as if a very wide net had been cast. The whole matter is clearly one that concerns Bulgaria alone; but if M. Stamboliskv's Government could turn to any friendly country for advice there cannot be the least doubt that he would be warned of the pitfalls ahead. If the "war-guilty" can be shown to be so numerous, it will dispose at once of the plea that Bulgaria was forced into the war against the will of the people by a corrupt Cabinet bribed with German gold. With several hundreds of his supporters held worthy of being singled out for prosecution, M. Radoslavoff might urge that the rank and file of his followers comprised a substantial portion of the nation. On the other hand, an open and impartial inquiry into matters which have formed the basis of complaints against Bulgaria will be an earnest of the new Government's desire to rehabilitate the country in the eyes of the world. It would be a matter for regret, however, if just at the time when, in her own interests and in those of the Balkan Peninsula as a whole, Bulgaria needed to

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make a united effort to promote her material development, she were to run the risk of a serious vendetta in party politics. Often wholesale arrests are made the occasion for indulging in personal spite, and the cause that it is intended to punish obtains fresh adherents from antagonism to any form of injustice, however worthy the cause.

The Sublime Porte has made a direct appeal to the Peace Conference to hasten the settlement of the Turkish question. The wonder is, not that such an appeal should be made, but that it was not made long ago, and that it should be necessary to make it at this late hour. The difficulties confronting the Allies in this matter may be, and probably are, very considerable; but there are excellent reasons for tackling them at once, and for putting an end to a situation which is full of dangerous possibilities for the Old World, whatever may be the case with regard to the New. In view of the latest developments in America in regard to the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations, it would seem to be hopeless to wait longer for the United States' decision—unless, of course, some assurance is forthcoming that it shall not be much longer withheld. It is not to be believed that there is any truth in the rumour that the delay is partly attributable to differences among the Allies as to the division of the Sick Man's estate among themselves, but the only way of disposing of such rumours is to press on with all speed to a settlement that shall be just to Turkey as well as to the other parties.

General Gouraud has arrived in Syria, and it is to be hoped that his presence will have a tranquillising effect upon Arab feeling, which is obviously in a highly excited state. The occupation by French troops of some points evacuated by the British has given rise to slight disturbances, and it is reported that many of the Arabs regard the change as the first step in the partition of their country. It is hinted also that further changes in the *status quo* will almost certainly lead to very serious trouble indeed. Apparently the Arabs still entertain hopes that the Peace Conference may eventually uphold their point of view, and in Damascus especially there is much talk of a fresh war, if it is ignored. In the circumstances, it is much to the credit of Emir Said, the King of the Hejaz's youngest son, who is in charge at Es Shems in the absence of his brother, that he has succeeded in keeping order there so far.

Following on Mr. Balfour's plain speaking regarding our position in Egypt, and the agitation of the extreme Nationalists, we have now a full and careful review of the situation by Lord Curzon, speaking in the House of Lords on Tuesday. A report of the speech will be found elsewhere, and the situation in Egypt in the new light thrown on it is dealt with in our leading article. Here we may briefly refer to some of the events that have occurred, or been reported—for reports from Egypt are once more subject to delay—in the past week. Lord Allenby's wise handling of the trouble appears to be having a good effect already, and though we may expect to hear of further rioting and demonstrations, Egypt will almost certainly respond to firm treatment again as she has so often done in the past. The Residency *communiqués*, which brought about the resignation of the late Cabinet, gave rise to rioting of a serious character in both Cairo and Alexandria, and British troops had to be called in to quell the disturbances. With characteristic fatuousness the Zaghlulite "Delegation" issued a manifesto protesting against the *communiqué* as being contrary to the principles of Mr. Wilson and the League of Nations. Apparently they had not heard, or had already forgotten the latest developments in the United States regarding the principles referred to and the proposal for the League.

Lord Allenby has warned several of the leading Zaghlulites to moderate their ardour and to take no further part in politics; and as some of them have declined to obey his orders they have been placed under arrest. A few vernacular papers have been suspended for publishing inflammatory matter; and various Orders designed to prevent the assembling of mobs have been issued. The students also have been warned that they must attend their classes regularly, or render themselves liable to pains and penalties. A highly satisfactory item of news is the announcement that a new Cabinet, described as stronger and more united than the old one, has been formed, with Yussuf Wahba Pasha at its head. The fact that the new Cabinet takes office at a time of stress argues that it is composed of men of courage, unlikely to be browbeaten by Nationalist or Zaghlulite bullies; and the new Prime Minister and some of his colleagues have considerable experience to aid them in their difficult but honourable work.

The Report of the Joint Committee on the Government of India Bill is a thoroughly businesslike document, and marks a definite stage in the progress towards reality for which we have pleaded throughout the discussions of the last two years. The Declaration of August, 1917, was pure idealism. The Joint Report which followed a year later was characterised by vision, and even inspiration, rather than an adequate grasp of facts. The Southborough reports and the series of despatches from the Government of India brought some of the essential facts into the picture, and not a few others are to be found embedded in the mass of verbiage contributed by the witnesses at the inquiry. Now we have the Committee's Report, almost as bald as a balance-sheet, and characterised mainly by an earnest striving after actuality. It is a strictly impersonal document, appearing without minority reports, minutes of dissent, or reservations of any kind; it contains no lengthy disquisitions, but it is so full of compressed matter that no summary could do it justice; it presents conclusions only, and its result is to exhibit dyarchy definitely as a business proposition, a novelty indeed, but the best course in a very exceptional set of circumstances.

Dyarchy being thus accepted in principle, the problem is to make it workable in practice. The Committee have evidently seen the grave risk of its degeneration into oligarchy, and, beginning at the foundations, they insist on a widening of the proposed basis, with more seats for rural representatives, a better chance for urban workers, and larger representation for the depressed classes, who, in one sense, are the most important classes of all. Provision must also be made for the non-Brahmans of the South; this is to be arranged by compromise, or, failing that, by arbitration. Much has been said about votes for women; it is a difficult, but not a vital, question, and each provincial Legislature will be free to settle it for itself. These provisions, with some others of less importance, will undoubtedly increase the stability of the structure, but the danger remains that the foundations may be sapped, and therefore a "complete and stringent" Corrupt Practices Act must be brought into operation before the first elections. The need for such a measure was urged in these columns at an early period of the discussion, and we are glad to see that it has been recognised in uncompromising terms; its preparation will be no easy task, but the whole future depends on its successful accomplishment.

Turning from foundations to superstructure, we are struck by the Committee's obvious dislike of shams. The original proposals for securing "essential legislation" which could not pass the Legislature come under this head; the Governor-in-Council is necessarily responsible for such legislation, and he should, in the last resort, act on his responsibility. Consequently, the Grand Committees disappear, while the analogous imperial organ, the Council of State, is to become a real Second Chamber, which will serve an important purpose. Again, each side of the dual government is to stand out as responsible for its own acts much more clearly than was provided in the original scheme; the two sides are to work together, and "there cannot be too much mutual advice and consultation," but when "opinions have been

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fully exchanged, and the last word has been said," the decision must rest with one side or the other, and the proceedings must show clearly where the responsibility lies. The result of these changes, with some others, is that the people will have a much better chance of learning who are their masters, and thus the time will be brought nearer when the masters will be transformed into servants, and the federation of great peasant States will finally emerge.

An excellent sample of the Committee's methods is furnished by the paragraph dealing with provincial finance. They think the distribution of resources between the two sides of a Government ought to be capable of adjustment by common sense and give-and-take, and they allow scope accordingly; but they propose to reserve to the Governor power to make a clear cut if at any time friction becomes serious, and the clear cut, when once made, will last for at least the whole life of the existing Legislative Council. In our opinion that is essentially a reasonable arrangement between the claimants for a "Joint" and a "Single" Purse; Councillors and Ministers should usually be able to agree, and it is best that they should do so, but if they fail, then each side must be content with the allotted share. There is no doubt that many Indian politicians are still unconsciously influenced by the old theory of an inexhaustible treasury, and they will continue for a time to make impossible demands; but financial education has made rapid strides of late, and under the arrangements proposed by the Committee we anticipate that Ministers and legislators will quickly realise the hard facts by which the success of their endeavours is conditioned—no progress without money, no money without taxes, and no taxes without trouble in the constituencies; that is the thorny road they will have to follow.

We have perhaps said enough to indicate by examples the general tendencies of a Report which cannot be summarised without sacrificing essential features. There remains the fundamental weakness of dyarchy, which we pointed out when the Joint Report was published, the terrible strain which it must throw on the provincial Governors, who have to keep things going somehow, and reconcile their own responsibility to Parliament with the responsibility of Ministers to the electorate. The Committee are under no misapprehensions on this point, and they recognise that the Governor may have to "hold the balance between different policies and different ideals," as well as to "help with sympathy and courage the popular side of his Government in their new responsibilities." The scheme now put forward will, in our judgment, give the Governor adequate powers, and its success or failure in any province will depend on his personal qualities more than on any other single factor. Can we be reasonably confident that for the period of this great experiment every province in India will be provided with the Man that is required?

We do not for a moment doubt that the men are to be found. To take any other view would be to despair of the proved capacity of the British race, and our question relates to the system of selection and not to the available material. Political patronage has given such deplorable results on so many occasions in the past that the prospect is by no means assured, but the Committee's explicit recognition of the needs of the situation is in itself a safeguard of very real importance, and with a watchful Standing Committee of Parliament, the perpetration of a real, old-fashioned job will require a bolder Secretary of State than India has usually possessed. We can recognise further that recent appointments are of good augury, and we can say now—what could not have been said a few years ago—that most, if not all, of the important provinces have Governors under whom dyarchy will have a fair chance at the outset. A strong and wise Governor, with a free hand to select his councillors and his ministers, ought to be able to make a successful start, and the start once made, we must hope that the new machine will acquire comfort as well as vigour as it runs.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Electricity and Coal.

The House of Commons is discussing the Electricity Bill this week, a measure that was originally part of the Ministry of Transport's sphere, but was eventually placed in a category by itself. The Bill raises great questions of state and municipal enterprise and control versus private enterprise, and it appears likely to receive the careful consideration that it demands. The details are somewhat technical, but the main purpose of the Bill is to link up the sources of electrical supply into greater units, which will prevent waste and probably ensure cheaper power.

A first-class sensation was created by the Government's decision to reduce the price of domestic coal by ten shillings a ton. The reduction does not apply to industrial or export coal, and it appears to be an attempt to reduce the cost of living. As such, it will be popular all over the country, for the heavy price of fuel has pressed heavily upon the poor; but the stricter economists are inclined to believe that it will involve a loss, and therefore call for another subsidy from the Exchequer. In that event, it would absolve Mr. Chamberlain from his promise not to impose fresh taxation next year; and it is the fact that subsidies once granted are extremely difficult to take off. A few weeks back the Government had decided to abolish the bread subsidy; but the certainty that this would mean a further increase in the cost of living made them revise their decision, and there is no prospect of its being stopped during the present winter.

Political Undercurrents.

It had been supposed that Mr. Asquith would have intimated a desire to stand for Parliament in one of the bye-elections now pending, but either he decided that the prospect was not sufficiently favourable, or else, like Achilles, he preferred to sulk in his tent. Sir John Simon, who is looked upon as his probable successor, is standing as Independent Liberal for the Spen Valley, but the Coalition Liberals also talk of putting up a candidate. If they do, the split in the old Liberal Party, which there have been some attempts to heal of late, may be regarded as almost irreparable.

Some of the Coalition Liberals and most of the Unionists who form the right wing of the Government are strongly advocating the formation of a Centre Party to combine the two old parties, with a few Labour men of standing. If that project, which is supported by both Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Lloyd George, materialises, the old Liberal Party is doomed to sterility for many years. The main strength of the Centre Party would lie in the fact that people are tired of the unreality of party politics, and are ready to support a strong Government. The present Government is not faultless, and it has its critics—some of whom are so venomous that their assaults recoil on their own heads—but it is likely to have a longer lease of power than was anticipated earlier in the year.

The New Physics.

Sir Oliver Lodge has delivered a lecture on "Einstein's Theory of Light and Space," which has attracted much attention. Sir Oliver does not dispute the Einstein theory, but he admits that it has so changed the conception of the universe that the new work in physics will have to be done by younger men. There was almost a valedictory note in his address which sounded more than a little pathetic; it is difficult to realise that he is already a veteran of nearly seventy, and that he may no longer feel equal to the prolonged mental effort which the new vistas in science are opening up. But he very definitely stated that the reinterpretation of physics must be left, so far as England is concerned, to the younger school of Cambridge men. Fortunately, there is every reason to hope they will prove equal to the charge.

Ecclesiastical Poverty.

The Bishop of London has again been compelled to issue an appeal for funds for the clergy of his diocese. Probably no class has felt the burden of increased prices so much, and unfortunately the clergy can neither go on

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strike nor insist on a "war bonus." Some of the beneficed clergy, it is true, have benefited by the increased value of tithe, but this does not apply to all, and many, both beneficed and unbeneficed, are in dire straits. In the case of London it is admitted that the suppression of several of the City churches and the sale of their enormously valuable sites, would materially relieve the situation, and assist not only in raising the stipends, but in building new churches in populous districts, where they are urgently wanted, but the process of reform is slow and Church finance is extremely complicated.

As things are, the position is extremely unfortunate. Not only are the older clergy hard put to it to meet their obligations, but the younger men are not coming forward in sufficient numbers to fill up the gaps in Holy Orders; there are many vacant livings, and curates are difficult to obtain. Something is being done by the amalgamation of small country parishes, but this is often resented by the parishioners, the enmities of neighbouring villages being proverbial. Similar conditions prevail among many of the Nonconformist churches, which are beginning to abandon much of their exclusiveness in consequence.

Burglary and Unemployment.

The legal mind is proverbially subtle; but the fact that the Court of Criminal Appeal has just decided that a professional burglar who is not exercising his energies is eligible for unemployment pay is a little startling to the lay mind, which had an idea that the criminal courts were for the punishment of crime. The decision is of no particular moment, for the unemployment benefit has now ceased, but possibly the burglar may institute a case against the State for the recovery of arrears.

More Judges Needed.

The perennial controversy as to the adequacy of staffing of the judicial bench has again broken out. There is a long list of arrears in most of the civil courts, largely because actions which could be postponed during the war are now down for hearing; and since delayed justice is as bad as no justice at all, the case for more judges appears to be a strong one. (Incidentally, there is an excellent case for the increase of judicial salaries, which are no longer adequate, but the Government has not agreed to the proposal.)

The opponents of the appointment of additional judges urge, however, that the accumulated arrears are only a temporary phenomenon; that a revision or abolition of the circuit system would save a great deal of judicial time; and that the growing habit of appointing judges to preside over non-judicial committees is in itself one of the prime causes of the trouble. Both contentions appear to be justified. But the smaller county towns, which love the panoply of "the red judge" coming in state, always protest vigorously against any alteration of the circuit, although there is often no case for the judge to try; and in these days of fundamental politics the only means of getting a Commission of Inquiry to do its work in reasonable time, or even to maintain order between partisan members and still more partisan witnesses, is to appoint a judge to the chair.

It is notorious, however, that the judges do not like extra-judicial duties: and Lord Birkenhead, who promises to be a much stronger Lord Chancellor than his many enemies anticipated, is understood to be giving the whole system his careful attention. It is believed that he intends to put forward comprehensive proposals for legal reform, and the times are now ripe for such a step.

Bank Amalgamations.

Two more of the smaller banks have been practically absorbed by the big banks, of whom there are now five; the small bank operating in a local area will soon be practically extinct. It is curious to note how public opinion has changed in this matter during the past two years. When the policy of amalgamation first began on a great scale, there was a very genuine feeling of alarm, and it was suggested that a money trust was in process of formation, which would look askance at the small trader, and refuse him any accommodation. It cannot be said that the event has justified the prediction in the least; on the contrary, it is understood that the banks have financed their customers small and large, in the difficult period since the war, although very great demands have necessarily been made upon them, and by practically all classes of traders at once. The dissatisfaction is now not so much on the part of the public, as in the bank staffs. It would have been incredible before the war, but the bank clerks now have their own trade union. Probably the truth of the matter is that the amalgamations allow less chance for the ambitious man to get to the top, and he feels a mere helpless unit in a big machine, whose utmost promotion will probably be to some small country branch; and this fact renders him more inclined to organise for his own common interests with his fellow clerks, particularly at a time when the mass of business is greater than ever before.

Housing and Furniture.

Interesting evidence as to the rise in prices is given in an advertisement by a firm offering to furnish a flat for £500. Before the war practically the same furniture could have been bought for £200. Then, too, the landlord of the flat advertised the conveniences, the central situation, and the general amenities of the property in order to attract tenants; now the prospective tenant advertises his willingness to pay a premium to obtain a flat. Owing to the high cost of building, the shortage is not likely to be remedied for some years; for although the Government have promised a subsidy to the builder—an inevitable decision that has evoked a certain amount of criticism—this is likely to apply mainly to small suburban residences for the working-classes, which are even more urgently required.

A Book on Russia.

One of the most interesting books that has appeared this month, which is almost the busiest of the publishing year, is "From Liberty to Brest-Litovsk," a detailed story of the Russian Revolution by Mrs. Williams, a lady of Russian birth, who was an eye-witness of many of the scenes she describes. The work has no particular literary merits, but it gains rather than loses from the fact that it tells a plain, unvarnished tale, and for the first time gives a logical account of Bolshevism as preached in its naked crudeness and cruelty by Lenin. It appears from irrefutable evidence to be true that the Bolshevists regard England as the real enemy; their real sympathies are with Germany. But we may perhaps find their enmity less harmful than Germany finds their support.

A Useful Biography.

One of the most interesting books published so far this season has been the "Life of Sir Victor Horsley." The great surgeon, who died in Mesopotamia of sunstroke, would probably have left a much more enduring name in mental medicine had he been able to restrain himself from political and other quarrels. He had two particular bees in his bonnet—female suffrage and total abstinence from alcohol and tobacco. On both he may have been right or wrong; but his methods were assuredly wrong, for he alienated many who would have supported him, and although he was one of the greatest operators in London, or in Europe for that matter, in the last few years of his life his practice fell off miserably. Patients simply would not go to him, and his fellows in the faculty at once admired and distrusted him. It is a singular record of a very singular man.

For the rest, the bookshops continue to groan under the weight of spiritualistic literature which rolls daily from the publishers. There is a steady market for this kind of thing—it is one of the legacies of the war; but the anti-spiritualist and rationalist literature does not appear to find a ready sale. Poetry is also popular, which indicates another change in taste; the novelists are not doing so well. Lucas Malet's last book made little noise; H. G. Wells is writing too much, and adding nothing to his reputation; Stephen McKenna's attempt to show "Sonia Married" has not repeated the furore which attended "Sonia." Most of the other story-tellers are very feeble, although an exception must be made for Mr. de Vere Stacpoole, whose latest romance bids fair to repeat the success of "The Blue Lagoon," which has already become a classic. But England wants a new novelist rather badly, and the publishers are quite ready to welcome a genius. OCELLUS.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, November 11.

Arrival of New High Commissioner.

Field-Marshal Lord Allenby, whose arrival has long been expected, landed yesterday morning at Alexandria, where he was received by the Ministers and the military and civil authorities. His Excellency had an audience of the Sultan, and then proceeded by special train to Cairo. On arrival here he was received by Sir Milne Cheetham, the Governor of Cairo, Mahmud Pasha Fakhry, Lieutenant-General Sir Walter Congreve, Major-General Sir Lee Stack, the Advisers, the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of the religious communities, the senior Government officials, and the notables. There was a British guard of honour on the platform, and one furnished by the Egyptian Army outside the station. After shaking hands with everyone and inspecting the guards of honour, Lord Allenby, who is accompanied by Lady Allenby, drove in his car through the city, the streets of which were lined with troops, to the Residency, followed by the members of his staff. There was quite a large crowd in the neighbourhood of the station, but everything passed off very satisfactorily.

Contrary to what has appeared in the London Press Lord and Lady Allenby will, of course, reside for the winter in Cairo, whither, as soon as the Sultan decides to leave Alexandria, the seat of Government will be officially transferred.

The Friday Demonstration.

The decision taken by the Council of Ministers to prohibit all future demonstrations, which I reported briefly last week at the close of my letter, appears to have had a salutary effect on the situation. At the conclusion of prayers last Friday at the Abu El Abbas Mosque, the congregation complied with the exhortation from the pulpit, and for the most part dispersed to their homes. Some of the worshippers, together with the usual hangers-on, made an attempt to form a procession, but they were quickly dispersed by the police. Another attempt was made in the Mohammed Ali Square by those who had managed to filter through the police cordon, and the procession got as far as the top of the Sherif Pasha Street but the police were quite equal to the situation, which at no time aroused any anxiety, and by 3 p.m. the city had resumed its normal condition. The evidence which the Government has given of its intention to secure compliance with its orders should go a long way towards stopping demonstrations, both in Alexandria and in other parts the country. On Friday, as already indicated, those who attempted to make a demonstration were quite distinct from those who had taken such an active part in previous demonstrations, while the hooligan element was to a very great extent absent. This would clearly prove that the public only makes trouble when it has reason to believe that the authorities are not settled in their policy, but that, once it is convinced that a firm attitude has been decided on, it immediately submits to what it regards as the inevitable.

An Egyptian Anniversary.

There are rumours that the Extremist Committee contemplate some widespread action on the 13th. The latter is the date on which Zaghlul Pasha, last year, formally presented his demands to the then High Commissioner, Sir Reginald Wingate. The Extremist Press have voiced a request that the day should be celebrated as a national holiday on the lines of the French July 14, the American Independence Day, and the Italian September 20. There was an intention of holding demonstrations on the 13th, but in view of the Government's decision, it is highly probable that that project will be abandoned, and that the day will be kept up by the shutting of native shops and the holding of special services in the Mosques and Coptic Churches.

The Railway Strike.

A magnificent response has been made to the appeal of the Egyptian State Railways for volunteers. In Cairo alone over 2,000 names have been registered, and most of these are attending training classes. A similar response is reported from Port Said and Alexandria, where special bureaux have been opened. The remarkable feature is that the majority of the volunteers are Egyptians; which would tend to indicate that the general Egyptian public does not approve of the proposed strike which the men, egged on by the political agitators, still threaten to make as soon as they get the chance. However, I do not think we need worry, as the E.S.R., always a highly organised administration, have laid all their plans and are fully prepared for any emergency.

A Well-Merited Promotion.

It was recently announced that Mr. A. D. Alban, British Consul in Cairo, had been appointed Consul-General at Alexandria, and that Mr. A. B. Geary was to succeed him in Cairo. These gentlemen have now taken up their duties at their respective new posts. In this connection it is only fitting to voice the general feeling of satisfaction that the signal services rendered by Mr. Alban to the British community should at last have received recognition. Mr. Alban was appointed to Cairo as far back as 1903, and during the sixteen years which have intervened he has gained the esteem and respect not only of the British community but also of those members of the foreign community who have from time to time come in contact with him, either socially or officially. Anglo-Egypt gratefully remembers that on more than one occasion he has stood out firmly for the rights of individual members of the community, and that it has been solely through his courageous action that justice has been done. The fact that during his tenure of office in Cairo, the British community—by its composition far from an easy body to manage—should have got along so smoothly and so

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happily speaks volumes for his tactful handling of the various elements comprising it, and for the authority which, as a result of his admitted ability and impartiality he enjoys amongst them, and whilst pleasure is everywhere expressed at his promotion, there are deep regrets at his departure from Cairo.

Travelling to Egypt.

Complaints continue to flow in from returning residents, not so much regarding the difficulty in getting accommodation, as the nature of the accommodation actually given on the steamers. To previous complaints of overcrowding is now added that of lack of hygienic and sanitary arrangements, and on one of the last steamers, a Government transport, too, the conditions are reported to have been simply disgraceful. This new development merits the serious attention of the responsible authorities.

While on the subject it is as well to utter a warning to intending travellers to Egypt. There is at the present moment, although very few visitors have come out as yet, an entire lack of accommodation in Cairo. Cessation of building operations during the war, the continued occupation of hotels by Government, and the greater demand for flats and houses due to the existence of a larger garrison than before the war have resulted in an unprecedented state of congestion, and it is extremely doubtful whether there will be any improvement this winter. The housing question has indeed assumed a very serious aspect, and those who may intend wintering in Egypt should make sure of their accommodation before leaving, otherwise they will find nothing on arrival.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, November 17.

Changes in the Cabinet.

The Cabinet is undergoing a process of reconstruction. M. Dakovitch, the Montenegrin leader, has declined, on grounds of health, to join the Government, but his group will be represented by M. Spasoje Piletitch. M. Kosta Stoyanovitch, who has recently returned from Paris, is expected to take the portfolio of Education; it is thought probable that the Ministry of Public Health will be given to Dr. Lazar Popovitch, an energetic and respected man from Karlovtsi, in Srem; while Bosnia will be represented by Dr. Dushan Vasiljevitch, a prominent lawyer in Serajevo, and President of the Serbian Organisation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is also expected that Dr. Palechek, *Ban* of Croatia, will join the Cabinet, in which case he would be succeeded in the post of *Ban*, or Governor, by the Deputy-Governor, or *Podban*. Meanwhile the Radicals, who are carrying on a political campaign in the provinces, are loud in their cry for the assembling of Parliament, when no doubt they hope to overthrow the Government, or at least make its work impossible. It is announced that the Skupshtina will be summoned as soon as the reconstruction of the Cabinet is completed.

News from Paris.

News from Paris is slightly reassuring. Various messages from different sources announce that the delegates of the S.H.S. have received from M. Clemenceau a reply to their note, in which it is reported that their representations have had the most careful consideration, and that the Supreme Council will grant their desires, with the reservation that the question of the Danubian steamboats must be referred to a special Commission, and that their demands on the question of minorities cannot be granted. This leaves one wondering what the concessions can be; possibly support on the Fiume and Dalmatian question. This is badly enough wanted, in all conscience, for the grotesque freak of d'Annunzio is inflicting great hardship upon Yugoslavs, and also on British traders, by virtually blockading the country and holding up goods for months—incidentally, necessary equipment for the Belgrade tramways, which were urgently ordered early in the summer. The crazy poet is also holding up private property of British residents in Belgrade, as well as insulting British subjects. But public opinion is somewhat reassured by the news that the delegates are going to sign. Probably they have really no choice, but great resentment is felt at any interference on the part of Paris in internal affairs of the old kingdom of Serbia, over which they have no jurisdiction. Serbia, as a democratic and almost socialistic State, cannot be reproached for any discrimination of minorities or aliens, who have all had equal rights and equal duties within the kingdom. It has been said that the objectionable minority clause was inserted by friends of Serbia as an alternative to a much worse condition, demanded by her enemies, for the autonomy of Macedonia; but what right have the Allies to dictate to Serbia as to her behaviour in territories which she released from Turkey by her own efforts in 1912? It is also announced that the delegates have requested the attendance in Paris of Dr. Joseph Cvijitch, the eminent ethnographist and geographer, to give evidence on the question of the ethnographic problems of Baranje and the Medjumurje, so the question of frontiers is not even yet settled.

Serbia and Italy.

But the Serbs would give much for support against Italy. Apart from the swashbuckling at Fiume, the Italians have suppressed the only Slavonic paper in Istria, the *Kuchni Prijatelj*, imprisoned the editor, and smashed the press. The authorities state that they will pay the damages, estimated at 160,000 dinars. Meanwhile the occupying troops are carrying on propaganda to sow dissension between the Croats and Serbs, especially in the army, referring to the former as enemies and the latter as gallant allies, both by Press and by pamphlet. That they treat the Croats as enemies is clear, from the statements of a party of prisoners who returned only last week to Zagreb from an internment camp near Rome. They are reported to be in a pitiable condition, and to complain bitterly of their treatment. At the same time a telegram from Cettigne announces that the Italians are ceasing to arm and finance the *Zelenashi*, offering them instead employment in the Italian army as volunteers, or to send them to America to work. Perhaps this is not unconnected with the cheerful air of the messages from Paris.

A Lady Advocate.

Considerable interest has been taken in legal circles in a case heard at the Court of First Instance at Vranja, where the accused, a certain Zhivko Simonovitch, who was being tried for homicide, was defended by a lady. Zhivko had no barrister of his own, probably because he had no money to pay one, so the President of the Court, as is customary in such cases, nominated him a defender, his choice falling upon Miss Kalchichevitch, who was fully qualified. This Serbian Portia conducted her case so successfully that the accused got off with three years' imprisonment. The interest of the case lies in the fact that this is the first time that a lady has performed advocate's duties in court, and legal circles are awaiting with considerable interest the decision of the higher court, for this is an innovation in Serbian legal procedure, for both criminal and civil law refuse to recognise full rights to women. The civil law allows them full rights only in certain instances, while the criminal law restricts their privileges still more. One paragraph of the regulations for Criminal Procedure expressly lays down that the Court shall nominate a male representative for any woman who has to appear

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before a criminal court, regardless of her mental and other qualifications. Consequently, the question arises, Can a woman who is actually disqualified by her sex from appearing herself in a criminal court perform the duties of an advocate in the same court?

The Undecipherable Telegram.

An amusing story comes from Liubliana. It will be remembered that the Democrat members of the Provincial Government tendered their resignation in order to complete the fall of the Provincial Governor, Dr. Breitz, who, after Dr. Koroshets, is leader of the Clerical party. Dr. Breitz, however, declined to fall in with their views, and obstinately clung to office, although it was known that he had received a telegram from the Central Government, presumably calling upon him to give up his office. When pressed, he admitted that he had received a telegram, but it was in cipher, and he had lost the key and so was unable to decipher it.

The Municipal Council.

The new Municipal Council is getting busy. It has just announced its programme, with nine points. These are: The completion of a new register and new elections; the revision of the staff; the housing problem, which is very acute in Belgrade; the supply of fuel, flour, salt, sugar, and other necessities; the paving of the streets; distress, especially among war sufferers; the removal of octroi duty on necessities and its increase on luxuries, for the cost of living is becoming desperate: the introduction of a Bill for the reorganisation of the Municipal Council; and, finally, the remodelling and modernisation of Belgrade. The Radicals, who are in opposition, laugh all this to scorn, as a counsel of perfection, a scheme of dreamers, or, rather, of artful politicians, who wish to throw dust in the eyes of the electors, as a mere catch-vote, in fact; but the Socialists, who are strong, welcome it, especially the more practical clauses of immediate interest. The Ministry of Reconstruction have granted the Municipality a credit of half a million dinars, and the Mayor is negotiating with a Croatian bank for a larger sum. Incidentally the Council has received from the late M. Nikola Spasitch a legacy of 350,000 dinars with which to build a hospital.

General Notes.

The Government has issued a decree demobilising the Second Ban, which has called forth expressions of satisfaction from all sides; it is announced that the First Ban will be demobilised as soon as possible.

Satisfaction is expressed at the revival of the Capitulations in Turkey, though in a somewhat modified form. Serbia now will have those rights, which were refused her before owing to the not unnatural opposition of the Turks to grant such a privilege to their former subjects and *rayahs*.

A French Consulate is to be opened at Zagreb.

The strike fever has spread to schoolboys, who have all struck at Nish and Skoplie. The students of Belgrade University have also struck. They proceeded to the Ministry of Education in a body, crying "Down with the Minister!" A deputation waited on the President of Council, urging their demands for housing, for sustenance allowance for poor students, and for better food. Dr. Davidovitch promised that their very reasonable demands should receive careful attention immediately. They pointed out that before resorting to this extreme step they had sent in twenty-two petitions in vain.

M. Buksheg, Minister of Reconstruction, has asked for a credit of sixty million dinars, to buy food and necessaries to sell at cost price, in order to reduce the market price of indispensable commodities. He anticipates that the money will be recovered in two months.

A party of Serbian officers are proceeding to Prague as Instructors to the Czecho-Slovak army.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, November 16.

The General Election.

Bucharest is a city of many attractions, and to these have been added of late a General Election and a "Beauty Chorus" from England. At the risk of sinning against the principle of "Place aux Dames," the General Election must rank first. Not that it was what you might call a universal attraction; in fact, numbers of good Bucharestians declined to regard it as an attraction at all. Nor was it advertised in the manner so familiar to the British voter; no flamboyant posters yelled at you the alleged merits of rival candidates; instead, the prospective member contented himself with a small handbill displaying his photograph and setting forth his lofty principles in a few short sentences. The Roumanians have not yet learnt how to make elections "merry and bright." There was less restraint in the speeches; but, then, every politician all the world over is prepared to promise a new heaven and a new earth in return for the conndence of his electors.

Of the many letters and declarations called forth by the General Election a letter from the King to the President of the Council ranked highest as an utterance clear and forceful. It appeared simultaneously with a declaration by M. Bratiano and three *communiqués* from Ardeal, Bukovina and Bessarabia respectively; and pointed out that his Majesty has charged the President of the Council to form a Ministry which should make possible by all available means a free and unhampered election. In his declaration M. Bratiano dealt with internal politics after the manner of party politicians; it was in the latter half of his speech that interest centred; for here he stated his case as representative of Greater Roumania at the Peace Conference. He stated it well, too, and one cannot but approve of a strong man's sense of the position his country has a right to hold. It remains to be seen to what extent the question of Roumania's foreign relations and that of the "Minorities" influence the voters. It seems as if the question had been relegated to the background lately, or had perhaps been covered up by other smaller matters. For instance, there is said to be considerable discontent over the present military Ministry, and its view of the freedom of the Press and the right to strike.

The Strikers Who Didn't.

Strikes have indeed been taking place; engineers, mechanics, and some of the workers in the oilfields have been threatening to go out, and a general strike was said to be arranged for the night of 1st-2nd inst., when water-works, gas and electric installations were all to cease operating at midnight. Waiters at hotels and restaurants seemed to have caught the infection and waited worse than ever, patrols paraded the streets, chiefly on the side-walks, and wise householders filled up all manner of receptacles with water overnight. Several rifles went off during the night, probably owing to carelessness and cold fingers, for there was a distinct "nip" in the air. But Sunday was heralded by the tram that whistles shrilly as it goes by under your window at 5 p.m., proving that the electric works were still going. Then the cold douche, colder than ever, proved that there was no strike at the water-works. In fact, everything seemed normal, but for some rather feeble electioneering demonstrations in the streets. At first sight the results of the elections would seem to be very unfavourable to the Bratiano party. For the 240 seats allotted to Old Roumania there were 867 candidates, which does not bear out the contention that the Liberals were to have a walk-over. Of these seats the Liberals now have 120 in the provinces and all those in the capital, in the latter place possibly because the Socialists declined to vote. The result is that the Bratianists, though numerically the strongest party, have lost their lead; but it seems unlikely that the other parties will form a government. Mr. Také Jonescu and General Averesco seem to be out of the running, and M. Maniu the only other alternative leader, is considered to lack sufficient experience to weld together the parties opposed to M. Bratiano's policy. This lack of experience in the Transylvans is regrettable, but unfortunately it applies to all the branches of the Ardeal administration. Nor is it to be wondered at, considering the treatment of the Roumanians under the Magyar domination. The Transylvans are, however, earnest and sincere, and eager to learn: and are certainly in the way of gaining the much-needed experience. It seems, therefore, that M. Bratiano will be called upon to lead the destinies of Great Roumania, and the prospects of

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the country, despite its many difficulties, are fair, for the people have at least a firm determination to settle their own affairs as speedily as possible, and prefer to do so without outside interference.

The New Territories.

Apropos of declarations, speeches, and other matters pertaining to elections, those of the Bukovina and Bessarabia were good reading. They showed an earnest desire to co-operate in the reconstruction of Great Roumania and at the same time a political sense sufficiently developed to guarantee a sound representation of their special interests, but always subservient to the well-being of the wider community. Unhappily, the declaration made by M. Maniu for Ardeal was not of this order, and was lacking in statesmanship; it is to be hoped that the Transylvanians have a sounder sense of solidarity with their brothers on this side of the mountains.

The "Minorities."

Another factor, which will prove of interest is the question of the "Minorities." Of these, the Jews are best left to themselves, out of the question. They are not likely to take harm. Then come the Germans, the Saxons and Suabians. Both are determined to insist on their "Teutschtum," to keep up their schools of German thought and culture, and no Roumanian Government would be so unwise as to try to prevent them. They are hard egoists, most of those Germans long separated from the Germans of the "Reich." They will look to the "Teutschland" of their tradition, the country of Kant, Schiller and Goethe; they are good citizens and workers, and for all their racial eclecticism are likely to prove a solid asset in the construction of their new country. But they mean to keep to themselves culturally, as they consider themselves superior to the Roumanians in this respect. Next are the Magyars; they are probably without exception passively hostile to all things Roumanian. They are very bitter at being bottom-dog to the Roumanian after being his master for centuries; and they yet hold some hope that the present state of affairs is only transitory, that the Supreme Council in its affection for the Hungarians will return to them the lost provinces and set them on their legs again. So, for the present, they are taking no active part in the affairs of the new State, are rather offering passive resistance to the working of the public services. But as the Magyars are all opportunists it may be taken for granted that they will in time accustom themselves to the new conditions and become useful citizens. The Szeklers, many of whom are Magyarised Roumanians, are already inclining that way.

Wanted—British Goods.

The import of foreign manufactured goods increases: boots and shoes, American style, with toe-caps suggesting the horn of a rhino, French soaps and scents, Swiss cigars and lace, the former hard to classify; they may be a luxury—that is a matter of taste; they can hardly be considered a necessity. British goods are rare, but they are eagerly expected. It strikes the Roumanians as strange that a great commercial nation such as ours should not run a weekly train across Europe, as do the French and the Swiss. These trains are escorted by armed men, too—a necessary precaution, as a rifle-bullet passed very close to a couple of Swiss officers who were looking out of the window the other day; so even the Swiss Army has been under fire—about the first time since the days of Napoleon I. Whether that action enhances their claim to draw great economic advantages out of the misfortunes of the rest of Europe is quite another question.

Finally, I must revert to the "Beauty Chorus." This consists of 24 dear little English girls who are taking part in a *revue*, the advertisements of which do not err on the side of restraint. Their simple art is familiar, so familiar, to the Londoner, their song brings with it memories of Cockaigne, their dance is so conscientious and painstaking—they are a great success, perhaps more for their personal attractions than for their artistry. It is said that they make good propaganda. No doubt: but so would the British business-man.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, October 29.

The National Assembly.

The extraordinary session of the National Assembly was closed last Saturday after the voting of the remaining six-twelfths of the Budget, which, as one of the Agrarian leaders expressly stated, did not reflect the policy of the Agrarian League, the latter not having had time to prepare their Budget. However, from statements of Ministers, and from the voting and other indications, it is possible to form an idea of what the Agrarian programme is likely to be. The session removed certain misgivings as to the revolutionary aims of the League; and it made clear the resolution of the Agrarians to save the land from ruin, and property from annihilation, and to secure democratic reforms. The guarantee for a stable and sound Government by the Agrarians lies in their being supported by a very numerous, well-organised compact body, fit for a strenuous struggle if necessary.

Owing to repairs to the building, the Chamber closed its extraordinary session somewhat abruptly. It will be convoked in ordinary session on November 20, if nothing compels an earlier meeting. Its first work then will be to consider the Peace Treaty, and its next to adopt new taxation, in order to secure a balance in the Budget.

Internal Security.

The new Minister of the Interior, M. Dimitroff, is taking adequate measures to guarantee internal security. He has undertaken a renovation of his administration, and may possibly create a new gendarmerie force, with special title and functions. The elections for municipal and county councils are approaching, and the Ministry is taking all measures to secure the fullest manifestation of the national will in these bodies, the basis of democratic government in the interior.

The Prime Minister and the Communists.

On the 24th inst., in the course of the debate on the Budget, in connection with the railway functionaries' demands for great increases in their salaries, and their threat of a general strike, M. Stambolisky took a firm line. He declared to the leaders of the Communists and the Moderate Socialists, who were pleading for satisfaction of the railway men's demands, that he accepted the challenge thrown out by the parties of the Left, and that he would defend with rigorous severity the principle of the State defending itself against such attacks.

November 4.

War Criminals Arrested.

In accordance with the programme of the Agrarian party and the decision of the Supreme Council of the Agrarian League and the Cabinet, the Government proceeded last Tuesday very early in the morning to arrest politicians and military men who are held responsible for the war, and many others who are alleged to have committed various crimes and excesses during the war. These people are all to be put on their trial. Among those arrested are a great number of people who played a part in the Government of M. Radoslavoff, or who were compromised in the Administration.

According to a statement by the Minister of the Interior, orders were given for the arrest of (1) All the Ministers of the Radoslavoff Cabinet; (2) all former deputies who, moved by the desire for personal gain, favoured the war; (3) all journalists who, prompted by the same spirit, made propaganda in favour of the armed intervention of Bulgaria in the war; (4) men of influence, State officials, and so forth who abused their powers for the same end; and (5) functionaries who oppressed the population in the occupied territories or maltreated war prisoners.

Dr. Radoslavoff is in Berlin, but his extradition has been demanded, and the following former members of his Cabinet have been arrested:—MM. P. Pecheff, Christo I. Popoff, and Dr. Dincheff, Radoslavists; D. Toncheff and J. Bakaloff, Young Liberals; Dobri Petroff and V. Koznitchky, Stambolovists: Apostoloff, Genadiavist: and General Naidenoff. Others arrested include: Dr. Montchiloff, Vice-President of the Chamber;

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General Michael Savoff, and General Alex. Protogneroff and T. Alexandroff. Among former Deputies arrested are Dr. Gheorghieff and Dr. K. Provadalieff, respectively Dr. Radoslavoff's son-in-law and brother-in-law; while a similar fate has befallen M. Damianoff, Director of the journals *Dnevnik* and *Outro*, and M. K. Stancioff, Director of the *Kambana*, who are accused of having accepted enormous bribes from the Germans and of having organised the Press propaganda in favour of the alliance with Germany and Austria.

The extradition of ex-King Ferdinand and his Commander-in-Chief, General Jekoff, is demanded.

All the arrested have been lodged in the Central Prison, and a mixed military and civil tribunal will shortly be formed to try them.

These arrests were effected by the Government solely on its own initiative, without any pressure from the Entente. The object is to calm the over-excited public feeling caused by the nation's disasters, and to prove to the civilised world that Bulgaria was forced into ranging herself against the Entente.

The Final Peace Terms.

M. Theodoroff, the first Bulgarian Delegate in Paris, is expected to return here to-night with the Allied Powers' final terms to Bulgaria; though it is possible he may not arrive before to-morrow morning. The Chamber is summoned in extraordinary session to-morrow to take cognizance of the final terms presented by the Paris Conference for Bulgaria's signature. Thereafter M. Stambolisky will leave for Paris, probably on Sunday or Monday, by way of Belgrade. After signing the Peace Treaty he proposes, if permitted, to visit the capitals of the Entente Powers and to plead personally the cause of Bulgaria.

ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, November 12.

A year, almost to a day, since the first British warship after the armistice entered Smyrna, the B. I. Kapathula has landed British troops. The arrival of H.M.S. "M. 29" on November 6, 1918, was hailed with frenzied delight by the entire Christian population, and also by the Israelites; but the landing of British troops on November 8, 1919, leaves the entire population, with the exception of the European colonies, absolutely cold. The Turks fear that they will have to fight once more against British soldiers—a very different thing for them from fighting against the Greek Army. The Greeks fear that the British will—to adapt the facetious definition of a lawyer—"rescue the territory from their enemies and keep it themselves"; the Armenians and the Jews tremble because the "Advanced British Headquarters" have already commandeered their houses and furniture (without paying any rent), and they fear more will be taken to provide accommodation for the new arrivals. Moreover, looking back as far as November, 1918, they all see a series of massacres, brigandage, outrages, and interminable guerilla warfare gradually getting worse and worse until to-day the situation seems positively hopeless.

However, the old fishermen are reputed to say that when a storm reaches its worst stage then it mends, and, perhaps on this principle, the European colonies, or at least the British, American, and French colonies, see a ray of hope in the recent landing of British troops. It is believed that they will take the front line, and that the Turkish rebels will immediately stop fighting. There are pessimists, it is true, who claim that the British troops are absolutely inadequate to bring about peace between the Greeks and Turks, and that we shall see a repetition of the Dardanelles, Gaza, and Baghdad (first attacks) failures. They fear that only after our first contingent has been severely mauled shall we send a larger and more adequate force to finish the job.

If this small British force is really intended for the front it is certainly to be regretted that the cool, bright, autumn weather has been allowed to slip by, and that British troops should have to go into action now, in the rainy season, when it will certainly mean that many will go down with malarial fever. However, the four generals handling the matter here—Milne, Hanbury, Bates, and Hare—are men possessing every qualification to settle this affair satisfactorily, if only politicians will let them have a free hand, and an adequate army.

CYPRUS.

General News.

The small-pox epidemic, far from being stamped out, continues to spread in several directions in different districts, and as winter approaches further extension is feared, cold weather being regarded as favourable to the disease. The cry now is for compulsory vaccination.

The Cyprus deputation write that they have decided to remain in London till the conclusion of the Allies' Treaty with Bulgaria, by which time it is hoped that a definite reply will have been given to the memorials which have been submitted. The general opinion in the island now does not at all agree that this is likely to be the case.

The late assizes at Nicosia and Limassol seem to show that crimes of violence maintain their level. Several death sentences for premeditated murder have been passed, and cases of attempted murder dealt with.

MALTA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

VALETTA, Nov. 13.

To all intents and purposes the excitement and the (in some cases) rabid discussions anent the findings of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the causes of the June riots are fading away towards nothingness. However, in the Commission's Report, to which we have referred before, it will be remembered that a club known as "*La Giovine Malta*" came in for some severe comment and stricture at the hands of the Commissioners. The "*Giovine Malta*" have issued a flowery resolution in protest against the statements levelled against them. The local Government have acted wisely in allowing the protest to be spread broadcast, allowing the committee of the *circolo* to affix a copy in the principal hall of their club and to cause it to be printed in the local Press. A copy is to be forwarded to H.E. the Governor, with a request to transmit it to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Small islands have many drawbacks on account of their intensive and perhaps cramped vision; but, on the other hand, there is a compensation to be found in the fact that local grievances can be threshed out very completely. Just now criticism is on the coming Bill on excess profit duty or levy on capital. This is not to be wondered at, as since the war broke out mushroom men have become Malta millionaires. Now they may have to part with some of their newly acquired wealth. The trend of feeling of those who will have "to pay the piper" is reflected in the local Press. According to the sentiments there expressed, the Government is not justified in imposing a war tax on profits after a year of peace, when these profits have already been passed to capital account in traders' books. What would be far more applicable to Malta would be

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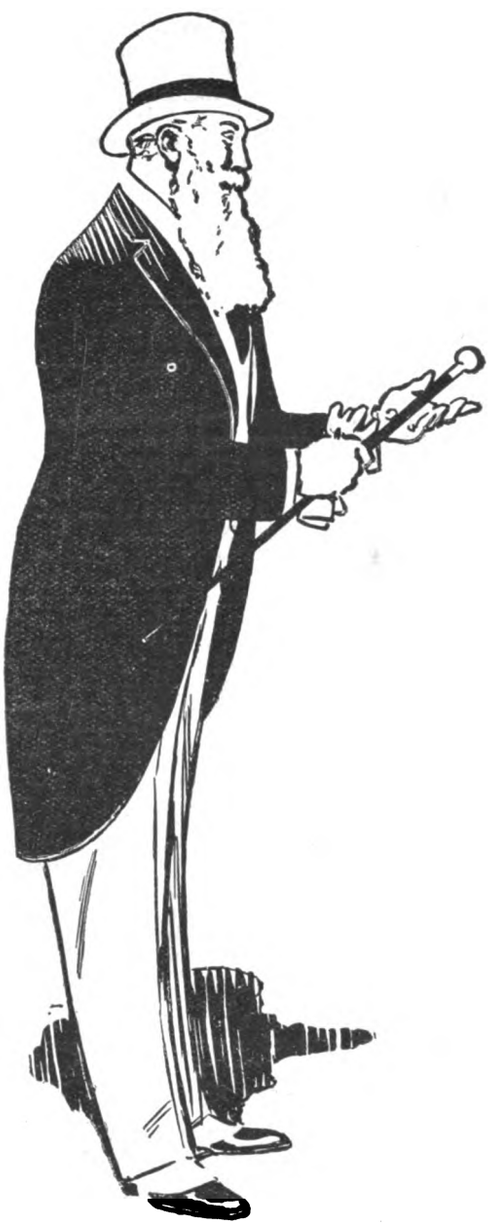

WHEN international competition is so keen it is good to think that in certain essential industries British brains have shown the way and British enterprise has maintained the premier position.

Dunlop tyres furnish a notable example.

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for the Government to increase this reasonable tax and invest the proceeds in the establishment of local industries —the island's greatest desideratum.

A rupture of rather a serious nature has occurred between the German prisoners and those in charge of them. Several, it is understood, have been killed.

Armistice Celebrations.

Armistice or Peace celebrations passed off both tamely and quietly. The 1st Batt. N. Lancashire Fusiliers trooped the Colours on the Palace Square. No invitations were issued for the ceremony. A great number of the general public availed themselves of the kind invitation of Rear-Admiral Culme-Seymour to visit and inspect H.M.S. Emperor of India.

Public opinion generally seems to indicate an honest hope of economic, political, and financial reform. Truly there is much scope for improvement all round.

The Lieutenant-Governor is now in England, where he has gone to exchange views on financial and constitutional questions with the Home authorities. It is considered that more good would be forthcoming if a suitable deputation of Maltese citizens could proceed to England to clear up the many points of difficulty a change of Constitution would involve. Past experience has shown that little good can come of official correspondence.

H.E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint Lieut.-Colonel Clare Ruxton M. Savile, D.S.O., O.B.E., to be an official member of the Council of Malta in the place of Major-General W. C. Hunter-Blair, C.B., C.M.G., who has left.

November 19.

Surplus Stock.

During the war, it will be remembered, Malta was a great base for the wounded, with the result that the number of motor-lorries and ambulances used has been very large. They are now being sold off at greatly reduced prices, and the old *carozzin* (or carriage) stands a chance of almost disappearing. There have been many sales, and the latest, just announced, is that of the gear of Australian Imperial Forces. There are also a number of old destroyers and other craft offered for sale on reasonable terms.

Olla Podrida.

The proposed increase of pay to the local police is causing dissatisfaction and unrest in other departments, which have been left as they were. The Revenue Guards and the elementary teachers are particularly aggrieved.

Upon the question of the proposed abolition of the *Fideicommissa* the Maltese Nobles have voted adversely—13 votes to 11.

JERUSALEM.

November 12.

Armistice Day.

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, it being the first anniversary of the Armistice, all the Government offices all over Palestine suspended work for two minutes, in order that they might think of that glorious day and of those who had laid down their lives so gallantly to bring about a victorious peace. All kinds of routine business were stopped in Jerusalem, and while all officers, clerks, and many other officials and notables were solemnly thinking of the past four years of the horrible war, the great bells of the German cathedral on the Mount of Olives pealed eleven times as a sign of the occasion. This had a very moving effect on all who participated in the ceremony. On the afternoon of the same day a general holiday was granted to all the school children as well as to the Government employees, and a grand international fête was arranged for by Lady Watson and General Watson, the Chief Administrator of Palestine. Contributions consisting of every kind of article were collected from all the people of the city, and were on sale in a well-prepared and charming garden. The proceeds of the sale went in aid of the Y.M.C.A.

All sects and nationalities participated in this historic day. The Scouts of St. George's School paraded and gave performances of signalling and first aid, while other school children sang and played. Thousands of people attended and the signs of joy and happiness were seen on the faces of all present. A military band played selections to the public, while the tea section was busy in attending to all. In the evening a very big concert was also arranged for, under the patronage of Lady and General Watson, in which songs and selections in the four languages were given. The proceeds of the evening were devoted to the Y.M.C.A.

This historic and glorious day passed very peacefully, and had a very marked influence on all the population.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Egypt. November 25.

Earl CURZON made a long statement upon Egypt. He briefly sketched the causes and demonstrations of discontent in Egypt, and then said :—

Such was the sequence of events in Egypt until mid-autumn. The sharp recrudescence of disorder in October, to which I shall again revert presently, was so distinctly and directly connected with the anticipated dispatch of the Mission under my noble friend Lord Milner that I must now ask your lordships to go back with me to the date at which that Mission was first announced and to the object which it had in view. Already in May last I announced the intention of his Majesty's Government to send such a Mission, and I thus defined its object. It was "to inquire into the causes of the late disorder in Egypt, and to report on the existing situation in the country, and the form of Constitution which, under the Protectorate, will be best calculated to promote its peace and prosperity, and the progressive development of self-governing institutions, and the protection of foreign interests." I call special attention to the words "progressive development of self-governing institutions," because they have been almost completely and as it would appear deliberately ignored in the subsequent agitation, although they were the key-note of the policy which the Mission was to hold in view. At that time it was intended to dispatch the Mission at as early a date as its composition could be completed. But difficulties were experienced in more ways than one. It was not found easy to find available members with the requisite authority and experience. The summer is not exactly the best time in which to conduct investigations in the interior of a country with the Egyptian climate. It was felt desirable to give the newly-formed Egyptian Administration an opportunity of firmly establishing itself; and it was thought at that time—an illusory hope—that the Peace Conference at Paris might address itself before the autumn to the solution of the Eastern problem. Lord Allenby, upon whose judgment his Majesty's Government place great reliance, informed us that the Sultan of Egypt and the Prime Minister both favoured a postponement till the autumn, and that he agreed with their views. It was in these circumstances that the date of departure of the Mission was deferred. Meanwhile, his Majesty's Government succeeded in composing a Mission of persons possessing in at least three cases actual administrative experience in Egypt, and all of them qualified by their representative character, high position, and public reputation to produce a strong feeling of public confidence in the impartial and sympathetic character of the inquiry which they were commissioned to hold. I have little doubt that, under the guidance of my noble friend Lord Milner, whose name has been so long and honourably associated with Egypt, they will be able to render a great service to that country.

I will now proceed to deal with the object that Lord Milner and his colleagues will have in view. Your lordships will have noticed from the reports in the Press that the attacks which were made upon it revolved to a large extent round the words "the British Protectorate," and that these had became a sort of battle-cry in the agitation that had been fomented in Egypt. I think it desirable that we should clear our minds on the matter—not of cant, because I suspect that the apprehensions that have been aroused have been to a large extent sincere—but of gross and palpable misunderstanding. It was in 1914, after we had been compelled to declare war upon Turkey, that the British Protectorate over Egypt was declared. So far from this being intended or, indeed, regarded at the time as a high-handed act aimed at the suppression of Egyptian liberties, it was decided upon by Mr. Asquith's Government as a much milder and more generous policy than that of annexation, which at that time was strongly advocated by some. Cyprus, which had been long administered by the Colonial Office as a part of the British Empire, was annexed; but the opportunity of incorporating Egypt in the Empire was deliberately, and I think wisely, rejected, because it was intended, in the wide latitude of opportunity which the formula of a Protectorate affords, to give free scope to the political aspirations and the self-governing capacities of the Egyptian people. I observe that a great deal of play is now made with the argument that when the British Protectorate over Egypt was declared in 1914 no attempt was made to define its character or implification. I do not remember that that argument was much used, or, indeed, used at all, at the time. Perhaps, in the light of later events, it would have been wiser if Mr. Asquith's Government, which at that time had the advice of Lord Kitchener at their elbow, had indulged in some fuller explanation. But I think that your lordships can readily understand how it was that this was not done. Not Egypt alone, but almost the whole of the Western world, soon to be followed by the Eastern, was involved in the first throes of the terrific struggle which was to last for another four years. Before long Egypt herself was threatened; her own frontiers were in danger; immense armies were collected upon her soil either for the defence of the Canal or on their way to the various theatres of war. Egypt became a throbbing hive of war industry and war commotion. *Inter arma silent leges*, and the time was hardly opportune for discussing politics or formulating a constitutional definition. I doubt very much if at that time a serious attempt in consultation with Sultan Hussein and the then Ministers had been made to determine what form the Constitution of Egypt should assume after the war, whether it would have been found practicable to pursue it to any solution.

But now the situation has changed, and the questions which

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it might have been difficult to answer then may, with propriety, be put and answered now. What, then, is the nature of our position in Egypt, and what is the task with which the Mission is charged in working out the future form of its Government? I need hardly elaborate to your lordships the reasons for which Great Britain is compelled to interest herself in the political fortunes of Egypt and is unable to give any encouragement to the claim of complete national independence. Quite apart from the fact that Egypt, if left to stand alone, could neither protect her frontiers against external aggression nor guarantee a strong and impartial Government at home, her geographical position at the gate of Palestine, for which it seems likely that a special responsibility will before long be placed upon our shoulders, at the doorway of Africa, and on the high road to India, renders it impossible that the British Empire, with any regard to its own security and connections, should wash its hands of responsibility for Egypt. Egypt is, of course, primarily an Egyptian interest; the good government and the prosperity and happiness of its people are the first concern; but it is also a British interest of capital importance; and I suspect that there are few who would deny that it is also a world interest, and that world interest is best secured by leaving Egypt under the ægis of a great civilised Power. Accepting these fundamental propositions, which underlie the whole matter, and which no British Government or party will be disposed to dispute, there may yet be wide differences of opinion as to the form which the British interest should assume. I shrink on the present occasion from attempting any scientific definition of the term protectorate, which, as a constitutional expedient known to all countries and to all periods of the world's history, has many shades of meaning, from an advanced degree of political or administrative control at the one end, to little more than a sphere of political influence at the other. Common, however, to all these examples is the conception that the protecting Power is under an obligation to defend the protected State from external attack, to secure the proper treatment of foreign subjects and property within it, and, generally speaking, to control its foreign and political relations. The degree to which a protectorate carries with it the prerogative of interference in the internal administration of a State is laid down by no law, and must be decided in each case on its merits. In Egypt, however, these constitutional commonplaces appear to be in danger of being forgotten, and the British Protectorate is mistaken for a thinly veiled form of annexation. The constitutional history of Egypt since the first grant of representative institutions after Lord Dufferin's mission nearly 40 years ago, culminating in the Organic Law of 1913—unhappily never carried into effective operation owing to the outbreak of war in the succeeding year—should have supplied a sufficient answer to these misunderstandings. If annexation, either open or disguised, had been intended the time to carry it out would have been in the winter of 1914. But it was not intended then, and it is not intended now.

The idea that Egyptian aspirations and Egyptian nationality are to be crushed or ignored is an extravagant misconception which I cannot too emphatically repudiate. The object with which the Mission is going out has been defined in the declaration which Lord Allenby, acting upon instructions from his Majesty's Government, has already issued in Cairo. It has been published in the newspapers in this and every country, and I have no doubt your lordships have seen it, but I may be permitted, perhaps, on the present occasion to add a few further words on the subject. I have already spoken of our responsibilities and duties towards Egypt—responsibilities which Great Britain cannot forgo or disown. Egypt depends upon them for her safety from foreign attack and her existence as a nation. But within those boundaries there is a wide and ample field in which Egyptians are invited to participate, and must, as time passed on, participate in an ever-increasing degree in the government of their country. We recognise the legitimacy of these aspirations. We desire to provide for their satisfaction. The progressive development of self-governing institutions in Egypt is an ideal which they may share with us and we with them. It is not to be thought of that a race like the Egyptians, possessing in its upper ranks a high culture and historic memories, should be content with a *rôle* of passive subordination in the administration of their country.

It will be the object of Lord Milner and his colleagues—in consultation with the Sultan and his Ministers and representative Egyptians of all classes—to devise the details of a Constitution by which all these parties shall be able, in their several spheres and in an increasing degree, to co-operate in the management of Egyptian affairs. British assistance and British guidance will still be required. Nor will any of those who have followed the history of Egypt for the last 40 years and seen the astounding advance that she has made under our auspices, question the necessity of this supervision. Lord Milner's Mission is not going out to Egypt with a Constitution in its pocket. It intends to consult all parties before it even forms an opinion. It is not authorised to impose a Constitution. What it has to do is to undertake the preliminary work that is necessary before the future form of government is determined. While it is engaged in this task, the Mission, with the assistance of the material which Lord Allenby has already collected, should be able to form an opinion on the causes—some of them obscure, but others very patent and removable—of the recent risings and the present discontent, and will be able, as I hope, to propound a remedy. They will doubtless hear of many anomalies and grievances, and if they are confronted with proven abuses in the Administration, they will, I am confident, recommend their extirpation with an unflinching hand.

If these intentions are known, Lord Milner's Mission should be assured, not of an unfriendly greeting, but of a cordial welcome at the hands of all friends of Egyptian nationality and Egyptian progress. Such a reception, I am sure, they will meet with at the hands of the new Egyptian Ministry under Yussuf Wahba Pasha, which assumed office on the resignation of Mohammed Said Pasha a few days ago. The High Commissioner has reported to us very favourably on the character and composition of the Ministry which now enters upon office, sharing, as it does, the hopeful views of his Majesty's Government, and resolved to co-operate loyally in their execution. I see that the question has been raised in some quarters why the Mission, even if there were good reason for its postponement in the middle of the summer, did not go out in the early autumn, and an impression of irresolution or vacillation is said to have been produced by the delay. We were quite willing and had made all preparations to dispatch the Mission in September. But two reasons interfered with the execution of our plan. The late Egyptian Prime Minister more than once pleaded in the strongest possible manner for the further postponement of its arrival, and we were anxious as far as possible to carry him with us. Secondly, Lord Allenby was called to Europe for other purposes. We desired to profit by his advice, and we did not wish to act in his absence from Egypt. As soon as he had returned to Cairo and had taken stock of the situation he advised that the Mission should start with as little delay as possible, and preparations are now being made for its early departure.

One other plea has been put forward and has found a good deal of favour in Egypt, namely, that the Mission should not appear upon the scene until the Peace with Turkey has been signed. There may have been some value in this plea in the course of last summer, when everyone hoped that the Paris Conference, having completed its other labours, would turn its attention to the peace with Turkey without delay. But these hopes were disappointed; and although his Majesty's Government are anxious to take up at the earliest possible date the concluding stages of the work of the Conference, and have made formal proposals to the other Allied Powers to that effect, the point has not yet been reached at which it is possible to commence the investigation of that subject or to prepare the way for the future settlement of the East. But I should like to point out that, whatever form the future peace with Turkey may take, or at whatever date it may be concluded, it can make no difference whatsoever in the solution of the Egyptian problem. The political connection of Turkey with Egypt is at an end. Nor is it conceivable that it should ever be revived. It is not to Turkey that Egypt must look for the fulfilment of her aspirations for the future of her race. Whatever be the terms imposed upon Turkey by the Powers, the recognition of the British Protectorate already made or promised by all the Great Powers will be an inseparable feature of the Treaty, nor can any provision in the Treaty alter in any way the fundamental principle of the inquiry with which Lord Milner's Mission is charged, namely, the progressive development of Egyptian self-governing institutions under British protection.

Lord Curzon shortly noticed the most recent disturbances, and said:—But these incidents will not deter us from pursuing the path which has been mapped out for us by the highest conception of duty both to Egypt and to ourselves. We appeal to moderate opinion in Egypt to support us in the task we have undertaken, and to co-operate with Lord Milner and his colleagues in their undertaking. The effort to raise Egypt from the misery and oppression in which she was plunged less than half a century ago, and the successful results of which have been our pride and her glory, cannot be dropped midway. Rather may we hope to guide her energies and resources into new channels of progress and influence. Before I sit down I should like in a sentence to point to the opposite and encouraging picture that is presented by the Sudan. Under the able rule of the Governor-General, Sir Lee Stack, the inhabitants of that country have continued to maintain perfect order, and have given notable evidence of their affection towards Great Britain by the visit to this country in July of a deputation of notables, who were received by his Majesty the King. Both to his Majesty and subsequently to myself they expressed their warm appreciation of the work accomplished by Great Britain for the regeneration of their country and their dissociation from the events which have happened in Egypt. Their one desire is to remain in the Empire and not to be dissevered from it. This gratifying testimony of loyalty is largely, if not entirely, due to the admirable work accomplished by the late Governor-General, Sir Reginald Wingate, who devoted his great abilities for so many years to promoting the prosperity of the Sudan and to laying the foundations of a State in which the methods of British rule have received their fullest vindication.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

DEMOBILISATION: Troops from India (Treatment). INDIAN ARMY (OFFICERS' STAFF SALARY). TURKISH EMPIRE. BALKANS (COUNT DE SALIS' REPORT). (November 18.)

INDIA: Government of India Bill (Joint Committee).—Officers (Service and Pensions).—Punjab Riots (Arrests). MONTENEGRO. EGYPT. (November 19.)

MONTENEGRO. RUSSIA: Communications with Turkestan. INDIA: Government of India Bill. ODESSA (PHOTOGRAPHS). SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE (FAMINE). ARMENIA. EGYPT: Calumniating British Soldiers. (November 20.)

NURSING SERVICE. MESOPOTAMIA (PAY AND ALLOWANCES). (November 21.)

INDIA (UNITED STATES IMPORTS). MONTENEGRO. DEMOBILISATION: Telegraphists, India. NURSING SERVICE, MESOPOTAMIA (PAY). GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BILL. (November 24.)

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

Readers who know Roumania's gay capital will be interested in the following extract from a letter recently received from that city:—"Something will have to be done about the Calea Victoriei. There are several fine broad boulevards crossing the town in diverse directions, yet everyone crowds into the wretched Calea Victoriei, one of the narrowest, dirtiest, and worst-paved streets of the town. True, the shops are here, but at certain times of the day the crowd is so dense that you can only reach them after a severe struggle. The crowd moves slowly, and slops over from the side-walks into the street, where cabbies and motorists add their mite to the tumult with voice and horn. It is really incredible that a sensible people like those of Bucharest should consider it necessary to promenade the narrowest and dirtiest thoroughfare of the town twice a day at stated times. There is one compensation: here you may meet the eye of gladness, but what is that among so many? No, this habit must change, and the people of Bucharest must take their walks elsewhere—along the Boulevard Bratiano, for instance—until the Calea Victoriei has been widened and cleaned up. At present it is too narrow even for ventilation."

***

Perhaps because what little golf I know I learned in Turkey, I always find it hard to remember that golf is not an Eastern game, like polo or chess. And that must be my excuse for telling a golf story here, though it is of the West Western. The Rector and the Colonel played a game on Monday, and the Colonel beat the Rector rather badly. On Tuesday the same thing happened, and on Wednesday, and on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Then said the Rector, perhaps a trifle crossly: "Well, it's no good. I must give up golf, I suppose!" "Oh, nonsense!" replied the Colonel, pleased by his success. "You'll have your revenge over me some day, at any rate." "How so?" asked the Rector. "Why, I expect you'll read the burial service over me." The Rector's face lighted up momentarily, only to cloud over again at once. "No good," said he. "It'll still be your hole."

***

At the present time we are hearing of Bolshevism almost more from mid-Asian sources than from Russian. I wonder what the significance of this political creed among semi-civilised peoples really is. It seems to me that much of the talk about it is extravagant. Certainly the lust for plunder (an ingredient which reactionaries declare exists in every revolutionary faith) is appealing—has always appealed—very strongly to the inhabitants of Turkestan and Afghanistan; but to suppose that they understand the political and economic doctrines of Bolshevism, to suppose that they, when the Red Armies of Russia are defeated, will continue to hold aloft the banners of Lenin and Trotsky, seems to me more than a little absurd. Personally, I do not believe that the East will ever adopt wholesale a system—religious, social, or whatever it may be—that has been conceived in the West. They may borrow certain excrescences of a system (in the case of Bolshevism they appear to have borrowed the least undesirable), but they will never fit their lives to Occidental ideals. I refrain from quoting the inevitable Kipling line about the two peoples, but I think that those who deny its truth are doing so more from a fear for Capitalism than from a dread of Bolshevism.

***

It is an instructive and absorbing subject of thought, this contest between East and West. Everyone appears to think that a conflict is certain, but how near it is no one has guessed. Lord Haig recently said that we should prepare for it now, seeing that it was to be the next great war. Why a struggle is inevitable it is not easy to say—does a difference in religious, economic, political, social, moral systems denote an utter incompatibility of civilisations which can cease to exist only with the destruction of one by the other? It is a question which has always interested me, and I thought of it again the other night when I saw the opera "Prince Igor." Of Borodin's music I am not competent to judge, but the setting of it—it represents a struggle in the twelfth century between the Tatars and Russia—fascinated me. As a matter of fact, the Tatars were victorious in that struggle, but—where are they to-day? He would be a bold man who predicted a future for them; it is a much easier thing to see a Russian civilisation as an essential part of future history.

CORSAIR.

PALESTINE.

Speaking at the Jews' College, Russell Square, on November 24, Captain Ormsby Gore said the geographical position of Palestine was such that its foreign policy would be of enormous importance alike to the internal development of the country, to its neighbours and to the whole world. It was the bridge between the two main sections of the Arabic speaking world. So far as concerned Egypt, if England was to have a mandate over Palestine her power to do any good there would be seriously diminished unless good relations between England and Egypt could be restored; the present situation was full of peril. With regard to the Bedouins who inhabited the Sinai peninsula and the desert beyond, these desired nothing but to be left alone. Damascus was the natural economic and intellectual capital of the Arabs. It had been linked up with Beyrout by a railway, but its atmosphere was essentially that of the capital of the early caliphs. It was only in Damascus under the Ommayed dynasty, and, subsequently, under their successors in Cordova that the Arabs produced important contributions to civilisation, and Damascus was the only place where Arab civilisation was likely to revive. It was in the interests of Palestine to see a revival of Arab culture in Damascus side by side with the revival of Jewish culture in Palestine. The burning question was the position of Syria north and west of Damascus, and any failure to effect a settlement would react on the Arabic-speaking people in Palestine.

Taking another view, the lecturer said that Palestine presented enormous difficulties owing to its being the religious centre of the world. Associated with this fact was the rivalry between Italy and France. Italy's claims dated from the time of King Robert of Naples; Suleiman the Magnificent had made France protector of the Latin Millet, this consisting of all persons resident in his dominions, whether Ottoman subjects or not, who acknowledged the Pope as their spiritual head. Thus, though there were not many Christians in Palestine the slightest mistake became an international question. The international claims in Palestine could not be liquidated, they must be recognised.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

GERMAN AND RUSSIAN.*

During the war it was extremely difficult to gauge the mentality of belligerent peoples: in the case of our enemy Germany and of our erstwhile ally Russia this was especially so. In the two books under review we have an attempt, in the first case by documentary evidence, in the second by the relation of personal experience, to appreciate the German and Russian mind as shown by their respective actions. Unfortunately neither of the works has a great value. One is compiled from sources (e.g., *Manchester Guardian, New Europe, Cambridge Magazine*) which of necessity were both scarce and partial; and the other is the product of an observation which was close but in no wise deep.

What Germany did at Brest-Litovsk is a matter of fact, about which two opinions are impossible. It stamped our enemy for what he was, and it caused many foolish people who hitherto had said kind words for the German for a time at least to hold their peace. The question that ensued in men's minds did not concern the German. It was: Was the Russian a traitor and a rascal, or was he not? An absorbingly interesting question, one which Dr. Magnes is inclined, though he gives no personal opinions, to answer (through his selection of documents) in the negative, but which Mr. Price answers in a decided affirmative. In the American work the Russian (as personified by Lenin) is shown as a man very consistent to his ideals, as a victim of the saddest of tragedies. In this view certainly Lenin was no traitor. When he spoke on the treaty of Brest-Litovsk, he knew that Russia was signing a Tilsit peace, and was convinced that it would only be by the greatest efforts possible that his country could be saved. Dr. Magnes' book stops at Brest-Litovsk, but it would be extremely interesting to have his (or a collection, similar to his present one, of other people's) views on Lenin's later efforts.

Mr. Price, whose book is based on intimate experiences of the German militarist and the Russian revolutionary, gives vent rather to his feelings than to the considered utterance of views. He has much to say on the wickedness of the German, some of it important, some of it trivial, but all of it quite credible. Without adding very much to our knowledge of the Blonde Beast, he does lay stress on some points that matter (e.g., the German hostility to the Austrian soldiers), and is occasionally illuminating. It is when he gets to Russia, and becomes excited, that one hesitates to accept all that he sets down. He appears to make Bolshevism responsible for all the ills of Russia; he scoffs at the idea of Soviet Government (about the details of which he is rather hazy); and he does not seem to understand (though he professes to) that the Slav mind works in a very different way from his own. Bolshevism, which after all is merely the creed of a particular party (and a pretty unpopular one at that!), will in all probability disappear—it is, as Mr. Price rightly says, an impossible tyranny—but such things as Soviet Government and the socialisation of the land may endure. Although Mr. Price says he has tried to avoid questions of principle, he has unhappily confused excesses with essentials, and has set all post-revolutionary things in Russian under the dismal pall of cloudy invective.

THE FOLLY OF WISDOM.†

This book is introduced to us as being "the work of the greatest poet of Arabia, the man of whom Rodin said: 'He is the William Blake of the twentieth century.'" The publishers continue with the doubtful compliment: "In the opinion of many critics he is a far greater poet than Tagore." We are naturally and at once interested; and, having finished the book, we are yet more interested.

The thread of the parables is this. A lone personage, having been robbed of his seven masks of deception (owing to which misadventure he is called by the world a "madman"), visits our world of ordered sanity and finds it not to his liking. He discovers its shams and superficialities, and loathes its measured virtues and ordered excellencies. He laments the inability even of the friend to understand, and, seeking refuge in defeat and freedom in loneliness, finds a perfect safety in not being understood.

In his main theme Gibran does indeed justify the extravagant comparison with Blake, who said in one of those mystic paradoxes which are always true:

The visions of Eternity, by reason of narrowèd perceptions,
Are become weak Visions of Time and Space, fix'd into furrows of Death;
Till deep dissimulation is the only defence an honest man has left

But his process is intellectual, and his hatred of the evil of conventional things comes rather from an ultra-sanified sanity than from insanity. His mystical and emotional reins are tightly held, and he steadfastly drives his horses to the reality of Truth, though they sometimes wish to turn off in quest of the ideality of Beauty. But he tries to get to his goal by a reverse route—there is always, he thinks, a back-door to the house of Truth, and thus he sees (and in this he is quite in fashion) everything upside down. It is his pleasure to "gaze at nothingness, which is behind all things"; and he smiles in "the joy of being shunned and scorned." In a splendid poem on "Defeat" he says:—

Defeat, my Defeat, my shining sword and shield.
In your eyes I have read
That to be enthroned is to be enslaved,
And to be understood is to be levelled down,
And to be grasped is but to reach one's fullness,
And like a ripe fruit to fall and be consumed.

Yet, though he can see with undeniable intensity into things, there is little evidence that he can see out of things. There are here but few (possibly accidental) hints of the larger, constructive mind of Blake.

In one point, however, he certainly does resemble Blake. There are three drawings in this book, all admirable in technique and very pregnant in conception. They, at least, are full of Blake's vivid obscurity. For the rest, he resembles Lord Dunsany more than any author we know. His literary qualifications for this (Dunsany's) poetic parable style of writing are considerable: his sense of humour, deft rather than subtle, is keen; his satirical power is more than sufficient; and the concise phrases and air of finality with which he invests and envelops his thought are perfect. In a word, he is an extremely capable writer, whose development (or, ought we to say, the translation of whose other books) is obviously a matter of unusual importance.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"In the Side Shows." By Captain Wedgwood Benn, M.P., D.S.O., D.F.C. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 12s. net.)

"The Dardanelles." By Major-General Sir C. E. Callwell, K.C.B., etc. (London: Constable and Co. 18s. net.)

"Indian Finance and Banking." By G. Findlay Shirras. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 18s. net.)

"Some Personal Impressions." By Také Jonescu. With an Introduction by Viscount Bryce, O.M. (London: Nisbet and Co., Ltd. 9s. net.)

"Mesopotamia: Sonnets and Lyrics at Home and Abroad. 1914-1919." By Griffyth Fairfax. (London: John Murray 3s. 6d. net.)

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* "Russia and Germany at Brest-Litovsk." By Judah L. Magnes. (New York: Rand School of Social Science. $1·00 net.) And "Boche and Bolshevik." By Hereward T. Price. (London: John Murray. 6s. net.)

† "The Madman: His Parables and Poems." By Kahlil Gibran. (London: Hutchison and Co. 5s. net.)

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THE SEASON IN EGYPT.

(From Our Social Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 4.

The Residency has returned from Cairo from its summer stay by the seaside at Ramleh, thus marking the commencement of the winter season in Cairo, with its attendant gaieties. We have, it is true, already had a certain number of social events, such as the military meetings at Ghezireh and Heliopolis, one or two small dances at Shepheard's, and a most delightful ball given by the Air Corps out at Helouan. The season proper, however, never starts until November is in, with the cooler weather which that month usually brings in its train.

This year those of us who returned in September and October have suffered somewhat in consequence, for the dying summer has had more "kick" than usual, and the weather has been exceedingly trying; so much so, that we are now feeling as if we had had no leave at all, and are exceedingly envious of those more fortunate mortals who either had later leave or were detained owing to difficulty in finding accommodation. For the latter the delay has proved a blessing in disguise, as far as concerns the weather, at any rate.

Of course, we have had no season proper in Egypt since 1913-1914; for, although there has been a good deal of gaiety during the interval, most of it was specially for the men and the officers of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, and, in any case, whilst residents threw themselves heart and soul into the work of entertaining, as they did into that of tending our soldiers and nursing them back into health, it was only natural that whatever took place lacked the careless *entrain* which has always been one of the characteristics of the Egyptian season.

What sort of a season are we going to have? Everyone poses the query whenever the topic of the coming winter comes up, but the reply is very difficult to give. As regards visitors, judging by what one hears from Home, there seems little probability of any great influx unless the shipping facilities improve very considerably during the next month or so. A short time ago the hotels reported good advance bookings, especially from across the "herring pond," but they are by no means so sanguine now, though a certain number of winter visitors have managed to get out already. Nevertheless, there are indications that, if the season is going to suffer in the number of its visitors, its programme will be just as varied and as entertaining as any of its pre-war predecessors. The first winter race meeting, which has been held at Heliopolis, was exceedingly well attended. The new battalions of the Army of Occupation turned up in great force, while the grand stand and paddock seemed to have an unusual contingent of the fair sex, most of them looking charming, and gowned in light muslins and silks, such as the weather fully justified. The Heliopolis management are to be congratulated on the efforts they have made to cater for the comfort of the public, especially for the ladies, for whom a special *pari-mutuel* has been put up at the back of the Grand Stand, where they can put their money on instead of having to fight their way through the boxes at the far end of the enclosure—an arrangement which incidentally allows us to change our minds many times without being too late for the "last bell."

As regards the actual racing, I must leave that to "our racing correspondent," for I can tell you but little about the gee-gees beyond that they looked very pretty and seemed to run very well. The colours of the jockeys were all very charming, though it did seem a shame that the prettiest combination—which, by the by, I backed—should never have been allowed to win even one race. The racing arrangement made during the war years is to be continued, and there are to be weekly meetings alternatively at Heliopolis and at Ghezireh. As both clubs have increased the value of the prizes, we are looking forward to some really good racing.

As far as the season's fixtures are settled at the present moment, we are promised an excellent season at the Sultana Opera House, where Italian opera is to be given. Except for charity performances, this house has been closed since 1914. Already the bookings are more than the little house can hold, and as all the boxes and stalls are taken by subscription for the whole of the season, it is to be feared that those who have not succeeded in retaining anything will not be able to go unless they manage to "wangle" a seat in a subscriber's box. Mr. Bandmann, who has kept us going for the past four years with concert parties, light comedy, and musical comedy companies, intends to continue, and at present is playing to crowded houses some of the London revue successes, such as "Yes, Uncle," "The Bing Boys are Here," etc. In addition, we are to have the usual classical concerts every week; while there will be weekly dances throughout the season at Shepheard's, and Mena House and the Continental are sure to follow suit, though nothing is as yet decided.

Alas! we can hope for no revival of the old successes at Ghezireh Palace, the Savoy, or the Semiramis Hotels, for whilst the first-named has been bought by a wealthy Syrian notable as a private residence, the other two are still in Government hands. The Savoy is retained by the War Office, and the Semiramis has been taken over as the headquarters of the Ministry of Communications. Whether other hotels will be built to take their place remains to be seen, but for the coming winter we shall have to rely on Shepheard's, the Continental, Mena House, and the Grand and Tewfik Palace Hotels at Helouan, which will account for the general lack of accommodation this year.

To these may, however, be added on January 1 the Heliopolis Palace Hotel, which during the war has passed through many vicissitudes—first as a hospital, then as the headquarters of the Air Force, and latterly again as a hospital. In all probability it will reopen its doors with an entertainment similar to those which have so distinguished it since it made its debut some ten years ago.

After a year's absence it is interesting to compare Cairo under peace conditions with Cairo in war-time. When I left Egypt the war was still on, with all its horrors, and everyone was working hard doing his or her little bit. Those of us who were not nursing were busy organising concerts, etc., for our boys. When I returned two months ago I was struck by the almost total absence of signs of war. Going across France one saw little evidence of the struggle that has ceased but so recently; we had a delightfully peaceful time on board the steamer, and here in Egypt, although, it is true one sees more khaki than at home, there might truly have been no war, so little do its effects make themselves felt, or obtrude themselves on one's attention.

Down at Ghezireh, where tennis and tea are as popular as ever, and where polo will restart as soon as the grounds are ready, one has been so glad to meet one's friends again, but many of the old faces are, alas! missing. Some the whirligig of time and events have taken to other climes, others have made the last sacrifice.

All said and done, however, there are very few changes in Cairo. Living is very expensive, and we housewives find it impossible to make both ends meet on the old budget, and even the war allowance which generous employers are granting our husbands scarcely suffices to cover the deficit. All the same, it is good to be back in Egypt, for here, at any rate, one can move about and travel in comfort; there is no domestic trouble, one is waited on by excellently trained servants—and so one can once more be "a lady" instead of a general servant in one's own house—and, although it may be expensive, food is neither restricted nor short, and one does not go in perpetual fear of the food controller.

On all sides you hear the same expression of pleasure at the return to Egypt. Never, people say, have they returned with such joy to this land of everlasting sun. In spite of strikes, which one hardly seems to notice or feel, and demonstrations, which, thank goodness, appear to have been taken in hand in a sensible manner, we all seem to go serenely on our way and live joyously in the glorious sunshine of the land which the Pharaohs have made immortal. In short, we all look forward to a very happy winter, and so long as Young Egypt learns to behave itself and does not protrude its activities on public attention, the coming season should be a successful one, and I shall hope to be able to tell you of all our gay and happy doings, and make you long to be with us in sunshine and warmth, instead of being, as I fear you will be, in the midst of fogs, slush, and cold.

THE ALPHABET.

Mr. T. Eric Peet, lecturing at Burlington House on November 21 on the subject of "The Egyptian Origin of the Alphabet," said that not later than 1000 B.C. a remarkably perfect alphabet of 22 signs, without vowels, was in existence on Phœnician soil. Greece adopted most of her letters from this alphabet. In Sinai we had at a date, probably earlier than 1500 B.C., a Semitic people apparently in the act of borrowing from the Egyptian hieroglyphics in order to form on the acrophonic principle their own alphabet. For b they borrowed the Egyptian sign for "house," because their own word for house, "bet," began with the sound b, and so on. Many of the letters of the Phœnician alphabet could be traced in this fashion. If we had not here the actual origin of the Phœnician, and hence of our own alphabet, suggested Mr. Peet, we had at least a good example of the process to which it was due.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. November	1919. November		1338. Rabia I.	5680. Kislev.
28	15	Friday	5	6
29	16	Saturday.....	6	7
30	17	Sunday	7	8
December				
1	18	Monday	8	9
2	19	Tuesday	9	10
3	20	Wednesday	10	11
4	21	Thursday	11	12

Sir Stanley Reed and Lady Reed have left London for India.

General Gouraud, the French High Commissioner in Syria, has arrived at Beyrout.

The Hon. Mr. J. H. Kerr, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, has been granted leave for one year.

Our Malta Correspondent reports that an exequatur has been granted to J. R. Agius, Esq., to act as Consul of Serbia at Malta.

The Persian Minister was stated on November 26 to be decidedly better. He hopes to leave London shortly for Switzerland to recuperate.

Mr. J. Hullah will succeed Mr. R. A. Mant as Secretary to the Government of India in the Revenue and Agriculture Department at the end of March.

Sir William and Lady Joynson-Hicks, with their daughter, left for India on November 22, and will not return to England until the spring.

Captain M. Costiesco Ghyka, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, who has been on a special mission to America, returned to London on November 24.

A delayed Delhi telegram states that the Viceroy was to leave on November 16 for a tour in Southern India, and intended to spend Christmas at Calcutta.

His Excellency Boghos Nubar Pasha, President of the Armenian National Delegation, arrived in London on November 23, and is staying at the Carlton Hotel.

The Oriental Circle of the Lyceum Club held, on November 26, an "at home," when a lecture was given by Mr. Kundan Lal on "The Drama of Ancient India."

M. Michael Gavrilovitch, the newly-appointed Minister Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, arrives in London this week from Belgrade.

The Maharaja of Mysore, the Maharaja of Kolhapur, and the Maharaja Rana of Jhalawar, K.C.S.I., have been appointed vice-presidents of the Royal Colonial Institute.

Our Malta Correspondent writes (November 19):—
His Grace the Archbishop Dom Maurus Caruana, O.S.B., has left Malta for Naples, where he is to stay twenty days.

The Governor of Ceylon has arranged to visit England for the purpose of consulting with Viscount Milner, Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of constitutional reforms in Ceylon.

Colonel J. A. C. Younger, Mrs. P. T. Williams, and her niece Miss Malzard have left Braboeuf Manor, Guildford, to winter in Ceylon, and will return in April next. Their address will be Galle Face Hotel, Colombo.

Mr. T. A. H. Way, Commissioner of Excise, United Provinces, is proceeding on leave and will be succeeded by Mr. R. L. H. Clarke as soon as the latter is relieved of the Commissionership of Jhansi by Mr. D. Calnan, O.B.E., who returns shortly from leave.

Under the auspices of the Anglo-Hellenic League a public lecture is being given to-day at 5.30 p.m. in the Great Hall, King's College, Strand, by M.M. René Puaux upon "L'Asie Mineure et la Question d'Orient." The chairman of the meeting is Sir A. H. Crosfield, Bart.

A marriage will shortly take place between James Hume, of Sidapur, Coorg, South India, and Amy, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Platts, of Springfield, Bingley, Yorkshire.

Prince Nicolas and Princess Marie of Roumania will leave England shortly for Bucharest, where they will spend Christmas with their parents, the King and Queen of Roumania.

The engagement is announced between C. A. Galpin, Colombo, Ceylon, and Evaline, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Fraser, of Peermade, Southern India. The marriage will take place shortly.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant-Colonel Sydney Boyce Combe, D.S.O., M.C., 47th Sikhs, younger son of Major-General Boyce Combe, C.B., and Grace, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Behrens, of Vron Yw, Denbigh.

The marriage took place on November 17, at the Chapel Royal, Savoy, between Captain Richard Charles Simpson, 130th King George's Own Baluchis, Indian Army, and Audie, daughter of Theodore F. Carroll, of Ringacoltig, Rushbrooke, Ireland.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Cecil Claude, Imperial Forest Service, India, third son of the Rev. A. J. Wilson, D.D., St. Mary's, Oldham, and Elsie Woodthorpe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Barry, of Purfleet.

An engagement is announced between Captain Norman Moray Carstairs, Indian Army, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Carstairs, of Lencote, Harrietsham, Kent, and Ella Margaret, eldest daughter of the late E. C. Y. Macvean and Mrs. Macvean, of Killean, Thurlow Road, Hampstead.

The marriage was celebrated on November 20, at Great Bardfield Church, Essex, by the vicar, the Rev. W. E. L. Lampet, Essex, uncle of the bridegroom, between Captain Lionel Edward Kirwan, I.A.R.O., M.B.E., of Mysore, India, and Maud Isabella, widow of G. A. Watson, M.B.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain Ivon R. Dyer, 53rd Sikhs, elder son of Brigadier-General R. E. Dyer, C.B., I.A., and Mrs. Dyer, and Phyllis, second daughter of Colonel T. R. Mulroney, I.M.S., and Mrs. Mulroney, of 14, Hilgrove Road, South Hampstead, and Crigga, Newquay, Cornwall.

The engagement is announced of Alexander Evelyn Cardew, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, elder son of Sir Alexander Cardew, K.C.S.I., and Lady Cardew, C.B.E., and Gertrude Evelyn, elder daughter of the Rev. L. Staniforth, M.A., LL.M., vicar of Broadway, Worcestershire, and Mrs. Staniforth.

M. Venizelos, throughout the illness of Dr. Burrows, Principal of King's College, has kept himself informed, by personal inquiries and telegrams through the Greek Minister and to Mrs. Burrows in London, of the Principal's state of health. Dr. Burrows is now reported to be making satisfactory progress.

The marriage was celebrated on November 22, at All Saints, Oakleigh Park, by the Rev. M. O. Blakelock, vicar of St. Andrew's, Muswell Hill, and the Rev. H. S. Miles, vicar of All Saints, between Captain H. S. Lewis-Barclay, Indian Army, and Isabel Clare (Lala), daughter of Layton H. Lucy, Oakleigh Park, N.

The marriage was celebrated on November 18, at Holy Trinity Church, Pitlochry, by the Rev. J. Harrison, assisted by the Rev. B. Blakiston, between Captain Benjamin Wyatt Bagshawe, of Calcutta, and Dulcie Katherine Margaret, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Warren, Tir-Aluinn, Pitlochry.

The marriage was celebrated on November 20, at All Saints, Margate, between Major A. C. Eales, 119th Infantry (The Mooltana Regiment), son of C. L. M. Eales, I.C.S. (retired), Tiverton, Devon, and Florence Muriel Bennett, daughter of the late H. G. Bennett, Margate, and granddaughter of the late William Bush, Sheffield.

The marriage was celebrated on November 19, at Mossley Hill Church, by the Rev. Canon George Harford, vicar of the parish, assisted by the Rev. Canon W. E. Sims, vicar of St. Anne's, Aigburth, between Frank Noel, D.S.O., Indian Army, son of Mr. Frank R. Cross, of Fulwood Park, Liverpool, and Eileen Mary, second daughter of the late Mr. George S. Bleasdale and Mrs. Bleasdale, of Mossley Hill, Liverpool.

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A marriage has been arranged, and will take place on November 25, between Agnes, daughter of Mr. Harry Playfair, of Sonapur, Assam, and Henry Montague, eldest surviving son of the late Rev. C. C. Prichard, of Alresford, Essex, and of Mrs. Prichard, Little Court, Goring-on-Thames.

The marriage was celebrated on November 14, at St. Andrew's Church, Bombay, between Charles Fozzard Thomas, of Bombay, son of the Rev. S. and Mrs. Thomas, of 21, Winchester Road, Oxford, and Bertha Isabel, elder daughter of George Jackson, Reigate, and widow of Capt. H. B. Stevenson, 2nd Queen's Own Rajput Light Infantry.

The marriage was celebrated on November 20, at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street, S.W., by the Rev. F. Penny (uncle of the bridegroom), between Capt. C. C. Penny, R.E., youngest son of the late E. Penny, C.I.E., Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., India, and Dorothy Winfred Maxwell, elder daughter of R. McGevin Spence, I.E.S., of Jubbulpore, India.

It is announced that the marriage was celebrated on October 22, at the Hosur Remount Depot Church, South India, by the Rev. E. O. Jervis, between George Henry Montague, eldest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gompertz, of Yercaud, South India, and Vera, youngest daughter of the late Mr. A. S. B. Scott and of Mrs. Scott, late of Crondall, Hants.

The marriage took place on November 11, at St. James' Church, Wood Green, North London, between Roy Bathurst Gore, Captain 127th Q.M.O. Baluch Light Infantry, Indian Army, eldest son of Mr. William Cuddeford, late Colonial Civil Service, and Mrs. Cuddeford, of Sunnybank, Mortimer, Berks, and Helen Thomasina Jack, only child of Mr. and Mrs. James Milne, of Cranbrook Park, Wood Green.

Lord Atkinson, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, received news on November 21 from the India Office that his elder son, Mr. Cecil Thomas Atkinson, K.C., an Indian Judge, had been killed in a railway accident in India while on his way from Bombay to Patna. Mr. Atkinson, who was forty-three, was appointed a Puisne Judge of Behar and Orissa in 1915, and lived at Patna. He was called to the Bar in 1912.

Capt. W. A. H. Kelly, C.B., C.M.G., has been granted the rank of vice-admiral in the Royal Hellenic Navy while serving as head of the British Naval Mission in Greece. Capt. Kelly, who was Commodore-in-Charge of the British Naval Forces in the Adriatic at the time of the Armistice, took up his new post on June 1 last. He is assisted by a staff of officers from the various branches of the service, and this is about to be increased by two artificer engineers, one for duty ashore and one for duty afloat.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Our Malta Correspondent writes:—

Major F. W. Mansell has been appointed Superintendent of the Corradino Prison, and D. Calleja, M.D., the medical officer in charge.

Sir Horace Byatt has been appointed Acting-Administrator of East Africa. The choice is very gratifying to Malta, for as Lieutenant-Governor to the Island he is well remembered on account of his sterling work during his tenure of office.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Theodore Bosanquet, late of the Bombay Civil Service, has died at Lynton in his eighty-seventh year.

Lieut.-Colonel Cecil Robert Stevens, Indian Medical Service, whose death took place on November 18, served with the Chitral Relief Force in 1895 and also with the Tirah Expeditionary Force in 1897-8. Colonel Stevens, who was fifty-one years of age, was the eldest surviving son of Lady Stevens and the late Sir Charles Stevens, I.C.S.

The death at Montagu House, Southsea, on November 20, is announced of Major-General John Ritchie, late R.A. He was born in 1834, and joined the Royal Artillery in 1853, and retired in 1886, after thirty-three years' service. He fought in the Indian Mutiny, taking part in the actions of Nimbhera and Jeerun, the defence of Neemuch, and the capture of Kotah.

The death is announced of Mr. John Dibblee Crace, who was fifth in direct descent of those in his family who practised the art of decoration. He was a most industrious sketcher all through life, and pursued the object of his love in many countries, including Egypt, Turkey, Greece, Palestine, and India. His connection with the Palestine Exploration Fund began shortly after his visit to the country in 1869. One of his unrealised ambitions was to provide a distinct and all-embracing Indian museum in Central London.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

M. Achard, a well-known engineer, has been appointed technical adviser to the French High Commissioner for Syria, and will leave shortly for Beyrout.

Admiral Troubridge, in an interview with a representative of *Az Est*, stated it was to be presumed that Paris would be the headquarters of the Danube Commission, with a general secretariat at Budapest.

The Admiralty have ordered the destroyers Sepoy, Sirdar, Serapis, and Somme to be manned with special complements from Chatham and Devonport, and to be commissioned for service in the Sixth Reserve Destroyer Flotilla in the Mediterranean. They will leave England next month.

TO AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS.

The Editor will be glad to consider photographs of Near Eastern scenery, types, places of interest, etc., etc., suitable for reproduction in THE NEAR EAST. *When desired, payment will be made for the right of producing such photographs. Readers should state, when forwarding pictures, whether payment is desired or not.*

Photographs should be sent either packed between stout cards or rolled in a cardboard tube, and should on no account be folded. Titles and notes should be attached to each photo, and should be very clearly written.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1919.

THE EASTERN NETTLE.

By far the most hopeful sign in the situation in Egypt is that it has become so bad that there is no longer any opportunity or desire to conceal the facts. With this stage reached, the outlook at once is more promising. But two points of view are involved—the British and the Egyptian; the latter will now be looked after, and it is incumbent upon the people of Great Britain to see that the mistakes made in Egypt, for which they have to suffer, are not likely to be repeated. The root of the trouble has been, by common consent, neglect, ignorance, or misunderstanding of the Egyptian problem. It is not difficult to multiply excuses; the preoccupations of war-time have been invoked to cover a multitude of sins of omission as well as of commission; but the plea is essentially specious. It might hold good if the machinery of government in Great Britain had broken down completely as a result of the war. This was, however, far from being the case. Apart from the achievement of winning the war, home affairs were, on the whole, consistently well managed during the latter period; in the domain of foreign affairs our relations with a number of countries—France, the United States, Japan, Spain, Holland, and others—were handled skilfully; only in one direction can Great Britain be said to have failed altogether, and that is in the countries that are grouped together in the term the Near East. South-Eastern Europe and Egypt present entirely different problems, but they have a connecting link in Turkey, and experience has shown that they have shared in common the "blind spot" of British statesmanship. It will be of no avail to introduce heroic remedies in Egypt and to start the country once more on the road of peace and progress, if this defect remains. Its consequences may be obscured under the régime of a Cromer or a Kitchener, but sooner or later they assert themselves. In the case of the Balkans the defect and its consequences have never been hidden. The remedy is obvious. The business of the Foreign Office has outgrown the existing system of management, and a working method of devolution must be introduced. Terms and titles are immaterial; the aim must be to have someone or some department of sufficient standing that it will be impossible for a British Government to be ignorant of and indifferent to the affairs of the Balkan Peninsula on the one hand, and of Egypt and the Middle East on the other. Separate representatives are inevitable in the different Balkan States, but their work should be correlated, if necessary, under a High Commissioner; they should feel obliged to make their activities dovetail as far as possible, and they should be encouraged in this way to set the example which it is most desirable that the States to which they are accredited should follow, that of co-operation with their neighbours. Whether Egypt and the Middle East be linked together for administrative purposes or not, British policy towards these countries should not be dependent for its wisdom or consistency entirely on the personality of the British representative for the time being at Cairo.

While, therefore, Lord Allenby and the Milner Mission are taking the case of Egypt in hand on the spot, it is to be hoped that the British Government will deal with the root of the trouble at this end. For the soundness of the attitude now displayed towards Egyptian unrest only serves to emphasize the serious dereliction of duty in the policy adopted since the outbreak of the war. If the Egyptians had been given the clear statement of Great Britain's intentions which they have now had, first from Mr. Balfour and this week from Lord Curzon, there would have been a less fruitful soil for the agitators to work upon. Zaghlul Pasha is not the first foreigner who has mistaken the British character. In Paris he will, perhaps, be able to appreciate more readily than in Egypt that his movement, which has achieved a wonderful success up to a point, has now shot its bolt. If he were as great as he would like to be, he would profit by the occasion and range himself on the side of the constitutionalists. The British are easy-going or generous enough to have preserved some sympathy for him, and his correct behaviour to-day might ensure him a great position in Egypt in the future. The whole spirit of the agitation, however, is entirely against the possibility of such action on his part. It has been admirably stage-managed, but there has been no quality of statesmanship behind it. Zaghlul Pasha has held out to himself and to his followers the hope of complete independence; he was prepared to go to any lengths—riot, murder, or foreign support—in attaining it, but he could not see the flaw in his argument. The very measure of success that he has achieved invalidates his claims, for he has merely conjured up chaos, the antithesis of a recommendation for self-government. He has certainly shown up the weaknesses of British policy in Egypt, and his Nationalist agitation has tested Great Britain's confidence in herself. The speeches that have now been made on the British Government's behalf suggest that the ordeal is passing. A clear enunciation of the faith that is in us has reassured public opinion at home, and will, we trust, prove a sedative to Egypt. Great Britain, Lord Curzon declared, in a speech that may well rank as the *locus classicus* of our Egyptian policy, is unable to give any encouragement to the claim of complete national independence, and he continued: "Quite apart from the fact that Egypt, if left to stand alone, could neither protect her frontiers against external aggression nor guarantee a strong and impartial Government at home, her geographical position at the gate of Palestine, for which it seems likely that a special responsibility will before long be placed upon our shoulders, at the doorway of Africa, and on the high road to India, renders it impossible that the British Empire, with any regard to its own security and connections, should wash its hands of responsibility for Egypt."

Starting from the standpoint thus enunciated on behalf of the British Government, the process of meeting the legitimate aspirations of Egypt should present no insuperable difficulties. The two rallying cries for Egyptian disorder have been the word "Protectorate," and the Milner Mission, and it is amazing that the British authorities should have remained tongue-tied on these subjects; while moderate opinion in Egypt was gradually forced over into the extremist camp. To-day, those of the Egyptians who are still open to reason know that the British Protectorate is not intended to be a thinly veiled form of annexation. The degree to which the Egyptians are left to manage their own affairs rests entirely with themselves, and it is well that they should be reminded that neither the history of the Legislative Assembly nor the recent outbreaks are strong arguments in support of the widest latitude in self-government. On the other hand, the composition of the Milner Mission is a guarantee that no hasty judgment will be passed. It goes out to report on the existing situation in the country, and "the form of Constitution which, under the Protectorate, will be best calculated to promote its peace and prosperity, and the progressive development of self-governing institutions, and the protection of foreign interests." Within these terms of reference there is the fullest scope for Egyptian aspirations. It is a favourable sign that a new Ministry was found ready to step into the breach caused by the resignation of Mohammed Said Pasha. Recent events have shaken the country badly, but with firm and generous treatment it will be possible for the forces of ordered government to reassert their right to peaceful development.

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RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT IN PERSIA.

Whatever difficulties may have been encountered at the outset by the British Government in negotiating the Anglo-Persian Agreement that was signed at Teheran on August 9 last, there is no room for doubt to-day that the consensus of enlightened opinion in Persia welcomes the Treaty. The majority of the Persians may not be in a position to hold any views at all on it, and a certain number will be opposed to it on selfish grounds; but the remainder, it is confidently believed, will prove numerous enough to make the Agreement the stepping-stone to Persia's restoration. Even if the internal affairs of the country were in a settled and prosperous condition, Persia could still not stand alone in the present state of things around her. The collapse of Imperial Russia, which was hailed with justifiable relief, has been followed by the rise in the North of a power of deadlier menace. To the north-west there is the traditional hostility of the Turks, and on the eastern border no love is lost between Persians and Afghans. An Afghanistan at war with Great Britain might easily avail itself of the opportunity of scoring off the latter by invading Persia. Great Britain has no need to deceive herself over the attitude of the Persians; they have had every reason to complain of a country which has never displayed the courage of its convictions, and they are not to be blamed for placing their own interests higher than any international obligations by which Great Britain may have been handicapped. At last, however, the interests of the two countries are identical, and are recognised to be so by both Governments. Persia had to turn somewhere for help, and she realised that there was no one to whom she could turn with a better chance of being able to achieve her salvation than Great Britain. The resultant agreement is one of which neither country has any reason to be ashamed. It is conceived in a broad spirit, and makes provision for the free development of the Persian people on lines which are calculated to bring them by the shortest route to their goal, the revival of some at least of Persia's former glory.

No clause in the Agreement is more important for both parties than Clause V., which states:—

> The British Government, fully recognising the urgent need which exists for the improvement of communications in Persia . . . are prepared to co-operate with the Persian Government for the encouragement of Anglo-Persian enterprise in this direction, both by means of railway construction and other forms of transport, subject always to the examination of the problems by experts and to agreement between the two Governments as to the particular projects which may be most necessary, practicable, and profitable.

With the exception of a line leading from the Caucasian border to Tabriz, with its branch to Lake Urumiah, Persia has so far been without railways. The necessity of maintaining communications for the British force detached from the Army in Mesopotamia for the occupation of Baku led to the construction of a line from Baghdad to the frontier at Khanikin, and this has since been extended into Persian territory in the direction of Kermanshah. The war also led to an extension of the Nushki line from the Baluchistan border to Seistan. Both for trade and strategical reasons, therefore, Persia stands in urgent need of railways. The country is exposed to recurrent famines—one of the most terrible raged during the winter of 1917-18—mainly owing to the lack of communications—and it is obvious that any programme of construction must strike a wise balance between the ends in view. Fortunately in this respect there is no irreconcilable clash of interests. The first need is to improve Persia's communications with the outside world, to enable her to receive and to export goods more easily. The construction of a line from Baghdad towards Kermanshah decides, without any room for challenge, the direction which this first main route of railway shall take. By linking up Teheran with Baghdad, Persia is provided with communication with the Persian Gulf, and ultimately, when a Damascus-Euphrates line has been built, with direct access to the Mediterranean.

For the Anglo-Persian Agreement to achieve its maximum ultility it is necessary that no time should be lost in giving effect to its provisions. The recent visit of the Shah to Great Britain will have given an impetus in this direction, and although little information may be vouchsafed to the public there is reason to suppose that both Governments are working to carry out the clauses of the Treaty with the least delay. Certain it is that steps have been taken to make a start with railway construction, and the choice has very rightly fallen on the Baghdad-Teheran line.

A Persian Programme.

The essence of the Agreement is that Persia should be under no domination, but should have placed at her disposal all the expert advice necessary to enable her to arrive at a sound decision regarding matters affecting her own interests. In regard to railway development the Persians who are qualified to speak on the subject seem to have very decided views. They place security in the forefront of their programme, and urge that the lines to be built should be those which are likely to be the most effective in safeguarding the integrity of the country. With communication between Teheran and the Persian Gulf secured, well-informed opinion favours the early extension of the line which has now reached Nasratabad Seistan from Nushki, in Baluchistan, along the eastern frontier to Meshed. Then, when connection has been established between Teheran and Meshed, Persia will have a "ring-fence" of steel rails stretching from the Persian Gulf to India and offering, with British co-operation, an effective barrier to the worst menace, whether from the north-west, the north, or the east. It has been pointed out already that to-day British and Persian interests are identical. Great Britain desires to see a Persia able to stand alone; for while she remains weak she constitutes a standing danger to India. So long, therefore, as her protection devolves upon Great Britain the advantages of a railway system offering an approach from two directions are obvious. The line through Seistan to Meshed will not only protect Persia, but will also be a reminder to Afghanistan that she is vulnerable from more points of the compass than one. If the Afghan Mission which has reached Merv implies that Afghanistan intends to take a permanent interest in affairs in this part of Turkestan, it might only be a matter of time before she felt encouraged to turn her attention to Meshed. The possibility, we may be sure, is not overlooked by the Persians.

These three lines—Baghdad to Teheran, Seistan to Meshed, and Teheran to Meshed—will meet immediate strategic requirements, and at the same time will give a considerable impetus to trade. From Meshed a comparatively short line, of less than a hundred miles, will serve to link up the Persian system with the Trans-Caspian Railway from Krasnovodsk to Merv and Samarkhand. Persia will then benefit from the increased facilities offered to Indian trade with Central Asia. One or more branches of the Teheran-Meshed line would in course of time be built to the shores of the Caspian, which is destined to play an important part in the life of a new Persia. It will be recalled that by the act of Imperial Russia the Persian flag has not been allowed to fly on the Caspian Sea. This embargo has now been removed, and Persia, while contenting herself with a modest navy, may develop as

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN.

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strong a mercantile marine on these waters as she desires. Enzeli will, doubtless, remain the most important Persian port on the Caspian, in railway communication, viâ Kazvin, with Teheran and Baghdad; but there will be room for other ports on the south and south-eastern shores. In both her naval and mercantile developments on the Caspian Persia will have the advantage of British assistance, and there is reason to suppose that practical steps in this direction have already been taken.

The lines enumerated do not exhaust the possibilities of railway development in Persia, but they represent the programme of construction on which the Persians themselves are inclined to lay the most stress. It will be noticed that the Mohammerah-Khoremmabad line, in which British capital has been particularly interested in the past, does not appear on this programme. There can be no question, however, that its construction, while having no special strategical value, would be of the greatest use from the point of view of Persia's economic development. It would tap and inevitably lead to the extension of a valuable wheat area, providing Persia with the means of safeguarding the capital and other parts of the country from famine, and possibly in the long run producing enough grain for export. Under settled conditions Persia has splendid agricultural prospects; there is plenty of water in the country that has not been utilized. It is true that the population has declined, and the downward movement is likely to continue until the cultivators of the soil are given adequate protection and encouragement.

Last of all on the railway programme must come the Trans-Persian Railway scheme, which at one time held the field to the exclusion of lines more urgently needed. The linking up of Tabriz with Teheran will be essential to the good government of Azerbaijan, a province which the Persian Government may always find somewhat difficult to administer. A trunk line, after leaving the capital would pass south to Kum, and thence viâ Ispahan and Yezd to Kerman, and ultimately to Karachi in India, by way of Nushki or the coast. A branch from Ispahan would pass through Shiraz to the coast opposite Bushire, and Bunder Abbas would be connected with Kerman either as part of the trunk scheme or as a branch line, if the Trans-Persian Railway preferred a more direct route to the Indian Ocean, say at Charbar, or west to Nushki.

The programme thus outlined is in its entirety an ambitious one, and in the best of circumstances could only be carried out very gradually. There is no need, however, to regard Persia as an altogether impoverished country. Corruption and maladministration have done their worst for many years, but the short régime of an American Treasurer-General showed what might be achieved, if the mismanagement of the national funds were permanently stopped. It has been stated, on the authority of a member of the Persian Treasury Department that the 1916 Budget, which was not met, balanced at 6,000,000 tomans, while the sum that should have been paid into the Treasury under existing conditions was 25,000,000 tomans, and the amount available under proper control, with little change in the revenue laws, would be 100,000,000 tomans. Persia, there can be not the least doubt, with her undeveloped resources, will be in a position, under an efficient and honest Government, to finance her own development. Certainly she will be able to provide all the funds required for a substantial programme of railway construction under joint Anglo-Persian auspices. What is needed is the practical application of Clause V. of the new Agreement. Railways are urgently needed, and no half measures will suffice. Motor traffic will be a valuable adjunct to railway communication, but it cannot hope to be an adequate substitute. One line of motor transport is already in operation between Teheran and Enzeli; another, it is understood, serves Ispahan from the North. The light motor, it may be pointed out in passing, is better suited to Persian roads than the heavy lorry. With railways in existence there will always be scope for motor lines as feeders, and until that time they are proving invaluable.

A start has already been made with an agreement for the construction of the Baghdad-Teheran line, and it is to be hoped that there will be sufficient support forthcoming in Persia itself for the other lines on which the Persians set special store to encourage British syndicates to take up without delay the matter of railway construction in Persia.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Egypt.

In the *Sunday Times* of November 23 Sir Malcolm McIlwraith discusses the Egyptian outbreak, tabulates its causes, and finally suggests remedies. To the effect of President Wilson's doctrines upon the Egyptian masses he is not inclined to pay much attention: he finds the causes to be purely local and specific. The Egyptian Labour Corps, the collections for the Red Cross, and the requisition of camels and forage for the Army, he puts down as the chief causes. But there were, he says, other causes of antagonism:—

As regards the official and professional classes, these, as already observed, have always been more or less hostile to our influence because they—perhaps not unnaturally—dislike our large participation in administration, with the corresponding diminution of their own power and authority. Until recently, however, we have always managed to preserve good relations with the more important elements of this class. It was very important to us that we should, because it is on them we count for collaboration with us, as Ministers and high officials, in the government of the country. Latterly, however, this class, also, seems to have been antagonised to a large extent from a variety of causes. In the first place, the declaration of the Protectorate—left, perhaps imprudently, quite undefined—was believed by many to connote a general tightening of British control and a diminution of native authority, and thus to sound the death-knell of all hopes of ultimate Egyptian independence. Further, there was the closing of the Legislature throughout the war and the consequent suppression of all freedom of discussion, as to the expediency of which action opinions differ.

He then seeks the means of restoring peace:—

What can now be done to remedy the present state of affairs and restore peace and harmony? The task will not be easy, for there can be no doubt that British prestige has sustained a severe set-back, from which it will take us some time to recover. The Nationalist programme of "complete independence," as set forth recently by its leader, Said Zagloul Pasha, in a letter to *The Times*, is preposterous and utterly unreasonable. There is nothing in modern Egyptian history to warrant it and much to prove its danger and impracticability. The Milner Commission, we are told, is to settle the lines of a new constitution for Egypt, under which, possibly, some extended powers of autonomy will be accorded to the Native Legislature. But, as Mr. Balfour says, "British supremacy must be maintained"—notably, it is to be hoped, in such matters as State finance and foreign treaties. It is the better organisation of the exercise of this supremacy which seems to me, perhaps, the most important part of the problem. The control of Egypt by the Foreign Office has not proved, on the whole, a success, and latterly has been, on some occasions, detrimental. At the same time, matters of great importance cannot be left solely in the hands of the authorities in Cairo.

On this grave matter it is necessary to speak with frankness. Much of the recent trouble is to be traced directly to certain unfortunate selections of unsuitable men for some of the highest positions in the country, and some effective check upon unwise nominations must in future be retained and, when necessary, freely exercised. Probably more, rather than less, supervision of Egyptian affairs in London will be required for some time to come. If the Foreign Office is to remain responsible for the country an efficient Egyptian department should be created there without delay. There should also be established in London an Egyptian Council, on the lines of the Council of India. Only if some such measures are taken is it reasonable to hope that a recurrence of similar mistakes in future will be avoided.

New Worlds and Old.

In the *Morning Post* of November 21 Dr. W. M. Flinders Petrie seeks, in an article called "Light from the Past," to show how lessons may be learned from the old civilisations. Human history, he says, has been going over the old round of civilisation, and, but for an increased ability to use Nature, progress has a doubtful existence. However, there is much for us to learn from other civilisations, past and present.

There are great stretches of the past that we want to clear up, for the sake of suggestions in handling the same races in the present. Where did the great organising race come from that founded the solid fabric of the Egyptian dynasties? Is there more of that stock yet to be found about the Persian Gulf, and can we help them up? We want to know how Elam and Mesopotamia organised a civilisation earlier than all the rest of the world. Their system might give ideas for the resuscitation of those regions. They had the same antagonism of the cultivator and the nomad that we are troubled with at present. We need to get rid of all idea that the ways of one country will fit another. Each land has its own type of feeling and its own climatic needs and limitations; only in harmony with those can any success be reached permanently. Remember that the Scotti of North Ireland never resembled the rest of the islanders, but struck out and colonised Scotland, and must irrevocably be in harmony with

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their descendants there rather than with those whom they always fought. We want to know how the immense terrace cultivation of Southern Arabia was worked; the causes of success, the kind of men that made it a success. This might throw great light on the way of using rocky regions; we have only a small scale of such work at present preserved in Malta.

The polity of ancient Crete may clear up the mode of administering some modern neighbours. There the rulers lived in public life, with great concourses of people about them, yet with the power and splendour of autocracy.

What was the secret of the Egyptians' great skill in co-ordinated work, where great numbers of men could be incredibly concentrated without interference, and all able to act in unison like one man? Might not the older system of local taxes for local purposes be best for such a country now? How far may the old house system of managing large areas without outside officials be available? I have seen it work with satisfaction to the people.

Then in Central Asia, what was the early civilisation that emerges in Turkestan, deep down in the mounds of buried cities? Did that feed other movements elsewhere? Further north the dispersal of the Aryan-speaking races may be gradually explained by the links which we can trace. The northern memories brought forward by Tilak—not Polar, but certainly coming from as far as Omsk—the southern movements into India and Babylonia, the western drive which poured Aryans into Greece, Italy, and other lands before the Gael and Celt appeared—all these have to be traced. The key to much of national psychology lies in the affinities of these stocks and the mixtures they underwent. All of these mysteries, when cleared up and put into the daylight of common knowledge, would give a new sense of the world and a new outlook on all the transitory struggles.

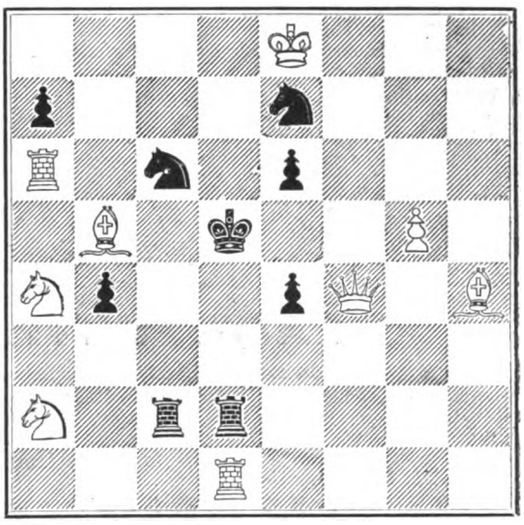
Ibn Saud.

In the *Illustrated London News* of November 8, Mr. F. W. Emett has an article upon "The Latest Crossing of Arabia." It contains a picture of Ibn Saud, drawn by Mr. H. St. J. Philby, one of the few Englishmen who have recently been in contact with that ruler:—

The present ruler of Central Arabia is Abdul Aziz ibn Saud, an Arab chieftain of the noblest Arab stock, and the father of the little Prince who is now on a visit to this country. As soon as war was declared between Britain and Turkey, he sided with us, and, though his geographical situation militated against any serious co-operation by him in the task of the Allies, he was able to do us good service in connection with the blockade of enemy territory, and on more than one occasion he attacked the only Arab State of importance which had joined the enemy. It was while he was preparing a sustained campaign in that direction, and after he had successfully launched his first attack on the enemy capital, that the war with Turkey was ended by the signing of the Armistice. His headquarters during these operations were in the province of Qasim, which contains the two biggest towns and commercial centres of Central Arabia—namely, Anaiza and Buraida, at each of which I resided for some weeks during the campaign. Ibn Saud's army on the march, with standards flowing in the breeze and the calvacade of 5,000 to 7,000 camel riders spreading far out over the desert plain, was always an imposing spectacle; but perhaps the most notable ceremony at which I was present was the division of the booty captured from Ibn Rashid—1,500 camels, countless sheep, etc.—among the conquering force. Such a division is conducted in Wahhabiland strictly in accordance with the precepts laid down by the Prophet Muhammad—one-fifth of the whole being set aside for the service of God, and the rest being divided on a rational scale—so much for an infantryman, so much for a camel-rider, so much for the possessor of a horse, and so on.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 4.



White to mate in two.

Solution to Problem No. 3.—1, B—K6; if P x B. 2. Q—QB5 mate; if P—Q3; 2 Q—B3 mate; if P—Q4, 2. Q—B7 mate; if Kt—B7 (ch.), 2. Kt x Kt mate; if K—Q3; 2 Q—B5 mate.

The Metropolitan Chess Club's Championship commences to-morrow. A strong entry has been received, including Sir G. A. Thomas and Mr. R. H. V. Scott. On November 22 the Metropolitan paid a visit to Hastings, defeating the local team by 8—3.

Señor Capablanca's audience, on November 22, at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, were privileged to hear a most brilliant exposition of the principles underlying sound play. In the opening he emphasised the value of rapid development, in the middle games the placing of the pieces in mobile positions, and in the end game the value of time-saving. He illustrated his points with apt illustrations from his own games. Lack of space prevents my giving these examples this week, but they will be given subsequently.

Several relief camps have been closed in Hyderabad, where the number on relief is decreasing.

Strumnitza has been occupied by Serbian troops, and Serbian civil authorities have superseded the Bulgarians.

Some specimens of extraordinary beauty as well as historical interest from the late Sir Hermann Weber's collection of Greek coins have been secured for the British Museum, partly by a Government grant, partly by private generosity. The acquisitions range over the whole of the Greek world from the seventh century B.C. to the third century after Christ.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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The Exhibition of British Industries at Athens terminated on November 23. All reports agree that the success of the exhibition has surpassed the most optimistic anticipations. The attendances increased daily, and towards the end it was sometimes a matter of extreme difficulty to reach the various sections. Altogether it is estimated that the visitors numbered 100,000. I have already recorded the fact that most of the exhibits have been sold several times over. In some instances, as a matter of fact, the sales transacted by the exhibitors were so heavy that further orders were refused, as it would have meant that firms would have had to divert their whole output to the Near East.

***

The new issue of capital of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company is to be made next week. The capital of the company is being increased from £5,000,000 to £20,000,000, and of the new capital I understand that £8,600,000 will now be issued in the form of £3,000,000 of Ordinary shares, £3,000,000 of six per cent. Cumulative Participating Preference shares, and £2,600,000 of five per cent. Debenture stock. The new Ordinary shares will be taken up by the present Ordinary shareholders, but the Preference shares and the Debenture stock will be offered for public subscription, the former at 23s. per share and the latter at £85. The Preference shares and the Debenture stock will rank with the existing issues. The Preference shares, which have received 8 per cent. for the past two years, stand at 25s. 3d., and the new issue is, therefore, offered on favourable terms. This is the case also with the Debentures, the present issue of which is quoted at about 89.

***

The present capital of the company of £5,000,000, comprises £2,000,000 Preference shares, and £3,000,000 Ordinary shares, which are held as to £2,000,000 by the British Government and as to £1,000,000 by the Burmah Oil Company. The Debenture stock outstanding amounts to £2,400,000. Up to the present time dividends have been paid on the Ordinary shares on a conservative basis, but the potential dividend earning capacity of the company is immense, and if the Ordinary shares were to be quoted there is no doubt that the price would run well into double figures. As a result of the new issue, the British Government's holding of these shares will now stand at £4,000,000, while the Burmah Oil Company's holding will also be doubled, which should afford ample justification for the recent substantial rise in that Company's shares.

***

During the past few years remarkable progress has been made by the company, and only recently, it will be remembered, it enlarged the scope of its operations by the acquisition of the Scottish shale oil companies, while the construction has been commenced of a huge refinery at Swansea. The development of its vast interests and the necessity for the provision of more extensive transport facilities will entail capital expenditure on a large scale in the near future. Whatever expansion may take place outside Persia, it goes without saying that the oilfields in that country will always be the company's chief source of profit. The productivity of these fields is remarkable. At the general meeting in March, Sir Charles Greenway stated that it was estimated that the wells already drilled were capable of yielding a production at the rate of 5,000,000 tons a year, and that the wells on the field from which they had hitherto been obtaining their production still maintained their extraordinary high rate. Reports regarding other fields are very favourable, and with the development of the refineries and other extensions it will be possible for the company to deal with a much larger production.

***

The currency question in Yugoslavia is the subject of an interesting despatch from our Belgrade correspondent. The problem with which the Yugoslav authorities are confronted arises from the flood of kronen notes in the country, which it appears are being added to by smugglers. The remedial measures include an issue of small dinar notes to replace kronen notes, and the stamping of kronen notes. The intention is as soon as possible to replace kronen currency altogether by dinar notes. Our correspondent states that 500 million dinars' worth of these notes are reported to be ready, but this, he points out, would be insufficient, while an added complication is the fact that those notes that have been printed in Paris can only be sent to Yugoslavia by a roundabout route owing to the friction with Italy.

***

I never had any doubt that German traders, as soon as they were able, would endeavour to re-establish relations with the markets they exploited so successfully before the war, and thus I was not in the least surprised to learn that German firms in the hardware trade have been displaying considerable activity in Morocco. This was one of the favourite spheres of operations of the German trader, but the war came too soon for any great advantage to be reaped from that quarter. These firms to which I refer seem to have re-entered the field quite in the old spirit of "peaceful penetration." They have been offering extremely advantageous terms to local merchants, and have made a strong point of the advantage conferred upon buyers of German goods by the low value of the mark. Needless to say, also they have been extremely ready with the offer of liberal credit facilities, and, in short, have displayed extreme readiness to do "business as usual." But there is one little fly in the ointment. Morocco happens to be a French Protectorate, and France's intentions are, I think, to be read in the light of the recent announcement that the import into Morocco of German goods is for the present prohibited.

***

In his speech at the general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank this week, the Chairman, Mr. R. H. Foa, emphasised the satisfactory position of the bank. In this connection the fact that the bank has in immediately realisable securities and cash £16,000,000 with which to meet liabilities of £18,000,000 speaks for itself. The Chairman further commented on the fact that the gross profits of the year's trading amounted to the record figure of £326,000. Referring to the present position in Egypt, Mr. Foa said that Sir Valentine Chirol's appreciation of conditions in Egypt seemed to him to be absolutely just. Not only had he himself arrived at the same conclusions as Sir Valentine, but men of far wider experience and more intimate knowledge, with whom he was in frequent touch, had over and over again used the same expressions. If peace became assured, he concluded, and Egypt was allowed to work out her destiny under the beneficent and benevolent guidance of England, there would be much more hope of prosperity for the country than if the aspirations for self-government in all directions were gratified.

***

At the annual inspection of the port of Karachi, the Chairman of the Port Trust reviewed the work done there in war time. Ninety acres had been converted into a river craft building yard, the speaker pointed out, and subsequently transformed into a military coal and fodder dump, while it was bedecked with piers at a cost of over 2½ lakhs. The year 1917-18 was the busiest of the war period, and during it 144,546 troops were landed and embarked, 579,658 tons of military stores and 2,641,847 tons of merchandise were exported and imported. There was no single occasion throughout the war, continued the Chairman, even when troops and stores and grain were being shipped in enormous quantities, in which the strain upon Karachi's resources reached anything approaching the breaking point. With the present facilities, the Board maintained that the port could deal with an export up to 400,000 tons per mensem without interfering with imports. "I may add," he concluded, "that they only desire to have the test applied not spasmodically but continually. There seems no likelihood of anything of the kind."

COMMENTATOR.

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Near East Coal Resources.

III.—South-West Russia.

By John Kirsopp, M.I.M.E., F.G.S.

(4) South-West part of European Russia, including 15 per cent. of the area of territory comprising European Russia.

(*a*) South-West Provinces. — Tertiary brown coals have a wide distribution in the south-west provinces, where they are mined at a number of points, principally in the provinces of Kiev and Votyn, but none of the deposits has been thoroughly examined. Under the Government of Kiev, lignites occur in the district of Kiev, and also in the provinces of Volyer. In the Kiev district they are either of Tertiary or Paleogene age, and also the lower part of the Oligocene. Lignite is found at Kiev, and also in the district of Vasilkov, in the bank of the Ross River in Kanev, near Berezniaky, in the district of Cheskassi, also to the north-west of Smela, and in the Chiguirin district. An important brown coal field occurs in the Ekaterinopolskaya forest reserve in Zvenigorodka, the coals running from 1.3 m. to 4.3 m. (4 ft. 1 in. to 13 ft. 4 ins. in thickness, as also near Ekaterinopol, Stebnoye and Novoselitza in Chichirkezovka, at Shestakovka, Novoselitza, Goncharikha, Lukovka, near the Pochapinski sugar refinery to the north of Zvenigorodka, and near the village of Budischi borings have proved a seam from 1.75 m. to 2.65 m. (5 ft. 9 ins. to 8 ft. 8 ins.) in thickness of coal. Coal also occurs in the districts of Chiguirin, Uman, and Lipovetz. The aggregate in the vicinity of the preceding known as existing is reckoned to contain a probable reserve of over 6,000,000 metric tons.

In the province of Votyn workable coals have been proved at Kremenetz in the middle Miocene formation, as also at Kouti, near Kremenetz, Zalesstzi, Zvinlyatche, on the slopes of Koss-chubova mountain, and in one or two other districts. Analyses of the Kremenetz coal gives carbon 56.77 per cent., ash 15.17 per cent., with 3,120—5,230 calories heating power, and briquettes made from it gave 4,535 calories.

A seam of brown coal 2.1 metres (6 ft. 10 ins. thick) occurs in the village of Kouti, and lignite outcrops are found between this village and Kremenetz, and in the neighbourhood of the villages of Zalesstzi and Zvinyatche, and on the slopes of Kosschubova mountain. At the village of Stari-Potchaieff thin seams occur in clays overlying Cretaceous measures, and seams are also met with in the districts of Doubny, Lutzk, Ovsutch, and Titomis. The probable reserve, as already proved, in this province is reckoned to be 26,475,000 metric tons, covering an area of 15,932,000 square metres (3,937 acres).

(*b*) New Russia.—Seams of brown coal of workable thickness have been found in many of the provinces, but none of the deposits has been thoroughly examined. Under the Government of Bessarabia, in the district of Ismail, a seam of lignite outcrops in the cliffs on the west side of Lake Yalpugh, between the villages of Kurchi and Imputzita, over 0.5 metres (1 ft. 7½ ins.) in thickness, as also further north in the town of Bolgrad, and also on the outskirts of the villages of Tabàki and Tarakliya, of Pliocene age. Analyses of samples taken near Bolgrad give fixed carbon 30.44 per cent. to 32.90 per cent., and 13.34 per cent. to 13.05 per cent. of ash. The coal at Kurchi is probably not worth exploiting, owing to its poor quality, and the thinness of the deposits. The aggregate extent of one seam, with an average thickness of 0.43 metres (1 ft. 5 ins.) on the west bank of Lake Yalpukh is estimated to cover 2,275,000 square metres (562 acres), and to contain a reserve of 740,000 metric tons.

Under the government of Kherson, in the district of Elisabethgrad, at Balashovka, a brown coal occurs of an average thickness of 5.2 metres (17 ft.), of a heating power of 2,500-3,000 calories, but containing 30 per cent. of ash, this basin lying in the Zlodeiskaya ravine, which runs into the valley of the Inguletz river a little above the Odessa railway line. Nine or ten kilometres (5 to 6¼ miles) further to the N.N.W. another deposit has been proved by borings covering an area of 364,200 square metres (91 acres), the coal varying from 3.2 to 3.9 metres (10 ft. 5 ins. to 12 ft. 11 ins.) in thickness.

In the Ekaterinovka-Meshchankaya a brown coal seam of 6.4 metres (21 ft.) is found at a depth of 15 to 25 metres (590 to 984 ft.), the estate of Mr. Boshoriak, comprising an area of coal land of 364,200 square metres (90 acres), in addition to the small reserve in the Shishkov estate in this locality and the Balaskovka deposit of 341,400 square metres (84 acres). The deposits of Balaskovka and of Mr. Boshoriak's estate is considered to contain a possible reserve of 1,817,100 metric tons. Brown coal also outcrops in the Shehesbanskaya ravine, near the village of Shehesbani, in the southern part of the district, these measures on this locality probably overlying the Sarmatian, and not, as the others do, the Paleogene formation.

In the district of Alexandria one of the largest brown coal fields lies near the village of Zelenovka, to the south of the town of Elisabethgrad, pits and borings having proved a seam of 2.8 to 12.7 metres (9 ft. 2 ins. to 41 ft. 7 ins.) in thickness at a depth of 21 metres (826 ft.), but the quality of the coal is not known, so the real value of this field is therefore doubtful, though with an average thickness of 4.27 metres (14 ft.), covering an area of 1,707,000 square metres (422 acres), it contains a probable reserve of 5,530,000 metric tons. Outcrops also occur in the lower Tertiary in the territory of the peasants of Adjamka and in several places to the north and north-east of Zelenovka, in the basin of the Beshka river (right tributary of the Inguletz), and a seam 10.7 metres (34 ft. 9 ins.) in thickness, with 0.7 metres (2 ft. 3 ins.) of clean coal has been proved to the east of Mashorin, in Trandafilivo, which deposit, aggregating 2 seams, totalling 2.13 metres (6 ft. 10 ins.) thickness of coal, extends over an area of 682,800 square metres (169 acres). and contains a probable reserve of 1,106,500 metric tons.

In the basin of the Murzinka, which flows into the Beshka, some exploitation work has been done on a seam 8.5 metres (20 ft. 4 ins.) in thickness and carrying not more than 8 per cent. of ash. Other deposits are found in the village of Novaya Praga, and in the Serdukova ravine, and further east in the Oligocene formation, and in the basin of the Ovnyanka, a tributary of the river Inguletz.

In the district of Kherson, to the west of Krivoi Rog (well known for its iron mines), a seam of good coal 2.8 metres (9 ft. 2 ins.) in thickness has been prospected, but its extent not thoroughly examined, and brown coal is also found in the shallow water sediments which lie below the Sarmatian limestone. In the southern part of the Krivoi Rog iron mining district friable brown coal occurs in Paleogene measures. Seams are also known both to the west and east of the Inguletz mountain, and there are also unconfirmed reports of the occurrence of thick seams near Privolnoye, on the Ingul river. In the district of Odessa traces of lignite and bituminous clay are found in Meotic deposits in the cliffs of the Bug river, in the basin of the Tsaregol river, and on the banks of the Liman Taligul, and lignite is also found in the town of Odessa, associated with dark clays, evidently of Sarmatian age, at a depth of 160 to 170 metres (192 to 557 ft.).

In the district of and at the town of Tiraspol, a boring near the waterworks met with brown coal among the limestones of the middle Sarmatian at a depth of about 60 metres (197 ft.) Coal occurs at a number of places in the government of Kherson, in Tertiary deposits, varying in age from the Paleogene to the Meotic. In time several beds of the Paleogene may become commercially important, especially those in the districts of Elisabethgrad and Alexandria.

FOREIGN MONEY IN YUGOSLAVIA.

In the House of Commons on November 24 Captain Moreing asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention had been directed to a recent decree of the Serbian Government prohibiting the export from that country of money in excess of the following amounts: French francs, 1,000; English, £30; American, 100 dollars; Swiss francs, 600; with heavy penalties for contravention, and confiscation of any sums in excess of the amounts allowed; and whether he proposed to take any steps to protect British subjects passing through that State, who must of necessity frequently carry sums in excess of the amounts stated above?

The Additional Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs (Sir Hamar Greenwood): His Majesty's Minister at Belgrade has reported that the Serb-Croat-Slovene Government are said to have decided to issue a decree on the lines indicated by the hon. and gallant member. Similar regulations have recently been introduced in other countries, notably in France, and are designed to alleviate difficulties of exchange and currency, which are at the present time acute in the Serb-Croat-Slovene kingdom. No details have yet been received with regard to the decree in question, or the manner in which it will be administered, but further inquiries are being made.

EASIER TRAVEL TO ITALY.

The London office of the Italian State Railways has made arrangements whereby through registration of luggage from London to Modane (frontier station of the Mont Cenis route), via Boulogne and Paris, shall be introduced on and from December 1. This will avoid the delay at the Nord and Lyons stations in Paris in claiming and re-registering baggage, and will enable the connection between the two stations to be made by the Girdle railways, thus obviating the need of crossing Paris by road.

Numerous and important improvements are announced by the Italian State Railways' London office to have taken place in the November timetable of the services to Italy. On the Italian lines there are many accelerations, new expresses and local services; the time-table is fast approaching its pre-war completeness. At the winter resorts in Italy there promises to be quite a revival of the pre-war season. Many English visitors have already arrived there.

FURTHER RISE IN THE RUPEE.

Owing to the continued rise in silver, the Secretary of State for India announces that the *minimum* price for future sales of immediate telegraphic transfers on India will be 2s. 2d. per rupee.

Sir Patrick Geddes is to visit Ceylon to draw up a scheme of town planning for Colombo in connection with the work contemplated by the Board of Improvement.

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Glimpses of Baghdad.

Pre-War Trade Conditions.

(By a Former Resident.)

Prior to the war, most people were wont to think of Baghdad as a mythical city. Others, connecting it vaguely with Haroun al-Raschid and the Thousand and One Nights, would affirm that such a place had actually existed somewhere in Persia, but that it was now merely a heap of ruins covered with the dust and sand blown across the desert in bygone ages.

It was left to comparatively few to know that Baghdad still lay on both banks of the Tigris about 250 miles in a direct line north of the Persian Gulf, with a population of Mohammedans, Jews (of Bible-day stamp), native Christians of every "jarring sect," and a sprinkling of almost every known nationality, totalling some 150,000 souls; and that it was still very much in evidence and of considerable repute in the Middle East, being actually the chief distributing centre for Mesopotamia and Northern Persia, and having a large import and export trade with some of the world's most important markets.

The quickest way to reach Baghdad from the outside world was by river from Busreh, the port lying sixty miles up the Shatt-el-Arab from the Persian Gulf, and at which ocean-going steamers discharged passengers and cargo, and the journey generally took three or four days in a shallow-draught paddle steamer.

On entering Baghdad ten or fifteen years ago one was struck immediately with the fact that here was a city alive with energy, given over entirely to business pursuits. The occasional visitor and globe-trotter found the city and surrounding country full of historical interest, and in the search for relics of the past could spend much profitable time visiting the many old shrines and ruins. Haroun al-Raschid's palace was merely a heap of brickwork jutting into the river on the right bank a few hundred yards below the Bridge of Boats, but other points of interest, such as the Middle Gate (Bâb-el-Tulisman), Zobeida's Tomb, and many ancient mosques were in a splendid state of preservation. A few days' trip west of Baghdad, taking the road to Musseyib, on the Euphrates, thence on to Kerbela and south to Kifil, returning viâ Hillah, would amply repay the sightseer, for on this journey one crossed the beds of famous old canals, viewed the tombs of Abraham, Ezekiel, and many of the prophets, and explored the ruins of the Tower of Babel and Babylon and the once renowned Hanging Gardens.

The native, however, was little concerned with these things. His never-failing interest lay in "feloos" (money), and he searched for it diligently in devious ways almost every waking hour. While resting at a coffee shop he would talk money between inhalations from a narghileh: it was practically the sole topic of conversation during meals, and there is no doubt that thoughts of the elusive piastre were uppermost in his mind even during prayers.

The picturesque, winding bazaars, shaded with coarse straw matting, were places of the greatest animation, filled continually with people buying and selling wares of every description, and the din was terrific and unending. The raucous tones of natives engaged in fierce bargaining, the cries of beggars for alms, the resounding tap, tap, of innumerable hammers beating copper-sheets into pots and pans and like utensils, and the hoarse shouts of muleteers and donkey boys demanding passage for their caravans and loads through the throng, gave one the impression that the native led a life of incessant strife. Only for a few hours at night, after the muezzins had called the faithful to prayer, and for a short spell during the mid-day heat in summer, were the bazaars desolate places, being then inhabited solely by pariah dogs—the scavengers of the East—some sleeping and others raking over the garbage heaps.

The Custom House—a hotbed of bribery—alongside the Bridge of Boats, where the river steamers came to anchor and discharged their cargoes, was packed to suffocation with goods chiefly of European manufacture awaiting distribution by caravan along the roads in every direction, and produce brought from up-country and Persia packed ready for shipment abroad.

On imports going into consumption in Turkish territory an *ad valorem* duty of 8 per cent. (raised to 11 per cent. a few years previous to the war) was levied by the Turkish Customs authorities, while a transit duty of 1 per cent. was payable on goods destined for Persia. As regards the latter duty, merchants were supposed to pay the full 8 per cent. and to obtain a drawback of 7 per cent. on production of certificates signed by the Customs officials at Khanakin—the frontier station—to the effect that the goods specified had actually left Turkish territory, the period allowed for return of these certificates to the Baghdad Customs House being six months from the date of payment of the original duty. It was an understood rule, however, that 1 per cent. only would be accepted by the Baghdad Customs officials provided a payment of 1½ per cent. on the remaining 7 per cent. duty was made as a guarantee of the return of the certificates within the specified period. An export duty of 1 per cent., based on the market value at the time of dispatch down-river for shipment by ocean steamer from Busreh, was, with a few exceptions, levied on the produce of Turkish territory.

At the time of which I write the up-river transport was quite inadequate to cope with the ordinary imports from overseas. A Turkish company owned three or four small river steamers, but they were generally in a state of appalling disrepair, and made most irregular trips, their arrivals and departures being regarded by the natives purely as an act of God. Apart from these comparative derelicts and small native craft, which took weeks and months on the journey from Busreh—being towed most of the way by Arabs chanting continuously in low, monotonous tones—there were two paddle-steamers—the "Mejidieh" and "Khalifah," owned by a British concern, the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company, who ran these boats by virtue of the only concession given by the Turks to a foreign Power, the Tigris being otherwise a closed river.

During the summer months the river fell to a very low level, and necessitated the steamers carrying small cargoes to avoid grounding on the many sandbanks, with the prospect of a long stay there, and consequently congestion would start in the Busreh Customs House and docks. The delay in getting goods up-river—merchandise has been known to lie at Busreh for over six months awaiting up-river shipment—and the consequent loss of the season's markets and accumulating interest and other charges, became at times worse than intolerable; but the Turks, apart from allowing the British company—after superhuman efforts on their part—to tow light barges with a carrying capacity of about 100 tons, did nothing to relieve the situation.

Several important British concerns with headquarters in London were actively engaged in general merchants' business in Baghdad, and there were a few native firms who had their own branches in London and Manchester. There was also a German firm, trading chiefly in imports of German manufacture, such as aniline dyes (for export to Persia) and small fancy goods, in the shape of cheap glassware, beads and the like, and exporting wool, skins and intestines.

Practically all business was transacted by means of bargaining, important sales being generally very protracted, and sometimes taking days to complete. It was the unfailing custom for a broker, nearly always a Jew, to act between buyer and seller, and he was made the butt for every vile epithet by both parties during the bargaining. The Jews spent their lives in an atmosphere of curses, and, consequently, were eminently fitted to the rôle of broker.

(*To be concluded.*)

ARMENIANS AND NEW COMPANIES.

In the House of Commons on November 19 Sir H. Nield asked the President of the Board of Trade whether, pending the exchange of the Peace Treaty with Turkey, directions would be given to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies to approve Armenians and other emancipated nationalities as non-enemy subjects to admit of their becoming signatories to memoranda and articles of association tendered for registration; and whether he was aware that difficulties were being raised and obstacles put in the way by officials in Government Departments whenever it was sought to advance the interests of British commerce in the new independent States created by the Treaty of Peace?

Mr. Bridgeman: Section 10 of the Trading with the Enemy Amendment Act, 1916, provides that where on an application for the registration of a company it appears to the registrar that any subscriber of the memorandum of association of the company is an enemy subject he may refuse to register the company. I have ascertained that in a recent case the Registrar has refused to register a company on the ground that one of the signatories to the memorandum and articles of association was an Armenian. In this particular case the circumstances may be such that registration should be permitted, and I am in communication with the Registrar on the matter.

The Eastern Telegraph Company announce that owing to the accumulation of traffic caused by interruptions of main line cables, they cannot satisfactorily cope with the increasing number of messages handed to them by the public. They again urge the public, in their own interests, to reduce the number and limit the length of their telegrams as much as possible.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the eleven days ended October 31 amounted to £E16,910, making the total from the commencement of the year £E175,327. The corresponding figures for 1918 were £E15,375 and £E191,441.

A petition has been presented to His Majesty in Council by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company praying for the grant of a supplemental charter, and, His Majesty having referred the petition to a Committee of the Lords of the Council, all petitions for or against such grant should be delivered at the Privy Council Office on or before December 24.

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YUGOSLAV CURRENCY.

New Dinar Notes.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, November 17.

The currency problem continues to concern everybody. The Government and municipality now accept payments in dinars only, at least in the old territories. The krone has now fallen to the value of 25 paras, or four to the dinar; consequently, kronen are now being refused in the shops and in the market and by the peasants in the villages, and there is as a result a tremendous demand for small change in the dinar currency, which is extremely scarce; in fact, almost unobtainable. To facilitate small purchases the municipality are going to issue very soon paper notes for one dinar and fifty paras, which will replace the small and usually filthy krone note, of which there is abundance. All kronen are shortly to be specially stamped, which should relieve the bewildered foreigner of the danger of finding his pockets filled with Austrian and Hungarian notes improperly stamped, which no one will accept. Smugglers are bringing in huge quantities of these notes. The police arrested at Zemun the other day a woman rejoicing in the very un-Serbian name of Katie Samuel, who had in her possession 1,800,000 kronen, of which 1,450,000 were bad. It is hoped that the kronen currency will soon be definitely replaced by the new dinar notes, engraved in Paris, Zagreb and Prague. There are said to be 500 million dinars' worth of these ready, but this is insufficient. There is difficulty in bringing the notes from Paris, as the Italian Government declines to consent to their passage through their territory, so they will have to come by sea. Meanwhile, the exchange is steadily falling. One of the regulations adopted to prevent this is the prohibition of the export of foreign paper money; no one may now take out of the country paper money to the value of over 1,000 French francs, 100 dollars, American, or £30.

There has been a good deal of discussion in the papers lately about a large consignment of boots and clothing which the Salvation Army have brought out to sell at cost price to the poor and needy. Apparently the late Government promised that these goods should come in duty free, but they have been held up for many weeks by the present Government insisting upon duty being paid. It justified its attitude by stating that a memorial had been submitted by 300 Serbian tradesmen objecting to this special privilege being granted on the grounds of unfair competition. The goods are now being distributed, as a compromise has been arrived at on the question of duty.

MALTA NOTES.

Excess Profits Duty.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, November 19.

Local discussion centres round the prospect of an excess profits duty, the reason why this has come into prominence being the fact that a great many of our local merchants have made substantial profits during the war. The Chamber of Commerce has submitted a memorandum to the Governor in regard to the proposed duty. Their main contentions against the duty may be summarised as follows:—The duty, the Chamber states, would be inequitable, this view being based on the fact that the duty ought not to be retrospective, since the profits that have been made have been merged into the owners' capital and have been beneficially used. This opinion is not the prevailing one by any means. The Chamber argues, however, that if capital is to be taxed there ought to be no exceptions. It is further maintained that if the law had been proposed some time ago the choice would have been left open to merchants either to take the risk attendant upon trading or to invest their capital in State Loans. It is also argued that the Bill will have a deterrent effect upon the investment of capital in local industries, as capitalists would hesitate to take an interest in an undertaking on which unforeseen demands might be made in the future. Unfortunately, it is well known that Malta capitalists have been singularly backward in the past in supporting local industry; in fact, this lack of enterprise has been one of the causes of the present unsatisfactory economic position on the island. The Chamber takes the view that the present is a very inappropriate time for the introduction of the tax. There is, of course, no question that a mistake was made in not introducing the tax earlier. But while making every allowance for the objections raised to the tax, the fact remains that the finances of the Island are in an extremely critical position, and it is very obvious that new fields of taxation will have to be explored.

The Indian Tea Association have decided to inform the Colombo Tea Trades Association that they do not propose to send samples or participate in any way in connection with the International Tea Congress, which is to be held in Batavia in 1921.

Bulgaria's exports during September were valued at 50,830.758 leva, while her imports were valued at 67,618,720 leva. For the first nine months of the year the exports amount to 155 825,691 leva, and imports to 319,072,923.

LIVING IN CYPRUS.

(From a Correspondent.)

While the cost of living continues to disturb the public mind, Cyprus may still congratulate itself on faring far better than most neighbouring countries. The island has done uncommonly well during the war, and the currency is in a satisfactory condition. Some time ago a Turk coming from Constantinople related that bread there cost 60 piastres an oke, and a suit of clothes £25. The latter figure might indeed be quadrupled and stated as £T100 in Turkish paper money. At Famagusta, which used to be one of the cheapest districts, Government officials of all departments have now established a co-operative society of "officials and others," which has been for some time in contemplation. A board of directors and a supervising committee have been elected, the Turkish community being represented on both. They are starting with a bakery, and will proceed at once to the establishment of a general store for articles of consumption. Great interest is being taken locally, and the success of the enterprise is regarded as assured.

At Limassol prices have always been from 30 to 40 per cent. higher than in other districts. The reason generally given for this state of things, which remains unchanged, is the comparative "wealth" of the district, owing to its productive powers in wine and carobs.

Nicosia's Lighting Problem.

At Nicosia, amongst the difficulties arising out of increased prices of all articles, the electric lighting of the city has been threatening to be a source of trouble for some time. The contracting company has all along done its best to carry out its engagements with the municipality, but has had to face many difficulties. The cost of petroleum and all appliances is so great that unless the municipality agrees to some further modification of the terms, already to some extent relaxed, the capital runs the risk of a stoppage of the supply. The general opinion seems to be in favour of further concessions and a reduction in the number of lights, in view of the unforeseen obstacles that interfere with the strict carrying out of the company's obligations.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended November 13 were:—Cattle markets, £1,087; general markets, £611; total, £1,698; total for year, £50,442. The figures for the corresponding week in 1918 ended November 14 were:—Cattle markets, £853; general markets, £504; total, £1,357; total for year £45,987.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants and Sultanas.

The distribution of dried fruit is proceeding, and retailers have already received considerable supplies.

Coffee.

At auction this week, 4,669 packages were offered; the demand was, however, moderate. East Indian medium greenish realised 135s. 6d. for export, while bold greenish for home consumption made 137s. to 139s. Costa Rica bold greenish for home consumption was done at 149s., while peaberry ranged from 142s. to 148s. 6d. The future market has been quiet. Quotations: December, 123s.; March, 118s. 3d.; May, 114s. 3d.; July, 111s. 6d.; September, 110s.

Sugar.

Business has been very brisk, traders being anxious to get sugar before December 27. In consequence of the demand prices are high, 115s. being asked for special Mauritius and Java white, 100s. for West Indian crystallised, and 66s. for yellow crystals.

Messrs. Willett and Gray estimate the world's sugar crop for the 1919-20 season at 16,600,000 tons, an increase of 279,346 tons on the previous twelve months. Advices regarding the cane crop in general continue to be favourable. An increase of at least 300,000 tons is expected in Cuba, and of 500,000 tons in India.

Oilseeds, etc.

Linseed has been firm, and prices have advanced. Calcutta-London, November-December, is quoted 51s. Rapeseed has also been firm. Tofia has been done at 43s. and Jamba at 33s. There has been little doing in cottonseed, though prices have been maintained. Egyptian cottonseed is quoted 21s. to 23s., while Indian has been done at 16s. The imports for the past ten months include 2,600,000 cwts. of linseed, 311,000 cwts. of rapeseed, and 48,000 tons of soya beans.

Oilcakes, etc.

Linseed cake has come to business at 24s. to 25s., while cottonseed cake has been done at 18s. to 19s. Other transactions include coconut cake at 22s. to 22s. 6d., groundnut cake at 22s. to 23s., soya bean cake at 25s., and rapeseed cake at 18s. to 19s. The imports for the ten months include 171,000 tons of cottonseed cake and 61,000 tons of linseed cake.

Linseed oil has been firm at 99s. to 100s. Rapeseed oil is 103s., while Egyptian has been done at 93s. and Indian at 84s.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended November 15:—

The sales of opium this week on our market amount to 58 cases, at prices ranging from 16s. to 20s. per lb. c.i.f. port of destination. Some of the above goods, which changed hands at 20s., being pure, unadulterated gum, bright colour, and soft elastic paste, have given on analysis over 14 per cent. of anhydrous morphine. This class of opium we recommend as cheaper than the druggist manufacturing qualities, owing to their superior morphia strength, and easier to work. Exchange for sterling and dollars is stationary at Ps.335 per £ sterling, and $1.25 per Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 970 cases, against 67 at the same date last year.

Lord Allenby has issued a proclamation removing the restrictions on the exportation of cotton seed.

The ruby mines in Burma produced an output of the value of £53,297 in 1918, as against £61,529 in 1917.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in October:—

Cotton.

The weather has been on the whole favourable to the late bolls. The attack of the pink boll worm is decidedly lighter than in the last three years. The first picking was completed early in October, and the second is now practically over except in the northern areas of the Delta. Picking is being as a rule very carefully made owing to the high value of cotton. Cotton sticks have already been pulled up on a large scale in most provinces, and this work continues to progress rapidly. The results of the picking are not uniform; in certain provinces the yield is reported to be slightly better and in others worse than last year. The available ginning out-turns up to date are practically similar to those of last year in Lower Egypt, being 99.61 for Sakellaridis, as compared with 99.74. The Ashmouni outturn is, however, slightly better, being 106.89, as compared with 104.55.

Maize (Nili).

The weather has been favourable to the growth of the maize, especially to the late-sown crop. Water supply sufficient. The early crop is being cut. The stalk-borer was noticed in various provinces. A satisfactory yield is expected in Middle and Upper Egypt, but the condition of the crop is somewhat below the average in Lower Egypt.

Millet (Nili).

Weather favourable and water supply ample. The crop is healthy and promises well.

Rice (Sêfi).

Weather favourable and water supply sufficient. Harvesting and thrashing early-sown crop are now general. The crop is a little below the average at Beheira and Gharbiya.

Rice (Nili).

The crop is progressing satisfactorily, and an average yield is expected. Harvesting is taking place in the early-sown fields.

Sugar Cane.

Weather favourable and water supply ample. The crop is healthy and promises well. Some cultivators began cutting the canes for local consumption. The stalk-borer was noticed in several provinces, but the damage done is negligible.

Ground Nuts.

Harvesting has started, and expectations point to an average crop.

Bersim.

Weather on the whole favourable and water supply sufficient. Sowing is still in progress. The early-sown crop has germinated well, but a good deal has been destroyed by cut-worm and cotton-worm, necessitating resowing.

HIGH PRICES AT MALTA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, November 13.

A Government notice compelling local tradesmen to mark their goods in plain figures has had a good effect. This practice has been practically unknown before in Malta. An instance of the effect of the notice is provided in the case of boots, a pair which, on Saturday night, were priced at £1 17s. 6d., and were obtainable on the following Monday at £1 5s.!

POSITION AT ODESSA.

The Acting British Consul-General at Odessa reports as follows on the position there:—Foreign trade is practically at a standstill, but efforts are being made to obtain Government sanction for export. Good order is maintained. Railway services are still naturally much disorganised and Black Sea steamship sailings irregular. There is no objection to the return to Odessa of British subjects at their own risk, provided they clearly understand that owing to shortage of fuel the town will probably be without heat and light this winter; unless certain of employment, however, they should not do so.

THE WORLD'S CROPS.

The Board of Agriculture has received the following information from the International Agricultural Institute at Rome:—

The production of wheat in Spain, France, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Roumania, Switzerland, Canada, the United States, British India, Japan, and Tunis in 1919 is estimated at 1,095,130,000 cwts., or 6.5 per cent. below last year's production and 3.5 per cent. below the average production of the five years 1913-17.

The production of rye in Spain, France, Italy, Netherlands, Roumania, Switzerland, Canada, and the United States is estimated at 84,707,000 cwts., or 4.1 per cent. below last year's production, but 24 per cent. above the average production of the years 1913-17.

The production of barley in Spain, France, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Roumania, Switzerland, Canada, the United States, Japan, and Tunis is estimated at 235,753,000 cwts.

The production of oats in Spain, France, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Roumania, Switzerland, Canada, the United States, Japan, and Tunis is estimated at 595,939,000 cwts., or 16.2 per cent. below the 1918 production and 9.7 per cent. below the average production of the five years 1913-17.

The production of maize in Spain, Italy, Roumania, Switzerland, Canada, the United States is estimated at 1,563,097,000 cwts., or 14.8 per cent. above last year's production and 4.4 per cent. above the average production of the years 1913-17.

The production of linseed in Italy, Roumania, Canada, the United States, British India, Japan, and Tunis is estimated at 13,246,000 cwts., or 38.1 per cent. below last year's production and 39.1 per cent. below the average production of the year 1913-17.

The potato crop in Scotland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Canada, and the United States is estimated at 325,517,000 cwts., or 12.1 per cent. below last year's production and 1.2 per cent. above the average productions of the years 1913-17.

The production of sugar-beet in Spain, Netherlands, Switzerland, Canada, and the United States is estimated at 184,710,000 cwts., or 25.9 per cent. above last year's production and 14.8 per cent. above the average production of the years 1913-17.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated November 19:—

Rain general in Burma, North-Eastern and Southern India.

Recent sowings possibly damaged parts Madras by excessive rain. During the week ending Saturday, November 8, sowing spring crops and harvesting autumn crops continued. Harvesting paddy continued Bengal, Orissa, Chota-Nagpur and in Southern India. Commenced parts Lower Burma. Sowings continued Madras. More rain required parts Bihar and Orissa and for crop on high lands Bengal. Plucking tea continued Assam. Cotton picking continued Burma, Assam, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, North-Western Frontier Province, parts Central India and parts Bombay. General crop conditions good.

Bombay cotton market irregular. Fully good Broach April-May, Rs. 552. Piece goods market quieter with encouraging demand and steady prices. Calcutta jute gunny markets inactive.

No change in Bank Rates.

RELIEF WORK IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram, received from the Viceroy:—Revenue and Agriculture Department, dated November 21:—"Our telegram dated November 14. Several relief camps were closed in Hyderabad, where number on relief decreasing. Numbers relieved: Bihar and Orissa.—Works, 70; gratuitous, 26,111. Feudatory States of Orissa.—Works, 2,626; gratuitous, 602. Central India.—Works, 3,400; gratuitous, 4,700. Hyderabad.—Works, 12,000; gratuitous, 11,000. Madras (incomplete figures).—Works, 49,337; gratuitous, 74,432."

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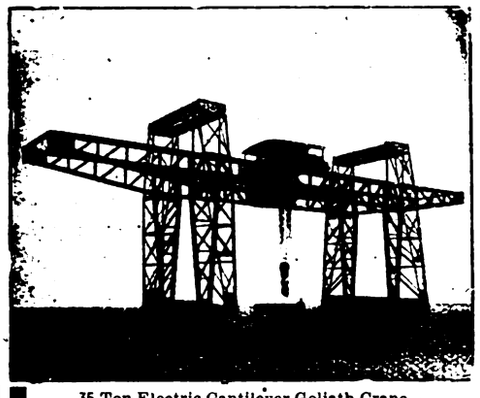

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Engineering.

MOTOR SHOW REFLECTIONS.
II.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

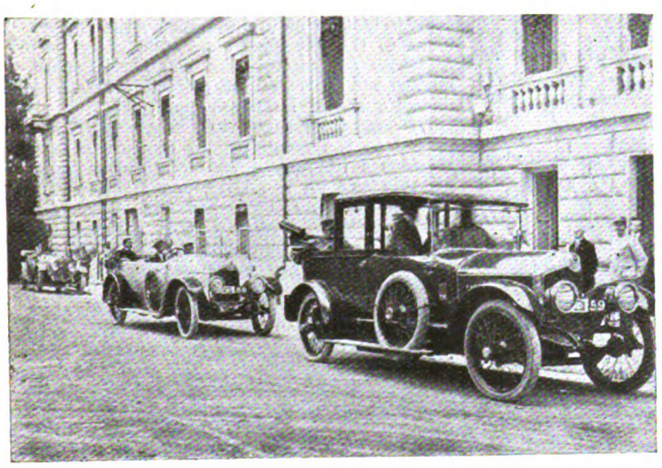
Before the show I was privileged to try out several of the exhibition models, had an opportunity of examining large numbers of blue prints, and was able to discuss matters of chassis and engine construction with a number of makers, and from all this it was easy to see that the days of unscientific design are over so far as the British motor industry is concerned. Buyers may take it that no maker has changed his design or added anything to his car equipment unless he has been honestly convinced, as a result of continued study and experiment, that he has improved his car by so doing. Any feature adopted which differs from pre-war practice has the soundest of reasons for its adoption, and has been the subject of much study and experiment.

As regards smaller details, marked improvement has taken place in ignition, and the foreign-made magnetos so largely used before the war have been replaced by neat, compact, and highly efficient and beautifully finished instruments made throughout in British shops. Although all of these are good, perhaps I may be permitted here to mention a personal liking for the C.A.V. magneto, which I have found to give results little short of amazing. Sparking plugs also are improved, and the detachable type, in which every part of the plug can be laid bare for cleaning, repair, and adjustment, were very largely in evidence. The standard equipment of most of the British cars comprised such items as wind screens, a very large number of which were of Triplex glass, spare wheels and tyres, lamps, electric lighting sets, and mechanically or electrically operated warning devices. Most of these were formerly "extras," and this fact must be taken into due account when comparing the prices of present-day with pre-war models.

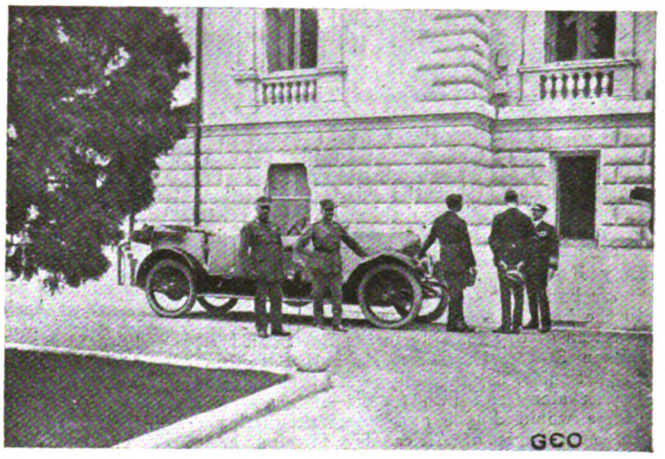
Coming more particularly to the actual exhibits, it was noticeable that they could all, so far as cars and chassis were concerned, be divided broadly into three classes, of light, medium, and heavy cars. Before the war every maker seemed to feel it incumbent upon him to turn out a bewildering variety of models, amongst which selection was a far from easy matter. Now, however, the short time at their disposal between the reorganising of their works and the commencement of peace production has compelled them to specialise, and there is no doubt that this is a step in the right direction. We have now, for instance, the high-class car, heavily engined with six or eight-cylindered power units, which embody every refinement and luxury known to the trade. We have the medium-powered touring cars, principally four or five seaters, which are magnificent models of British engineering work, and which are produced in such a way that the costs are cut down to the lowest figure without sacrifice of strength of materials, and which can consequently be placed on the market at prices which bring them within the reach of that large section of the motoring world who, whilst desiring to possess a high-class car, yet have to study cost a little more closely than those to whom money is no object.

And here in this show we have had for the first time what is known in trade circles as the production car; that is, the car which is being turned out by the thousands, each model precisely like another, cars made on a scale large enough to bring the standing charges proportion placed on each to merely a fraction of the amount that would have to be placed upon each were the production on the old pre-war scale. These cars are intentionally built in such a way as shall enable them to be sold at a price little if any greater, and in some instances appreciably smaller, than would be paid for an American quantity-production car of the same power, but with less perfect finish. In this class of car every component part is made to scale, and machined and finished literally by the thousand. Practically every part of the production is machine-made, and a host of automatic and machine tools are employed in turning out engine parts, frames, valves, springs, and the very bolts and nuts with which they are put together.

From an analysis I made of the show, I judged that there were about seventy types of car offered at a price of £500 or thereabouts, and in view of the reduced value of money to-day as against pre-war standard, it will be seen that the actual hard cash prices asked to-day are really not in excess of—in many instances they are below—the prices we were accustomed to before the war. It is particularly interesting to note, as I pointed out recently, that there were no foreign exhibits at Olympia selling at below £200. On the other hand, there were quite a number of fine British light cars offered at or below that price, and a really creditable production can be obtained for about £115—a fact which is in itself sufficient answer to those critics who said that our industry would be swamped by cheap foreign manufactures, and that we were quite unable to turn out a car at a competitive price.



The Start from the Palace.



King Alexander of Greece (in naval uniform) drove to the opening of the Athens Exhibition in a Crossley Motor Car.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

Presses for the Near East.

Presses for various purposes are very extensively used throughout the East, especially in the Near East and in districts where oils, wine, cotton, flax, and other similar fibres or wool, hides, etc., are produced and exported. In the Near East particularly the possession of a press is regarded as a very valuable asset to the grower or to the export merchant. But whilst hydraulic and other mechanical presses have been introduced in that region during recent years, their heavy weight is an impediment to their employment in hilly districts, where, owing to the lack of proper roads, everything has to be carried on the backs of mules or horses. The possibility, therefore, of being able to transport by such means efficient and powerful presses will be of great interest to many proprietors who are compelled to use wooden presses of an archaic design and local construction. We refer to a press which has recently been shown at an exhibition, and which was almost entirely made of mild rolled steel, only very few parts being cast iron. The risk of breakage is thus reduced to a minimum. The mechanism is very simple, but scientifically designed on the most correct principles to give a gradually but enormously increasing pressure while keeping the motive power almost constant. The press requires no skilled attention, and can be driven by hand power, animal power, or by means of a belt from any prime mover, such as steam, gas or oil engine, electric motor, or water-wheel. The machine is worked by turning a winch close, or attached to it, which winds in a wire rope and pulls a combination of levers together, thereby pressing down the platen. There is a knock-off arrangement which automatically stops the winch directly the platen reaches the required point, and applies a brake that holds it as may be desired. In this type of press there is, apparently, no "slip-back," as often happens with hydraulic presses. When the pressure is no longer needed the brake is released and the press returns to its initial position automatically. This press is built in various sizes and capacities to suit all kinds of produce, whilst a noteworthy feature is its portability. If the makers of this or similar types of presses will cater for the requirements of olive growers and oil mill owners in the Near East they will secure a good market.

Wireless Telephone Sets.

A group of seafaring men from the Eastern Mediterranean were specially attracted at the recent Shipping and Engineering Exhibition at Olympia by the wireless telephone sets and the wireless direction finder. One

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of them, a sturdy captain, was relating to others how once he was sent down by a U-boat with his ship, which had no wireless instrument, and how more than five times he escaped U-boats and floating mines by the help of the wireless instruments which his other ship had. It could be seen that the listeners were much impressed, and their opinion that the owners should be pressed to have these wonderful instruments in every ship, was the result of a very long examination of the apparatus. There was a 1½ kw. (2-h.p.) ship installation with emergency set. It represented the wireless equipment of a modern liner. Demonstrations were given showing the musical spark discharger, which is a great advantage to the operator at the distance receiving station. With aerials approximately 90 ft. above sea level, vessels so fitted can communicate with each other during the day up to distances of 250 miles. At night this range is easily doubled. The emergency set is an auxiliary installation by means of which the operator can "carry on" in the event of the failure of the ship's electric supply.

A short-range wireless telephone set was also shown. Rated at 20 watts, and weighing only 40 lb., this set, when used with an aerial 70 ft. long and 30 ft. high, has a range of ten miles. Under favourable conditions this may be greatly exceeded. The wireless direction finder was very interesting. This instrument indicates the direction of a sending station; and is applicable to aerial navigation. Its usefulness in this direction has been abundantly proved during the war in the guidance of aeroplane forces towards their objective at night and in determining their position when in doubt. The set has a working range of some 200 to 300 miles when used in conjunction with normal lower-power coast stations, and a considerably greater range when higher powers are used. It is worthy of note that the wireless direction finder provides the only known means of taking bearings in thick weather; hence it is essential to navigation by sea or air.

Dry Farming.

We had occasion in previous notes to refer to the benefits that would be derived by the adaption of dry farming in the East. In the Balkan States, Greece, Syria and Palestine in particular, dry farming would turn almost barren stony soil into fertile land, and in others would double and treble production. In some parts of Africa dry farming has been successfully adopted, and recently in France the system is reported to have been seriously considered by farmers and others. An interesting experiment in dry farming was recently carried out by a proprietor and professor of agriculture, who has gathered in crops of wheat cultivated on a farm near Carcassonne. On account of the poor quality of the stony soil this land was abandoned for many years, and it, therefore, offered an excellent field for experiment, and more so because this part of the country is particularly dry and very little wheat is grown. By spacing the drills 13 inches apart, and distributing half the usual quantity of seed, the professor provided for a sparse cultivation, so that by a subsequent process of superficial tillage the seed bed was well aerated, and the humidity was preserved in the soil. The seed being sown at the end of August, a first hoeing took place when the grain reached a height of 6 to 8 inches. In the spring there were two other hoeing operations, and later on the soil was earthed up round the roots. The results were so good that whereas the average yield in the district is from 6½ to 8 cwt., the professor was able to obtain on his farm 25 cwt. per acre. These remarkable results were obtained under conditions specially favourable to dry farming, and it has still to be seen whether the increased yield pays for the additional expense of superficial tillage. Obviously, this system of cultivation is out of the question if the work has to be done by manual labour, which is both scarce and exceedingly dear. The only hope for dry farming in Europe, and especially in the Near East, lies in the employment of motor tillage, preferably with such appliances as motor hoes or small rotary machines. Having shown what can be done with dry farming on poor land, in a region where the rainfall is insufficient, the professor is now preparing to carry out a similar experiment in another district, where the soil is prolific and the crops are amongst the heaviest in France.

Yugoslav Railways.

The Traffic Ministry intends entirely to reorganise railway traffic throughout Yugoslavia. Locomotives and wagons will be provided, the requisite number of normal-gauge lines will be built, and all narrow-gauge lines will be turned into normal. French and American engineers and traffic experts will be employed in addition to home experts. It has been decided, also, to resume marine and river shipping and to provide the necessary means of transport. It is noteworthy that, in spite of what has happened since 1914, and the evident preference that is given to French and American engineers and experts, German bagmen, railway experts, and manufacturers were, it is said, the first to appear on the scene and offer their services.

Sugar in the East.

The heavy decline in the production of sugar through the war induced first France and recently other countries to seek new sources of sugar supply, and in this connection valuable assistance has been rendered during the past year by the Agricultural Department of the United States in the way of experimenting with the production of sugar from maize and sorgo. It has been found that the weight of sugar from an acre of maize is superior to what is obtainable from an acre of beet, and considering that the maize crop requires far less attention, not to speak of the fact that its preliminary cultivation is much less costly, the discovery is most important.

Maize and a great deal of sorgo are grown in all the southern parts of Europe, and in the Near East, and particularly in Greece, Serbia, Roumania, Bulgaria, Southern Russia, Syria, and Egypt, and crops of both kinds are raised so easily and cheaply that there seems every probability of the Near East becoming a great source of sugar supply in the future. As there is often a discrepancy regarding the identity of these two kinds of cereals, it may be added here that maize is what is commonly known in this country as Indian corn, and in the Near East as Arabian corn or *Kahlabohchi*, Turkish *misirbughdayi*, and Serbian *kukuruz;* whilst sorgo is commonly known as millet, and in the Near East as Kelchri. Great quantities of the latter are used in the East for feeding cattle and poultry, but it is also made into cakes, or boiled, and eaten by the poorer classes of peasantry.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN ROUMANIA

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest states that all kinds of builders' materials—i.e., window glass of different thicknesses, roofing material, steel and ironware, ironmongery, door knobs, hinges, locks and keys, taps, and all smaller articles used in building work—are required in Roumania, and that there is also a large demand for rice, sugar, and colonial produce.

It is understood that Roumanian firms would be prepared to act as the agents of British manufacturers and merchants for the sale of such goods on a commercial basis, the commission being included in the price fixed by the British suppliers.

Prices should be quoted c.i.f. Roumanian port, if possible in lei. Should the sellers wish payment to be made in sterling it could probably be arranged for a deposit of Roumanian bonds to be made in any named bank to cover the amount of the purchase until it is possible to negotiate the necessary exchange. During this interval the purchasers would undertake to pay the usual current interest in London on the sum due. This would be achieved by the interest on the bonds and any additional payment necessary. It is understood that Roumanian bonds pay 5 per cent. interest, and it is stated that this would presumably mean 1 per cent. in addition from the buyers. A considerable volume of business is already reported to have been done on somewhat similar terms.

A fortune valued at £297,459 gross, with net personalty £285,900 has been left by Mr. Charles Grant du Croz, of 5, Queen Street, Mayfair, W., and of Courtlands, West Hoathby, Sussex, late of Messrs. du Croz Doxat and Co., wool brokers, of 2, Moorgate Street Buildings, E.C., a director of the Hyderabad (Deccan) Co., Ltd.

SUGAR CULTIVATION IN CEYLON.

A report has been presented by a special Sugar Committee of the Ceylon Agricultural Society recommending the establishment of sugar cultivation on the island. It is considered that the success of the proposal depends entirely upon the amount of assistance the Government will give. That there are immense possibilities in the way of sugar cultivation in Ceylon, either from the palmyra palm or from the cane, is generally admitted. Private enterprise has, however, lost heavily in the past and therefore there is a desire for Government support by means of land concessions, cheap loans, etc. The Sugar Committee recommend:—(1) In order to ascertain whether improvements can be effected in the preparation of local jaggery, two sets of pans of improved types should be secured from India and erected in central places in Jaffna, and in the Central Western or Southern Provinces. These pans should be worked experimentally at the beginning, and later leased to registered co-operative societies or individuals on lines similar to those adopted in Madras and Mysore; (2) That an improved mill and set of pans should be erected in the Kalupahana cane-growing area with a view to improving the output from that area and with the object of securing reliable figures for future work; (3) That experimental cultivation of sugar-cane under tank irrigation be undertaken by the Government in the dry zone on a sufficiently large scale to demonstrate its commercial possibilities and to warrant the erection of a small power mill and improved pans; (4) That the Government be asked to make enquiries in regard to the possibility of erecting a small modern mill for sugar manufacture on a suitable site on the Ginganga river, with a view to reviving the industry that has died out from that locality. It is possible that there are over 600 acres of owiti lands in this area suited to sugar-cane cultivation, of which some 400 acres could be cropped annually. If a sufficient guarantee could be obtained for the cultivation of a definite area under sugar-cane annually, the erection of a small factory on a co-operative basis would be warranted. The peasants along the banks of the Ginganga are used to the cultivation of sugar cane and understand its cultural requirements. With encouragement, it is felt that the industry can be revived, and, despite the present high cost of machinery, should prove to be a commercial success; (5) That Government be asked to favour the cultivation of sugar-cane within the colony as far as possible and to consider the possibility of granting loans on easy terms for the erection of the necessary factories—large or small. It is urged that these loans should be for fairly long periods, and with low rates of interest. In Mysore the Government, in order to encourage sisal cultivation, are offering, when a sufficient acreage has been taken up and planted with sisal, either to erect factories on Government account or on a co-operative purchase system. Arrangements on similar lines for sugar cultivation in this colony would undoubtedly provide that stimulus which is essential for development; (6) That Government be asked if it could specify the terms under which it would be prepared to lease lands for sugar-cane cultivation under tanks in the drier zones of the colony. It is thought that capital could be interested in sugar cultivation at the present time: and if leases were given on a sufficiently large scale and with a sufficient guarantee, development would be possible. It is thought that a rotation of crops could be carried out, and that it might be stipulated that at least one-half of the area leased to any company or individual under irrigation works for sugar cultivation should be cultivated annually with paddy or other food crops.

Mr. John Slater, of Messrs. John Slater, Ltd., shipowners, and chairman of Amalgamated Industrials, Ltd., has joined the board of Anglo-Baltic and Mediterranean Bank, Ltd.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, C.S.I., is to read a paper on "Motor Transport in India" before the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts after Christmas, while Sir G. C. Buchanan, K.C.I.E., M.I.C.E., is to read one on "The Ports of India: Their Administration and Development."

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Johnston Line s.s. Cundall, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna and Constantza, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 3.

The Prince Line s.s. Soldier Prince, for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria, Jaffa, Beyrout and Haifa direct, taking cargo for Tripoli (Syria), Latakia, Alexandretta, Mersina and Cyprus ports, with option of transhipment at Alexandria, will close for cargo at Manchester on December 5.

The Cunard Line s.s. Sea Serpent, for Piræus and Patras, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 6.

The Bibby Line s.s. Oxfordshire will leave Liverpool on December 10 for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon. This company will also have a steamer leaving London for Rangoon next month.

Shipping at Malta.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

MALTA, November 13.

Shipping has been brisk during the past week. The most notable arrivals are the Submarines L2, L6, L19, and L20. The U.S. collier Mars has left for the United States, the transport Gloucester Castle for Marseilles, and the Donovan for Mudros and Constantinople. The latest departures are ss. Algerian Prince, s.s. Austrian for Alexandria, and ss. Austral Brook for Sfax; whilst there have been more movements than usual as regards the Fleet. The quantity and nature of the merchandise show that commerce generally is approaching the normal.

November 19.

The latest shipping movements are:—Arrivals.—S.s. Venetian, from Gibraltar; H.M.S. Bagshot and H.M.S. Banchory, from Constantinople. Sailings.—S.s. Serbino, for Alexandria; H.M.S. Spear and Senator, for sea; and Italian s.s. Etruria for Tripoli. The transport Osiris has arrived from Constantinople with the trawler Aurea, whilst the Himalaya has left for Marseilles, the Trent for Mudros, the Asphodel for Naples, and the Tribune for Alexandria.

Shipping Notes.

The launch took place on March 20, from the Wear shipyard of Messrs. William Gray and Co., Ltd., of a cargo steamer built to the order of the British India Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. The vessel, which is 8,200 tons d.w., is of the "B" Standard type, and has been modified to suit the owners' particular trade. The vessel is fitted with triple expansion engines, built by the Central Marine Engine Works, West Hartlepool, and will work under Howden's Forced Draught of 180 lb. pressure. This is the third vessel launched from the new Wear shipyard for the British India Steam Navigation Co.

There was launched from the Wallsend shipyard of Messrs. Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson, Ltd., the s.s. Kidderpore, which was designed as a "B" Standard ship for the Shipping Controller, and then considerably altered to suit the requirements of the Eastern trade of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., who acquired the ship from the Government. This vessel is designed to carry 8,250 tons d.w., and has been built under Bureau Veritas and Lloyd's survey. The engines and boilers are being constructed at the Neptune Works of Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson, Ltd., the main engines being of the direct acting reciprocating type with triple expansion.

H.M. Representative at Tangier reports that a Dahir of the Khalifa of the Spanish zone, published in the *Boletin Oficial* of October 25, promulgates and puts in force a Statute of Competency of the Maritime Service of the zone, copy of which is annexed to the Dahir. The Statute gives wide powers to the Maritime Service in all matters connected with shipping and the shores and the territorial waters of the zone, with the exception apparently of lighthouses and port construction.

The Clan Line have sold their turret deck steamer Clan Fraser to Greek buyers for £145,000. This vessel was built at Sunderland in 1900; she is 2,285 tons net and 3,588 tons gross register.

The s.s. Syrian Prince, which has been built at Sunderland on account of the Prince Line, Ltd, London, proceeded to sea last week on her official trial trip, when both the machinery and the vessel gave entire satisfaction to the owners. The steamer was originally laid down as one of the "C" type of standard steamers, and has been considerably altered to meet the special requirements of the new owners. The principal dimensions are: Length, 342.6 ft. breadth, 46.9½ ft.; depth (moulded), 25.6 ft. giving a d.w. carrying capacity of just under 5,000 tons on a moderate draft of water and being built to fine lines has a steaming capacity of about 11½ knots.

DRAMA-KAVALLA RAILWAY.

An important railway and sea connection is being undertaken by the Greek Government, says an American Consular report. This line will connect up the Salonika-Serres-Constantinople Railway at Drama with the Ægean Sea at Kavalla. At the present time the only outside outlet is in western Thrace, at Dedeagatch, an open roadstead unprotected from the strong southerly winds. The Drama-Kavalla line has been considered a commercial necessity for many years, but under Turkish rule nothing was done. Kavalla is the only important Macedonian port except Salonika, and is the most important tobacco-exporting port in Greece. Drama is a city of approximately 16,000 people, chiefly Greeks and Turks. It is located in a very fertile section, where tobacco and maize are grown easily and profitably. Drama is surrounded by mountains, which furnish a satisfactory water supply. When this new branch is in operation the whole section to Kavalla will develop commercially and agriculturally. Kavalla has a population of approximately 40,000, mostly Greeks. Similar to Dedeagatch, it is exposed directly to the southerly winds, which prevent landing, and usually requires good-sized boats to anchor a mile offshore. Frequently ships are obliged to anchor a few miles west of Kavalla at Lefthera Cove.

An English engineer in charge of the railway survey now being undertaken informs the writer that the right of way will be 43 kilometres (27 miles), compared with 36 kilometres (22.5 miles) by the carriage road. The country is mountainous, which necessitates several tunnels, one of them about 2½ kilometres (1.5 miles) long. The cost of construction will be over twice what it would have been before the war. It is stated that recently the tobacco companies were compelled to pay £60 a ton for tobacco transported on this route by horses or mules. Conditions are now improving.

A conservative estimate would allow at least two years for the completion of this line. Opportunities will exist in Kavalla for harbour, dock, and warehouse improvements, as well as municipal public utility undertakings. The water supply is inadequate. Before the war a French company was planning the installation of an electric light station.

A new bank is to be established in Sofia with the title Banca Commerciale Italiana e Bulgaria.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the two weeks ended November 15 amounted to 9,800,000 francs, as against 3,100,000 francs last year.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Prices Still Rising.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

Prices through the market continue to go against buyers. Numerous spinners and manufacturers are still meeting with more business than they want. Some sellers are adopting the policy of putting up their quotations after each sale. No news of importance has come through relating to the prospects for the Egyptian cotton crop. Demand for the article has been well maintained. In yarns made from Egyptian cotton prices are distinctly dearer on the week. Most producers have nothing to sell. There is much pressure for delivery from users. Gassed yarns are deeply sold. A large inquiry has been reported for the United States. In cloth for Egypt operations have been somewhat irregular. The reports of disturbances on the other side have been rather unsettling, but business has not been at a standstill. For the several outlets of the Levant quite a healthy trade has been done in a variety of goods. Sized materials for India have been rather quieter, but an increasing business has been reported in finishing and printing styles for Calcutta, Bombay, and Karachi. Useful lines continue to be booked for China, Java, and Singapore, especially in bleaching cloths. A fair turnover has been mentioned for South America. In American yarns for home use trading has not been on a very free scale, but prices remain very stiff especially in twists. Bundles have moved off freely for India and China. Extra hard and coarse counts are still wanted for the Levant, but producers require very long delivery terms.

Big Cotton Mill Deal.

There was something approaching a sensation in Manchester trade circles at the end of last week when it was reported that arrangements had been made for the sale of the firm and business of Messrs. Horrockses, Crewdson, and Co., Ltd., cotton spinners and manufacturers, Preston and Bolton. This is the largest private cotton concern in Lancashire, the machinery amounting to about 10,000 looms and 300,000 spindles, with a large warehouse in Manchester. It is understood that the Amalgamated Cotton Mills Trust, Ltd., has made an offer of £6,000,000. The leading people connected with the Trust are Mr. S. B. Joel, of Messrs. Barnato Brothers, London; Mr. James White, the managing director of the Beecham Trust; and Mr. A. L. Ormrod, stockbroker, Manchester, and chairman of the Dunlop Rubber Co. The shareholders have not yet ratified the agreement, and there seems to be some doubt as to whether they will do so. Other deals in cotton mills have also been reported this week. It is stated that a number of local gentlemen have purchased six large mills at Ashton-under-Lyne which in the past have been controlled by practically the same directors. These companies are the Atlas, Ceder, Minerva, Rock, Texas, and Tudor, the total spindleage being about 500,000. The purchase price is said to be £1,500,000. Although inconvenience in Lancashire is not liked by many people, it is contended that until old factories are placed on a new capital basis to meet the changed conditions since 1914, there is no probability of new mills being built, and an extension of production which is badly wanted.

Mr. James Henly Batty has been elected a director of the Eastern Bank.

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COMPANY MEETING.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LTD.

Record Gross Profits.

The thirty-third ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, was held on November 25 at 27, Clement's Lane, London, Mr. R. H. Foà, the chairman, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Geo. H. Soul), having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said that in 1914 he was to have succeeded Mr. H. A. Richardson as chairman of the bank, but the outbreak of the war showed both of them that it would be unwise to change the "hand at the wheel," and Mr. Richardson undertook to continue to pilot the ship until the termination of the war. So soon as the armistice of last year was signed, the Chairman continued, his colleagues and he decided that it was imperative that he should pay visits to all the branches of the bank for which he had time, and he accordingly left Glasgow for Alexandria on January 20. He remained in Alexandria only five days, being desirous of getting to the Sudan and out of it before the hot weather set in. He remained in Khartoum a little more than a week, and found their branch there much appreciated. After mature consideration he determined to open a sub-branch at Port Sudan, which was the port for virtually the whole of the Sudan, and this branch would be working within about a week from now. From Khartoum he returned to Cairo, stopping at the important town of Assiout, where he was most hospitably received by some of the principal inhabitants, who urged him to open a branch there, the centre of the cotton-growing district of Upper Egypt, and orders had now been given to the bank's agent in Cairo to do this. He reached Cairo on March 5, and three days later the troubles in Egypt began, and the railways were cut in many places, thereby making it impossible for him to travel about the country as he had intended. During the upheaval two of their branches were besieged, that at Beni-Souef and that at Fayoum; in both cases their agents escaped with their lives, and without any loss to the bank, though he regretted to say that their agent at Zagazig, Mr. Dahan, who found himself in Cairo when the riot began and unable to return to his post by railway, endeavoured to get back by river, and was found shot and drowned near Zagazig three days later. He remained in Cairo a month, and had much to do there. Lord Allenby was most kind, and, although civilian travelling in Syria and Palestine was much discountenanced, gave him every facility for visiting those countries; in Palestine they were bankers to the Army of Occupation, as they were in Egypt. Before going to Palestine he had been asked by many people, clients of theirs and others, to establish branches of the bank in Syria, and he placed the matter before Lord Allenby, who, entirely out of consideration for the susceptibilities of our French Allies, and absolutely in contradiction to the allegations made in some newspapers, did not wish them to extend their sphere of interest into Syria while it could be said that their expansion was taking place because the country was under temporary British military control. In Jerusalem, Jaffa, and Haifa they had been useful not only to the British Army, but also to the natives of the country, and they had enabled the authorities to help agriculture to some extent. He went as far north as Damascus, and was able to see for himself the extraordinary agricultural possibilities of the plain of the Hauran, and after a further brief stay in Cairo reached London on May 22.

It was not his province to criticize the past or the present administration of Egypt, but he might say that Sir Valentine Chirol's appreciation of conditions in Egypt, as published in *The Times*, seemed to him to be absolutely just. Not only had he himself arrived at the same conclusions as Sir Valentine, but men of far wider experience and more intimate knowledge, with whom he was in frequent touch, had over and over again used the same expressions concerning the Government and the country as appeared over Sir Valentine's name.

Turning to the balance-sheet, the Chairman said that the board had record figures to put before them, and added that these figures related to the most inactive period of the bank's whole year. In immediately realizable securities and cash they had £16,000,000 with which to meet liabilities of £18,000,000—a most satisfactory position. (Hear, hear.) The gross profits of the year's trading amounted to the record figure of £326,000, leaving a net profit, including the amount carried forward from last year, of £180,979 19s. 8d. Last year was marked by the distribution of a large bonus in shares which had been accumulating for some years. He regretted that they could not do this for the shareholders every year, but they had returned to their old custom of paying a handsome dividend of 15 per cent., and of adding thereto a *douceur* of 2½ per cent. in the shape of a bonus, the whole distribution being free of income-tax. They were making the usual addition of £10,000 to the reserve fund, and transferring to the reserve fund for the new premises which they were acquiring in London £22,644 1s. If peace became assured, and Egypt was allowed to work out her destiny under the beneficent and benevolent guidance of England, there would be much more hope of prosperity for the country than if the aspirations for self-government in all directions were gratified. In conclusion, the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Henry A. Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried, and the proposed dividend and bonus were agreed to.

After the transaction of other business the proceedings closed with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff, proposed by Mr. W. H. Skeel and seconded by Mr. Haldin, K.C.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

The report of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company for the year ended March 31 last states that £400,000 debentures maturing on June 15 and £374,900 on August 18, 1918, were paid off by the Secretary of State for India. Capital expenditure during the year was £99,270. The gross earnings have increased by Rs.56,94,256, the increase in working expenses was Rs.45,09,819, so that the net earnings have increased by Rs.11,84,417, or nearly 14 per cent. The net earnings amounted to Rs.3,13,17,280, and the surplus profits to Rs.1,50,49,724. The company's share produced £158,257. Shareholders have received as guaranteed interest for the first half-year £1 15s. and an interim dividend of 15s. per cent., together with a bonus of £1 10s. per cent., less tax. In addition to the second half of the guaranteed interest at £1 15s., less tax at 6s. in the £, the directors recommend a further dividend of ¾ per cent. and bonus of 1½ per cent., both less tax at 4s. 9d. in the £, writing off as depreciation of investment account £10,000. The balance at credit of surplus profits account, at the end of 1919, will be about £222,527, as against £206,263 for the previous year. Meeting, 132, Gresham House, E.C., December 4, noon.

Eila Tea.

The report of the Eila Tea Company of Ceylon for the year ended June 30 last states that the profit, after paying interest on debentures, amounts to Rs.30,749, to which has to be added Rs.14,802 brought forward and Rs.5,367 surplus proceeds of 1917-1918 crop, making Rs.50,919. It is proposed to appropriate this as follows:—Dividend of 6 per cent. on the preference shares, Rs.1,680; dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, Rs.30,000; bonus to superintendents, Rs.1,500, carrying forward Rs.17,739.

Doomoo Tea of Ceylon.

The report of the Doomoo Tea Company of Ceylon for the year ended June 30 last states that the profit amounts to Rs.23,200, which, with Rs.14,989 brought forward and Rs.1,154 surplus proceeds of last season's crop, makes Rs.39,343. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 7½ per cent., carrying forward Rs.7,843.

Egyptian and Foreign Trust.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Egyptian and Foreign Trust, Ltd., is to be held on December 22 to consider the following resolutions: (1) That the capital be increased to £500,000 by the creation of 300,000 additional ordinary shares of £1 each, ranking pari passu with the existing ordinary shares; (2) that the newly created shares be retained by the directors for the purpose of fulfilling the options mentioned below; and (3) that the directors be authorised (a) for the purpose of paying off existing loans and for general purposes to issue £150,000 Six and a-Half per Cent. Debenture stock repayable any time after January 31, 1925, and not later than January 31, 1940, at a premium of 5 per cent. and conferring on the holders an option at any time before January 31, 1925, of conversion into a like amount of ordinary shares of £1 each at par credited as fully paid; and (b) to enter into an agreement with A. Mitchelson and Co. whereby, in return for underwriting £75,000 of the above issue of £150,000 Six and a-Half per Cent. Debenture stock, A. Mitchelson and Co. are given the option, exercisable at any time before January 31, 1925, to take up 150,000 ordinary shares of £1 each at par.

Mocha Tea.

The report for the year to June 30 last states that the profit on year's working, after taking into account Rs.4,185 for loss on exchange, amounts to Rs.1,34,455, to which is added Rs.10,840 surplus on previous season's crop and Rs.3,454 balance brought forward, making Rs.1,48,750, out of which dividend of 10 per cent., absorbing Rs.45,000, was paid in March. Directors recommended final dividend of 20 per cent., making 30 per cent. for year; bonus to superintendents, Rs.1,000; forward, Rs.12,750. Estimates for new season provide for crop of 740,000 lb. tea to cost Rs.2,51,925 (34.04c. per lb.), and 85,000 lb. rubber, to cost Rs.41,000 (48.24c. per lb.).

Vauxhall Rubber of Ceylon.

The report for the year ended June 30 last states that the profit after paying interest on debentures amounts to Rs.33,953, to which is added balance brought forward, Rs.22,107, and surplus proceeds from last season's crop, Rs.3,826, making Rs.59,886. Dividend of 10 per cent. absorbed Rs.35,000, write off preliminary expenses Rs.15,219, depreciation Rs.5,000, forward Rs.4,667.

Suffragam of Ceylon.

The report for the year ended June 30 last states that the profits on the year's working amounted to Rs.255,039, to which has to be added Rs.84,886 brought forward and Rs.19,295 surplus proceeds of last season's crop. Final dividend of 15 per cent. (making 25 per cent. for year); forward Rs.62,483.

Astra Romana.

The report of the Astra Romana Company for 1915 states that the results of the working during that period which ended at a time when the holdings of the company had been invaded by the enemy were better than those of 1914. The profits amounted to 32,549,000 lei, as against 23,563,000 lei in 1914. 9,685,000 lei has been placed to reserve, and a dividend of 125 lei, as against 100 lei for the previous year, has been declared.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS.

A LEADING YUGOSLAV CONCERN wishes to engage a young first-class English Correspondent, introduced in the British trade, to organise and lead its British Department.—Address offers to the Export and Import Company, Ltd., Zagreb (Yugoslavia), Frankopanska ulica 1.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Imports. STAMBOUL, November 8.

The remarkable activity of the preceding week has in no way been relaxed. Good business has been maintained throughout the South Russian ports. During the week, however, there have been some adverse circumstances—for instance, the decline of the rouble, and a violent storm which raged for several days in the Black Sea; but these things have only had a trifling effect on commerce.

Prices have been maintained everywhere in England and in Europe. The recent rise in the price of American cotton at Liverpool has made the position more difficult. New orders are only accepted for delivery in the future, and at prices appreciably higher.

Produce.

The demand for Russia and Roumania still being weak, the colonial produce market has not been at all lively this week. There has been no new arrival, and the prices have remained the same as those quoted last week —i.e., sugar in transit, £64½-£65 per ton; coffee in transit, Ps. 55-57 per oke; petrol per case, £T5.15 to £T5.20, with a tendency to fall.

Exports.

There being a lively demand for export goods, a rather large amount of business has resulted. This would have been even more considerable had it not been for the interruption of traffic on the Eski-Chéhir-Angora line and on the Konia-Kregli line.

Opium.—100 cases were sold during the week at the following prices: Ps. 715-720 per oke, Karahissar druggist, new crop, Ps. 740-750 old crop, Ps. 700-710 second quality and Ps. 900-950 per oke fine (soft). We learn that about 100 cases have likewise been sold at Smyrna. All these sales which have been effected were destined for America and England. The market is firm, with a tendency to rise.

Mohair.—Arrivals, 530 bales; sales, 190 bales; at Ps. 90 per oke, extra quality.

Wool.—Arrivals, 650 bales; sales, 440 bales; at prices varying from Ps. 49 to Ps. 55 per oke.

Silk.—The demand continues brisk, and prices show a new increase at £T15½ to £T16.20 the kilo for Broussa silks. But there is a deficiency in the stock here. Syrian silks are less in demand, the prices being £T10½ to £T11 per kilo.

Cereals.—The arrivals of the week have been fairly important, comprising 150 wagons of wheat, 50 of barley, and 10 sacks of flour. The prices, after various fluctuations, close higher at Ps. 14½ wheat, extra quality (hard and tender); Ps. 13½ first quality, Ps. 12½ Mahlout (mixed), and Ps. 5.50 to Ps. 6 for barley.

Flour.—£T10¼ to £T10⅞ American, sacks of 72 kilo; £T12 to £T12½ native, sacks of 63 kilo.

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Paid-up - £5,000,000

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J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
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Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
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Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

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NEW COMPANIES.

Levant Company (Sudan).

The Levant Company (Sudan), Ltd., was registered as a private company on November 19, with a capital of £50,000 in £1 shares. The objects are to take over the whole or any part of the business, property, assets and liabilities of Blagden and Co., of Khartoum, Sudan, and to carry on the business of brokers, merchants, and commission agents, buyers and sellers of goods of all kinds, exporters and importers of the same from and into the Sudan and elsewhere, etc., and to enter into an agreement between H. R. C. Blagden of the one part and the Levant Company, Ltd. (on behalf of this company), of the other part. The subscribers (each with one share) are: T. F. Scourfield, 76, De Vere Gardens, Ilford, Essex, solicitor's clerk; E. J. Jackson, 78, Prince George's Avenue, Raynes Park, S.W.19, solicitor's clerk; S. A. Boyd, 2, Grange Villas, Carew Road, Mitcham, Surrey, solicitor's clerk. The first directors are to be appointed by the subscribers. Qualification, £100. Solicitors: Norton, Rose, Barrington and Co., 57½, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Burma Shan Company.

The Burma Shan Company, Ltd., was registered as a private company on November 21, with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To acquire any landed property, estates, plantation, forest and other rights in Burma, India, or elsewhere, and to carry on the business of growers, planters, producers, and sellers of and dealers in tea, coffee, cotton, flax, cereals, grain, tobacco, rubber, sessamin, sugar, rice, cinchona, padi, fruit, pepper, silk, bone or other artificial manure, and agricultural and other products, etc., and to enter into an agreement with J. H. Thurston and Sir James G. Scott. The subscribers (each with one share) are: J. H. Thurston, 3, Tokenhouse Buildings, E.C., stockbroker; J. E. Tomkinson, 43, Threadneedle Street, E.C., stockbroker. The first directors are: Sir James G. Scott, K.C.I.E., J. E. Tomkinson, and J. H. Thurston. Solicitors: Benham, Barret, Synnott and Wade, Suffolk House, E.C.

Palestine Oil Industry.

The Palestine Oil Industry "Shemen," Ltd., was registered on November 18 with a capital of £250,000 in £1 shares, to cultivate, manufacture, import, export and deal in all kinds of oil and fat, to engage in the production thereof in Palestine, Syria, the Hejaz and elsewhere; to utilise a process covered by Turkish patents 1869 of February 25, 1911, and March 8, 1911; and to acquire from Ilia Paenson and Mose Wilbushewich an exclusive license to use within the vilayets of Damascus and Beyrout and the mutesseraflik of Jerusalem the patent process and apparatus for converting fatty acids, fats, oils, fish oils and waxes into bodies of higher melting point by the contact method; to acquire and turn to account oil wells and deposits, to produce by electro-chemical or other process hydrogen, chlorine and soda, etc. The subscribers are:—Ilia Paenson, 71, Jermyn Street, S.W., merchant; Mose Wilbushewich, 71, Jermyn Street, S.W., merchant; Hertz Handelman, 21, Albert Hall Mansions, W., merchant: Moisei Skidelsky, 27, Holborn, E.C., merchant; Paul Lindenberg, 16, Fawley Road, West Hampstead, merchant; Simon Milch, 71, Jermyn Street, S.W., merchant; Mrs. Noemi Snowman, 71, Brondesbury Road, N.W.6.

Minimum cash subscription £25,000. The first directors are:—Ilia Paenson (commercial director) and Mose Wilbushewich (technical director). A third director is to be nominated by the "working associates" of the company. The qualification of such "working associate" director is 10 shares; of other directors 5,000 shares. A "working associate" is defined as meaning "any worker, employee or official in the service of the company." All working associates are to be engaged or discharged with the consent of the three directors and are to have a share in the profits in order that each working associate, whatever his work or position, may regard himself as a partner in the entire concern, the fundamental principle of the company being that every working associate devotes his whole energy and knowledge to the furtherance of the interests of the company. The share in the profits is to be a remuneration apart from the regular wages or salary. After payment of 6 per cent. dividend on the shares the balance of net profits is to be distributed as follows:—(a) 20 per cent, among the working associates; (b) 25 per cent. for the formation of a special reserve fund for extending the business; (c) 5 per cent. for the foundation of a provident, widows and orphan fund; (d) 10 per cent. among the directors and members of the advisory board, if any; (e) final balance among the shareholders. Registered office: 24, Holborn, E.C.

Rangoon Trust and Investment.

The Rangoon Trust and Investment Company, Ltd., was registered as a private company on November 15, with a capital of £1,000, in 975 Ordinary shares of £1 each and 1,000 Founders' shares of 6d. each. Objects: To acquire, work and turn to account tea, rubber, cinchona, copra and timber estates, mines, minerals, oils, mining rights, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—T. Pringle, 58, Chancery Lane, W.C., merchant; J. D. Robertson, 4, Roskell Road, Putney, S.W.15, merchant. The first directors are: J. D. Robertson, T. Pringle and P. W. Tolhurst, Glen View, Gravesend. J. D. Robertson is managing director for life. Solicitors: C. Nordon and Company, 56, Moorgate Street, E.C.

Serbian Exploration Syndicate.

The Serbian Exploration Syndicate, Ltd., was registered as a private company on November 12 with a capital of £8,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To acquire freehold and other farms, properties, mines, lands and mineral properties, and to carry on the business of prospectors, explorers, miners, etc. The subscribers (each with 100 shares) are: J. E. H. Lomas, 32 Great St. Helens, E.C., M.I.M.E.; J. W. Davie, 3, Throgmorton Avenue, E.C., member of the Stock Exchange. The first directors are: J. E. H. Lomas and N. C. Stines: Registered office: 32, Great St. Helens, E.C.

The London Jewish Correspondence Bureau reports that a Jewish bank, with the name "Bank Palestinian," has been founded in Constantinople.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of information from H.M. Agent and Consul-General, Tangier, to the effect that the importation of all German goods into the French zone of Morocco is for the present prohibited.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

The directors of the Indian and General Investment Trust have declared interim dividends for the six months ended October 31 last on the preferred stock at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and on the deferred stock at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable on December 12.

Mysoro Gold Mining.—An extraordinary general meeting will be held at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., on December 4, at 12.30 p.m., for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—"That the capital of the company be increased to £610,000 by the creation and issue of 610,000 additional shares of 10s. each to rank for dividend in respect of profits accruing as from January 1, 1920."

A meeting of the bondholders of the Privileged Company to Protect Production and Trade in Currants will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2, on December 5, for the purpose of appointing a new trustee in the place of Mr. T. A. Burlumi, deceased. Bondholders in order to be present and vote at this meeting must either produce their bonds at the meeting or can deposit them beforehand at the offices of the company or of the Bank of Athens, in Greece, or of Messrs. Erlangers, 8, Crosby Square, London, E.C.3, in exchange for voting tickets.

The directors of the Lanka Plantations recommend a dividend on the ordinary shares of 10 per cent. less tax at 6s. in £, payable on December 10.

A new branch of the London County and Westminster Bank (Paris) Ltd., has been opened at Nantes (6 Rue Lafayette).

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended November 1 amounted to £10,244.

An economic agreement has been concluded between Roumania and Serbia by which the former is to furnish benzine and mineral oil in return for tannic acid, says the *Deutsche Levante-Zeitung*.

It is reported that a bank has been established in Neusatz under the title Wozewodschaftsbank, which will deal with the import and sale of foodstuffs and with the grain trade in the Banat, in addition to banking business.

According to the *Deutsche Levante-Zeitung*, the Greek Government proposes to construct a railway line or a direct canal from the Danube to Salonika, or a canal embracing sections of the Danube, the Save, the Morava, and the Vardar, in order to facilitate the transit of Roumanian and Yugoslav goods to Salonika.

H.M. Ambassador in Paris reports that a statement has appeared in *La Vie Financière* to the effect that a syndicate is being constituted with a capital of 100,000 francs for the purpose of examining the question of erecting works in Roumania for the manufacture and repair of railway rolling stock. British firms interested in this matter are invited to apply to the Department of Overseas Trade, 4, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, S.W.1, for the names of the firms promoting the syndicate.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

Egyptian descriptions, with the exception of Government Bonds, have been generally in demand this week, and particularly to-day there has been a good rush of buying orders from Egypt, and in many instances some substantial gains in prices are to be recorded. The firm stand taken by Lord Allenby and the tremendous prosperity of the country are no doubt responsible for the present wave of buying.

In Government Stocks Egyptian Unifieds are about ¾ lower at 75¾, on some rather large selling orders; but the 3½ per cent. preference is only ¼ lower at 63¼.

Amongst Bank shares, National Banks have been in persistent demand, and are closing 5-16 up at 20½.

Anglo-Egyptian Banks have recovered ¼ at 17¾, but, exceptionally, Agriculturals are ⅛ down at 5⅝.

In Railways there is nothing new to report; but there is some quiet demand for Delta Light Preference from Egypt at somewhat under the current quotation.

In Land Shares Aboukirs are 2s. higher at 31s. 6d.; Béhéras have advanced ⅜ to 14⅞; Delta Lands, on a sudden demand, have jumped up ⅓ to 14s. 3d. Foreign Trusts are 6d. harder at 14s. 6d., and Gharbieh Land have put on ⅛ at 2⅜. The feature, however, has been the very large buying during the past couple of days of New Egyptians, which are closing 4s. 6d. higher to-night at 27s. 6d. Sidi Salems are 3-16 up at 2 7-16, and Union Foncières have been persistently inquired for from Egypt, and are closing ½ up at 4⅜.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Egyptian Markets have improved 1s. to 23s. 6d., and Salts and Soda have jumped up 7-32 to £3.

Amongst Greek Securities the 1881 and 1884 Loans have continued weakish, and are both 1½ points down at 62½. Monopolies and 1902 Loans have remained firm with buyers preponderating. The 1890 Loan has dropped a point to 63. The 1914 Loan, after being up to nearly 70, is closing only ½ higher than last week at 68½. Bank of Athens shares have improved ⅛ to 3¼.

In Oil shares Anglo-Egyptian B, after rising rapidly to 5⅜, relapsed again to 5 1-16, and closed 1-16 better at 5¼. Roumanians have dropped 1s. 9d. to 24s. 6d.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON NOVEMBER 15.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	20⅞
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	8½
" Div.	Frs.	117
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	14⅜
" priv.	£	4⅜
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	117
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1⅞
Building Lands of Egypt	£	⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	4
Société des Immeubles	£	7⅛
Bonded Stores	£	15½
Unifiée	£	77⅞
Privilégiée		64ex
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6½
Nungovich Hotels	£	6¼
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	7⅜
" " Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4½
" Ord		107/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	23
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	68
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	110
" Jouissance	Frs.	161½
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		32/6
Egyptian Markets		22/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	370
" Div.	Frs.	325
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	294
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5⅛
Egyptian Salt and Soda		57/10½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	692
" Fondateur	Frs.	970
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	478
" 1903 "	Frs.	305
" 1911 "	Frs.	286½
Consolidated Land	P.T.	6
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	⅛

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Nov. 19	Price Nov. 26
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	55	52½
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	76	76
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	76½	75¾
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	63½	63¼
Greek 5%, 1881	64	62⅝
Do. 5%, 1884	64	62⅛
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	55½	55½
Do. 4% Rents, 1889	50	50
Do. 5% 1890	64	63
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	63	63
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	62½	62½
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	56	56
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	68	68⅛
Do. 5% Currant	94	94
Montenegro 5% Loan	70½	70½
Persia 5% 1911	79	79
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	62	62
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	74	73
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	64½	63
Do. 4% Unified	45	44½
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅜	5⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17½	17¾
Bank of Abyssinia	37/6	37/6
Bank of Athens	60/-	62/6
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	8	8
British Trade Corporation	10	10
Imperial Ottoman Bank	9⅝	10
Imperial Bank of Persia	10⅛	10⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	6½	6½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅜	6⅞
London County and Westminster	16⅜	16⅜
National Bank of Egypt	19⅛	20⅛
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6½	6½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	12½	12½
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	64	62
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	61½	58
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66xd	66xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	50	53
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	29/6	31/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	14⅛	14⅞
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/2 paid)	2/1½	2/1⅝
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	13/-	14/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	14/-	14/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅛	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	23/-	27/6
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅛	2⅞
Sudan Plantations	7⅜	7⅞
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	3⅝	4⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	11⅛	11⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	23/6
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	2⅞	£3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅛	5⅛
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅞	3⅞
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	99	99
Chinese 4½% 1898	72	72
Do. 5% 1896	84	85
Argentine 5% 1890	82½	82½
Do. 5% 1907	85⅛	86½
OIL.		
Anglo-Egyptian B	5⅛	5⅛
Anglo-Persian	27/-	25/3
Anglo-Roumanian	9/-	9/6
Roumanian	26/3	24/6
Traian (Roumanian)	11/6	12/6

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Nov 19	Nov. 26
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	61¼	61¼
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	63¼	67½
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
	Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959	82	82
	Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	73½	73½
	Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938	74½	74½
BANKS.			
	Chartered of India	86	86
	Eastern	8½	7⅝
	Mercantile of India A	38	38½
	National of India	58	58
MINES.			
	Balaghat Gold Mining	4/-	4/-
	Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	⅜	⅜
	Burma Corp.	13⅛	12⅛
	Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	15/xd	14/6xd
	Champion Reef Gold	3/9	3/9
	Mysore Gold Mining	1⅛	1⅛
	Nundydroog	14/6	15/
	Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	1/6	17/9
	Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	17/10½	20/7½
	Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)	24/3	24/3
OIL.			
	Assam Oil	2⅛	2⅛
	Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	2⅛	2⅛
	Brit. Burmah	2⅜	2⅜
	Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	17⅛	17⅛
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	1⅛	1⅛
	Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.	10½	10½

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES

Continued—

RAILWAYS.		
Assam Bengal	56	56
Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	141⅛	141⅛
Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	59xd	58xd
Bengal-Nagpur	121⅛	122½
Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	109	108
Burma Railways	114	114
Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13	13
East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	12⅜	12⅜
Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	13	13
Madras and S. Mahratta	112½	112½
Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	132⅜	132⅜
Nizam's Guaranteed State	85	85
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	11	11⅛
Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	9½xd	9½xd
P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	92⅛	92½
Do. Deferred	670	685
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
Assam Co.	77	78
Bengal United Tea Ord.	17⅞	17
British Indian Tea Ord.	9½	9¾
Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17	17
Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	12/6	12/3
Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	7⅜xd	8xd
Consolidated Estates	7⅞	7½
Darjeeling Co.	23/4½	30/-
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	66/3	63/6
Dooars Tea Ord.	85/6	82/6
Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	⅝	⅝
Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	3⅜	3⅜
Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	34/9	35/-
Hewagam Rubber Co.	1⅛	1⅛
Jhanzie Tea Association	12	12½
Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	23½	24½
Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	1⅛	1
Lanka Plantations Ord.	30/6	30/-
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	60/-	57/-
Malayalam Rub. and Produce	2⅜	2⅞
Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14½	14½
P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	1⅜	1⅛

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at September 30, 1919, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

	£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)	2,925,000
Reserve Fund:	
Statutory Reserve	1,462,500
Special Reserve	487,500
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts	15,656,791
Mixed Tribunals	2,558,316
Egyptian Government	9,001,440
Sudan Government	44,878
Bankers' Accounts	1,338,324
Cheques and Bills payable	226,903
Sundry other Accounts	1,259,439
	£E.34,961,091

	£E.	£E.
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		21,135,741
Sundry Securities		229,943
Advances on Merchandise		251,724
Advances on Securities		1,167,583
Advances otherwise Secured		359,033
Sundry other Advances		626,777
Bills of Exchange		3,349,049
Local Bills Discounted		104,990
Buildings and Furniture		235,773
Money at call and at short notice		1,789,125
Bankers' Accounts		1,292,824
Sundry other Accounts		463,597
Cash—		
Notes	2,733,197	
Gold	51,244	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	1,170,491	
		3,954,932
		£E.34,961,091

Issue Department.

	£E.
Notes issued	45,700,000
	£E.45,700,000

		£E.
Gold	3,309,191	
*British Treasury Bills	19,540,809	
		22,850,000
Securities:—		
Egyptian Government Securities & Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	536,322	
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds	22,313,678	
		22,850,000
		£E.45,700,000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasur Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

Egyptian Markets.—First 5 per cent. debenture coupons No. 42, falling due December 1, are payable at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, 27, Clements Lane, London, E.C.4, at the face value, and at the branch offices of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, at Cairo and Alexandria, at the current rate of exchange.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 448.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The wranglings between the Supreme Council in Paris and Roumania are as unedifying as the proceedings of the Divorce Court. As so often is the case with regard to the latter, mistakes have been made by both parties. The Supreme Council has forfeited much of the prestige with which it was originally clothed, by mishandling through ignorance or lack of courage nearly every phase of the Near Eastern Question. When the mischief has been done, it desires to rehabilitate itself in the eyes of the world, and is not meeting with signal success. Its difficulty is still mainly its own ignorance. It requires the Roumanian Government to make up its mind, ignoring the actual position, which is either that there is not a Roumanian Government or that, if there is, it has no mind of its own, or that if it had, it would not know it. In the meantime the Supreme Council is becoming more and more anxious to be rid of a bad job, and the breach between it and Roumania widens.

In the interest of the peace of Europe it would seem to be a wiser policy to appreciate the facts of the situation in Roumania, for which the Paris Conference is largely to blame, and to allow the country its own time to find itself. Thirteen Notes and one special envoy have been sent from Paris to Bucharest in the last three months, and the Supreme Council pathetically complains that the only reply that it has received has been "negative in facts." But all this time Roumania has been in the throes of Ministerial crises hingeing on her relations with the Supreme Council. The more she is pressed to fall into line with the wishes of Paris the more difficult does any final solution of her domestic troubles become. Another Note has now been sent to Bucharest, granting "a further and last delay" of six days to Roumania. But its arrival coincides with the resignation of the temporary Ministry appointed to carry out the elections, and the political situation in the country is of necessity chaotic. It would seem as if the most dignified course for the Supreme Council to adopt would be to give Roumania six months instead of six days in which to regulate her complicated affairs, and to ask for a definitive answer at the end of that period.

M. Venizelos has returned to Greece, and the brief report of the speech that he made on his arrival suggests a strong resolve to lose no time in grappling with the problems that have arisen during his long absence. Only the future can show which of the two policies in regard to Thrace will make for the lasting peace of the Balkans; these policies are to hand it over to Greece because Greek traders can never be kept away from the coastline, or to leave it Bulgarian on the strength of its past history and in keeping with sound economic doctrines. M. Venizelos, it is interesting to note, does not take seriously the alleged insistence of the Supreme Council upon the temporary nature of the Greek occupation of Smyrna. From the fact that Greece had been invited to occupy certain districts of Asia Minor, he said, it is evident that the Council has already decided that the territory of Smyrna should be ultimately assigned to Greece. But, the Greek Prime Minister was careful to add, the successes obtained impose upon Greece corresponding duties; and the first condition is to give the country a good and efficient administration. He promised to undertake radical and systematic reforms immediately after the signature of peace with Turkey, "when all national questions will be finally solved."

The Yugoslav delegates in Paris did not sign the Treaty of St. Germain on November 27. The reason given semi-officially for their abstention was that, by an annexe, it was proposed that the indemnities due to Serbia should be offset by the debts due from the new districts of the Triune Kingdom, and this arrangement was disapproved by the Yugoslavs. Possibly as a result of this fresh hitch, the Prince Regent deemed it advisable to go to Paris himself; and, accompanied by two of his Ministers, he arrived on Monday in the French capital, where it is to be hoped his presence will remove the impression—which appears to have been gaining ground in some quarters of late—that Yugoslavia is not inclined to show such an accommodating spirit as her big Allies would like to see.

In any case, it is fortunate that Prince Alexander should be on the spot, to refute the accusations levelled against Serbians of looting in a very thorough manner in the neighbourhood of Pecs before evacuating it. The district is reported to be "consequently threatened with famine and disaster." Such charges are so easily brought, and those responsible for bringing them so often show such a fine capacity for the manufacture of corroborative detail, that it is satisfactory to learn that in this case an Entente mission left on Monday for Pecs to investigate the charges. Meanwhile Prince Alexander will doubtless have no difficulty in putting the matter in a true light in Paris.

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The situation in regard to Fiume and the Adriatic remains much as it was last week. D'Annunzio's "navy" has shown a certain liveliness, which has given rise to great excitement and a good deal of speculation. So far, however, this has not led to any happening of importance; though the Yugoslavs have sent a force to Spalato as a precautionary measure. The Italian Government is reported to have informed the Yugoslav Government that it intends to abide by the decision of the Peace Conference regarding Dalmatia and it will itself oppose any attempt on D'Annunzio's part to attack Spalato. Unfortunately, so long as the poet is allowed to continue playing with fire it is difficult to believe that Rome is both able and willing to arrest all chance of a serious conflagration breaking out.

As was to be expected, the new Egyptian Ministry has come in for abuse of the most violent kind from the Extremists. It has stood its ground, however, and the Prime Minister and his colleagues remain unmoved by the threats which reach them from various quarters. Unfortunately, the rage to which the Nationalists appear to have given themselves up at this fresh indication that they are not to be allowed to have their own way has led to several grave incidents. British officers and British soldiers have been fired at repeatedly in the streets, with the result that several have been wounded and at least one has been killed. In one case, it is satisfactory to learn, a gang of natives who were attempting to ambush soldiers were themselves surprised and arrested. A proclamation has been issued prohibiting the carrying of firearms.

Lord Allenby—who paid a flying visit to Beyrout, to meet General Gouraud—returned to Cairo on November 28, and is handling the situation with great firmness. The fact that he has not hesitated to arrest two sheikhs of El Azhar on a charge of sedition shows that he is determined to bring matters to a head. It is regrettable that the famous university should be used by some of the agitators as a meeting-place, and should have come to be regarded by them, quite erroneously, as a kind of sanctuary. The best Moslem opinion has already shown that it will have nothing to do with sedition or violence; and right-minded Moslems throughout the world will rejoice that sedition-mongers and stirrers-up of strife should be arrested wherever they may be found.

A *communiqué* issued by the War Office recently announced that pilgrim traffic from Tabriz to Baghdad has begun to pass through Suliemania for the first time for many years, and that over 500 pilgrims passed through the town in the week ended October 25. This is gratifying intelligence, and as the *communiqué* remarks, it "bodes well for the future tranquillity of Southern Kurdistan." Nevertheless, it would be well not to build hopes too high on this foundation. The Kurds, even the Southern Kurds, are unlikely to lay aside their racial characteristics and customs all at once, and it is to be feared that the tranquillity of Southern Kurdistan may yet be troubled not a little before it becomes perfect. It is a well-known device in the Near East to allow a pilgrim route or a trade road a certain period of quietness and freedom from brigandage in order to prevent its falling into disuse.

The Mission sent to this country by the Emir of Riadh, Ibn Saud, concluded its visit last week, and left on Friday for the Continent, where the young Sheikh Faisal and his companions are visiting the European battlefields before returning to their home. The Arabs are accustomed to great spaces and to fighting over large areas; but when they are left to themselves their fighting is of a very different character from that which the European battlefields witnessed so recently; and the visit to the "fronts" of yesterday will surely make a deep impression upon men of a race in which imagination is always strongly developed. Sheikh Faisal and his companions will therefore take back with them to the Nejd memories which, passed on from town to town and camp to camp, may help the home-staying Arabs to a better sense of proportion than that which usually marks the desert dweller. If that should prove to be the case, Arabia will have taken a considerable step forward.

Such an effect, however, would be only incidental. The Mission came here, not to study the West, but to congratulate the King upon the Allied victories and to make known Ibn Saud's views regarding certain boundary questions and other kindred topics; and it is satisfactory to believe that, while it may not have achieved all that it aimed at—Oriental Missions seldom do that!—it will undoubtedly have served a most useful purpose. It will have made the actual situation in Arabia clearer to those in this country whose duty it is to study the increasingly important problem presented by that interesting country; and the members of the Mission will have been able—nay, compelled—themselves to look at the case from a fresh, and doubtless more detached, viewpoint than that of Riadh. On the whole, however, the gain has probably been on our side. There was not long ago a tendency, natural enough in the circumstances, no doubt, to regard the Hejaz as all-important, and to conclude that King Hussein would very soon be ruling over a united Arabia extending from Aleppo to Oman and from Aden to Mosul. To-day the facts are better understood, and though we all hope for a united Arabia we hardly expect to see it united in the near future under one ruler.

If the principal Emirs, Sheikhs, and other rulers will only unite to protect their lands from foreign aggression, a good foundation will be laid for the reconstruction of an Arab Empire more splendid and much more lasting than that of the Middle Ages. Ahmed Ibn Thunaiyan, the political adviser to the Central Arabian Mission, pointed out that in August last Ibn Saud displayed great moderation in not advancing on Mecca after inflicting a heavy defeat upon King Hussein's forces. Such moderation is not unknown in Arab warfare, from which the spirit of chivalry has not yet fled; but it is rare indeed. Its exercise by Ibn Saud in the circumstances actually existing at the time affords a happy augury for the future; but it would be unwise to trust too much to the repetition of such incidents. Clearly defined boundaries—and equally clearly defined penalties for trespass—are badly wanted in Arabia, and Great Britain ought to be interested in seeing that they are provided.

So far at least as England is concerned the members of the Indian Joint Committee have no cause to complain of the reception given to their Report. It has not, of course, produced any sudden change of heart among the convinced opponents of dyarchy, but even the stalwarts of the Press are inclined to admit that the Reform Bill has been improved in details, though they still condemn it in the lump, while journals already committed to the principle make a similar recognition in much more cordial terms. So far as we can gather, the attitude of the Press reproduces faithfully that of the community; neither the Right nor the Left has changed position, but in the Centre there is a perceptible drift of opinion towards the scheme as now formulated, and a tendency to agree that dyarchy may prove to be more workable than seemed possible at first.

Our Indian visitors have not been dilatory in announcing their conclusions in regard to the Committee's work. The Extremists were, as usual, first in the field with a declaration of their profound disappointment, but the Moderates were scarcely less prompt in recognising that, despite certain shortcomings, the scheme meets the immediate necessities of the situation, while Mrs. Besant, in her latest *avatar*, dealt faithfully with the claim of the former party to speak in the name of India. It almost looks as if the first elections under the new constitution might be fought on something like a clear-cut issue, between those who will hear of nothing but Abana and Pharpar, and those who think Jordan will suffice for the time

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being; but, however that may be, there is little doubt that the unanimity of opposition, which was such an unfortunate by-product of the Morley-Minto Councils, is steadily disintegrating, and that India is getting nearer to the stage in which concrete measures are realities, to be weighed on their merits, not summarily condemned on the ground that they are tainted at the source.

One of the most interesting utterances called forth by the Joint Committee's Report was the statement in which Sir Thomas Holland appealed to the members of the Indian Services to stick to their posts, and bring the new constitution into being with the same degree of efficiency which has characterised their work for the last century and more. Such an appeal was worth making, and Sir Thomas gave several excellent grounds, but we do not think he strengthened his case by referring to his own example "in re-enlisting, after enjoying for some years the profitable advantage of freedom from official harness." Sir Thomas, of course, is going out to one of the highest posts in the Government of India, which for some time to come will be little affected by the proposed changes; the men to whom he appeals will in most cases be under the dyarchy, while he will be above it, or, in the words of the old fable, they will be "the toads beneath the harrow," and he will be "the butterfly upon the road." Apart from that small criticism, we can unreservedly welcome his appeal, and we take the opportunity of wishing him every success in his arduous task of organising the new Department of Industries, from which all friends of India expect so much.

The impending reconstruction of the India Office is to be carried out by a new Permanent Chief, Sir Thomas Holderness having decided to retire when the Government of India Bill becomes law. It was widely known that Sir James Meston, or to give him his new title, Lord Meston of Agra and Dunottar, had been designated for this post, and now that he has been prevented from taking it up, there is no very obvious candidate before the public. The special circumstances of the moment call for someone very different from the ordinary Departmental Head, for it is reconstruction and not merely readjustment which is wanted, and we trust that Mr. Montagu will not hesitate to go far afield, if that course is necessary, in order to secure the somewhat rare combination of freshness of mind with long practical experience. The task of reconstruction will be rendered all the more difficult by the premature death of Sir Lionel Abrahams, the Assistant Under-Secretary of State, who has been known for some years as the strong man of the India Office, and who possessed an almost unequalled knowledge of the complicated system of Indian finance.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

The Prince Returns.

The Prince of Wales returned to London from his American tour on Monday. It was a day of depressing fog and gloom, and Victoria Station wore an aspect of almost Stygian darkness, but those Londoners who braved the climate gave the Prince the heartiest of welcomes. A good many public functions await his return, but it is generally understood that his stay in England is not indefinite, and that after a few months he will proceed on a trip to Australia, possibly taking in South Africa or India, or both, on his way out or home.

Until last year the Prince was practically unknown to Londoners, who remembered him as a rather shy boy before the war, and had forgotten that four years of active service made as much difference to him as to other young men. In a few months he has become a well-known and popular figure, who has added to the proverbial Royal gift for saying the right thing the somewhat rare gift of saying it in a striking and unusual manner. He appears to possess a marked individuality of his own; and Londoners, who regard the King as belonging to the whole Empire but are inclined to look on a Prince of Wales as their own particular property, are not sorry to have him back again.

Lady Astor, M.P.

A woman has taken her seat as a member of the House of Commons. Lady Astor was elected for Plymouth by a large majority on Friday, and on Monday afternoon she was introduced to the Speaker by Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Balfour; an hour or so later she recorded her first vote, which happened to be on a financial question. The newspapers naturally gave long descriptions of the event, and some of them were unkind enough to hunt up the prophecies which distinguished people have made on the subject, from John Stuart Mill, who said that women should have votes but not sit in the House, to Mr. Asquith, who viewed even the prospect of women as voters with horror and apprehension; what he would have said to the prospect of a woman member it is impossible to imagine.

The heavens, however, as one of the picturesque reporters in the Press Gallery observed, have not fallen—they so seldom do. Women members are really less of a revolution than women voters, because nobody believes that we are likely to have many women in Parliament, whereas the woman's vote is strong and can be decisive in almost every constituency; even the general abstention of women from voting in a by-election would probably turn the scale. Lady Astor's return was due to exceptional causes, her own popularity and her husband's long connection with Plymouth as member telling strongly in her favour; but it was the general experience at the general election last December that women would not vote for women candidates. Certainly none of those who stood for English constituencies came anywhere near the top of the poll.

The quidnuncs and party managers, as a matter of fact, are still uncertain as to the ultimate effect of "Votes for Women." The theory that women are naturally conservative and will therefore always vote for the Conservative candidate is strongly held in Liberal circles, which are preternaturally gloomy at the moment; if that is so, the position of official Liberalism, which split again on policy at the Birmingham Conference last week, seems indeed desperate. On the other hand, the Labour organisers believe that the woman's vote can always be secured by a forward policy in matters of housing, sanitation, and other domestic matters, and that this will give them their best chance of getting a majority. They can quote the experience of all woman suffrage countries in support of their views.

Premium Bonds.

The House of Commons has rejected the idea of Premium Bonds. It was supported by Lord Northcliffe and Mr. Bottomley, but the Church and the bankers were both against it, and the Treasury never believed in the project. It is unlikely that anything

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more will be heard of the scheme, and preparations will probably be made for floating a new Government Loan to clear up the financial position some time in 1920. For the present nobody wants a Government loan. The first quarter of the new year is the distressing period when rates and income-tax demands become due, and local rates have gone up everywhere—in some places they have nearly doubled. So much for the small investor; while the larger industrial interests, which are now floating new issues of several millions every day to extend their business, are particularly averse from the idea of a Government loan competing with new industrial securities at the present moment. There has never been a time when commercial enterprise was so active, and it is understood that the present outburst of industrial issues is not likely to subside for some months. That there is no shortage of money in the country is proved by the fact that most of the new issues are well subscribed, and some have been considerably over-applied for.

"England for Sale."

The estate market is running the Stock Exchange close in these days, and the auctioneers appear to have the greater part of the country under the hammer. Fortunately it is changing hands at an increased price, so that any German professor who argues that England is bankrupt because most English estates are for sale is drawing a wrong conclusion. Partly it is the result of four years' cessation of property sales, and partly it is due to the great transfer of wealth effected by the war. The largest transaction in view at the moment is the town of Weymouth, which is shortly to be offered for sale. Probably anybody who wished to buy this prosperous town as a going concern would be able to do so, if his bank account permitted; but it is expected that it will mostly be purchased in small lots by the inhabitants. Heavy taxation and the difficulties of landlords are making it more and more usual for people to buy instead of renting their houses, and political economists hold that the tendency is on the whole a healthy one.

Einstein's Joke.

Professor Einstein has now explained his theory of relativity in *The Times*, and there are those who say that they understand the explanation; while Sir Oliver Lodge has descended from the investigation of spiritualism and the contemplation of astral bodies to discuss the whole subject in the *Nineteenth Century*. But it is a relief to find that the Professor can make a joke as well as shatter our conception of the universe. He remarks that he furnishes an example of relativity in his own person, for while the English newspapers describe him as a Swiss Jew the German journals call him a German man of science. As to his actual nationality he keeps silence.

The Labour General Staff.

An important development of Labour policy is indicated by a preliminary announcement made this week. It was notorious that during the railway strike the Triple Alliance of railwaymen, miners, and transport workers did not see altogether eye to eye on strategical policy, and it was suggested that the leaders of these great bodies so far shared the weakness of ordinary mortals as to show a certain jealousy of each other. The imputation was denied with an excess of warmth that implied a certain amount of truth in the allegation, but the Labour leaders have now repaired an undoubted weakness in their tactics. Something in the nature of a general staff is to be introduced, which will consider Labour policy as a whole, from the rates of wages and hours to "national programmes" and such weighty matters as nationalisation and a share in the control of industry—the latter already conceded as a principle on the railways.

In addition to this another lesson of the war has been learnt, and Labour is to have its own propaganda department. This will presumably seek publicity for its views in the magazines and daily Press, both by means of articles and advertisements, and possibly by the publication of pamphlets and books. The leaders express themselves as dissatisfied with the comments of the daily Press on their activities and policy, and they are desirous of creating a better "atmosphere" for their work. The value of propaganda depends, of course, entirely on the way in which it is done, and the average Englishman is not particularly easy to persuade. The task before the Labour publicists is therefore not a light one, and there will be general interest to see how they set about it. Some curious developments should result.

New Books.

The past week has been rather a heavy one in the book world. Mr. Hugh Elliot, who will be remembered as the author of a life of Herbert Spencer and a critical opponent of the Bergson philosophy, has published a work on materialism, in which he takes up a wholly monistic attitude, doubts the existence of any purpose in the universe, and wholly endorses the mechanistic and determinist view of life; incidentally he dismisses the hope of immortality as a mere by-product of the struggle for existence. His tone throughout is rather harsh and unsympathetic, and his literary style, like his doctrine, reminds one strongly of Hæckel, the Prussian professor, whose "Riddle of the Universe" was popular in rationalist circles a few years ago.

On the other hand, Mr. C. A. Richardson has produced a book reaffirming the doctrine of spiritual pluralism, contraverting Mr. Bertrand Russell directly and Mr. Hugh Elliot indirectly. He is excessively difficult to follow in many parts of his argument, but he deals at some length with the problem of immortality, which he answers rather hesitatingly and vaguely in the affirmative, and he gives an interesting analysis of those abnormal phenomena in which spiritualism abounds. This is apparently only an introduction to a more ambitious work in course of preparation, in which he proposes to elucidate "the nature of the concrete universal principle of entity" to the limited audience that survives the present essay.

Less heroic readers will probably find themselves more at ease with Mr. E. T. Raymond's new series of character sketches of men of the world. His first volume, "Uncensored Celebrities," made a good deal of noise early in the year, but he by no means exhausted the list of possible and permanent victims last spring, and the new series quite maintains the vivacity of its predecessor.

Another work which has just been issued is the "Collected Poems" of Thomas Hardy. These are not new—unfortunately we can no longer look for anything new from the greatest living master of English literature at his advanced age—but there is a convenience in having collected under one cover the verses which have been scattered through several volumes for half-a-century. Mr. Hardy's philosophy is too stern for him ever to be a popular poet—a fate which he would probably detest—but much of his poetry will live as long as his novels, which is to say that both will last as long as the English language.

Journalistic Novelties.

The present autumn has been noteworthy for the birth of a large number of new weekly journals, mostly of the lighter kind. Whether there is a public for them remains to be seen, but it is the fact that many struggling sheets went out of existence under the stress of war, although some of them changed proprietors, and one of the oldest critical journals, the *Saturday Review*, regained its old brilliancy in the process. There are still rumours of a new daily newspaper, to be run in the Liberal interest in London, but these statements can usually be discounted, and they are less likely to be true now than a year ago. The *Daily News*, which tended towards Labour under its late editor, is now steadily assuming a more Liberal complexion, and the *Globe*, which was strongly Tory for half a century—its previous half-century of Whig convictions is generally forgotten—is now apparently firm in the Liberal fold, after many vicissitudes of fortune. It has the rather dubious honour of having been the only English newspaper of the front rank which was suppressed for a short time during the war, not on account of its opinions, but because of a misstatement of fact.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, November 18.

Lord Allenby's Proclamation.

November 15, 1919, should constitute a milestone in the annals of Modern Egypt; for on that day Viscount Allenby issued the following declaration on behalf of H. B. M.'s Government:—

The policy of Great Britain in Egypt is to preserve autonomy in that country under British protection, and to develop the system of self-government under an Egyptian ruler. The object of Great Britain is to defend Egypt against all external danger and the interference of any foreign Power, and at the same time to establish a constitutional system, in which—under British guidance, as far as may be necessary—the Sultan, his Ministers, and the elected representatives of the people may, in their several spheres and in an increasing degree, co-operate in the management of Egyptian affairs. His Majesty's Government has decided to send to Egypt a Mission, which has as its task to work out the details of a constitution to carry out this object, and, in consultation with the Sultan, his Ministers, and representative Egyptians, to undertake the preliminary work which is requisite before the future form of government can be settled. It is not the function of the Mission to impose a Constitution on Egypt; its duty is to explore the ground; to discuss, in consultation with the authorities on the spot, the reforms that are necessary; and to propose, it is hoped in complete agreement with the Sultan and his Ministers, a scheme of Government which can subsequently be put into force.

This declaration has certainly relieved the tension which has been manifest for some time now, not only in the British and European colonies but also amongst those Egyptians who have not been carried away by the extravagant ideas spread abroad by Zaghlul and his associates. Many had begun to fear that the agitation which those "patriots" have been conducting for the past year might not be without its effect on the Home Government, and that the latter might be persuaded to shelve the Milner Mission and adopt a line of action which, in the opinion of those on the spot, could not fail to react prejudicially not only on British prestige but also on the future of Egypt. Fortunately those premonitions have not been realised, and there can be no gainsaying that as a result of this declaration the situation has become very much more clear and definite.

Apart from the re-affirmation of Egypt's status, we now have for the first time a definition of what British policy in regard to this country is—and in this respect both the Foreign Office and Lord Allenby are to be congratulated. We have a pronouncement that "British Protection" means not only the protection of Egypt's integrity, but also the establishment of a constitutional system of government in which, under British guidance and in accordance with the traditions of the Empire, the people can co-operate in an increasing degree in the management of their own affairs; and we have a declaration that the much-hated Mission is coming out not to judge but to advise, and that its sole task is to work out the details of such a constitution in consultation with the Egyptians themselves.

Satisfactory Results.

Nothing can be more satisfactory than this declaration; for it goes a very long way to clear up serious points of obscurity or misinterpretation which have served as capital for the Extremists' campaign, and it defines in a manner that should be acceptable to all instructed and reasonable Egyptians the relative positions which they and the British authorities may be expected to hold in regard to the future administration of the country. In the circumstances it has afforded a unique opportunity for Egyptians placed in high authority to come forward and, by courageously recognising the very liberal promises for the future development of Egypt contained in the declaration, and by accepting the obviously inevitable situation, to give the required lead to the large body of moderates who have been waiting for something tangible around which they could rally, so as to give practical expression to the opinions which they profess to hold, but which they have had to suppress owing to the campaign of intimidation so successfully carried on by the Extremists.

Obviously a cabinet is the centre around which a "moderate" opposition of this description could most advantageously group itself so as to fight the Extremists and stop the mad race towards anarchy which those self-interested people have set in motion. Unfortunately, no such lead has as yet been afforded them, and the publication of the declaration was almost immediately followed by the resignation of the Prime Minister and his colleagues. Said Pasha paid a flying visit to Cairo on Friday, when Lord Allenby communicated to him the declaration, the contents of which had already been made known to the Sultan, when Lord Allenby saw him on his arrival at Alexandria on the previous Monday. The Prime Minister returned at once to Alexandria, had an audience of the Sultan, and next morning, after a long Cabinet meeting, presented the resignation of himself and his colleagues.

Said Pasha's action was, it must be admitted, the logical sequence of the statement made by him in the course of the interview reported in my letter of October 23. But, although it was expected that in the event of the Milner Mission coming out he might find himself forced to carry out his implied threat, there was still a hope that he would be persuaded to regard continuance in office as a patriotic duty.

The Sultan returned hurriedly yesterday, one day before the date officially fixed for his departure from Alexandria—and to-day, after an interview between him and the High Commissioner, it was decided to accept the resignation of the Cabinet. Is is sincerely to be hoped, in the interest of the country itself that there will speedily be found amongst the moderates some sufficiently public-spirited and courageous Egyptians to step into the breach in order to pull the country together and enable it to make a first step towards the realisation, within the very liberal limits set by the de-

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claration of British policy now made, of the national aspiration for greater control of the nation's own affairs.

The Extremists.

It was perhaps inevitable that the Extremists should not take lying down a decision which was tantamount to an enveloping attack on their position. Already on Thursday an attempt had been made to stimulate public excitement by celebrating the anniversary of the presentation by Zaghlul Pasha to Sir Reginald Wingate of the country's demand for Independence. In connection with this the students absented themselves from the schools, and the Government, as a consequence, closed them for a week. The sudden visit of Said Pasha to Cairo on the Friday gave rise to rumours of his resignation, which naturally added to the excitement; and on Saturday throughout the day there were minor demonstrations. Sunday, however, things became much more serious, and it was evident that the Extremists had managed to a certain extent to complete their organisation.

From early morning groups of schoolboys paraded the streets shouting the usual catchwords, including this time, in English, "Down with Milner," "God curse Milner.' About noon, the Sultan having arrived and taken up his quarters in Abdin Palace, a large crowd, composed for the most part of roughs, made its way on to the Abdin Square in order to demonstrate. The police tried to stop it, and for their pains were freely stoned. Whilst efforts were being made to disperse this crowd another, composed mainly of students, started to enter the Square from another side. The police tried their best to turn it back, but were again stoned, and the police guard had to open fire. Eventually Egyptian troops had to be requisitioned to clear the Square.

Mob and Military.

A little later the mob, which in the meantime had become very angry, tried to get back to the Square. It attacked the Musky Caracol, where it drove in the police. Ejected from there, it proceeded to the Abdin Caracol, which it literally besieged. Some of the mob entered the station and smashed the windows and broke up the desks, while others seized a motor lorry standing outside and set fire to it, as also to part of the police station. The Egyptian troops proved quite unequal to the task of quelling the disturbance, and British troops had to be called in. They quickly drove the mob away from the Caracol, and so released the Egyptian police imprisoned there. They then cleared the Square with sticks, but at several points were attacked so seriously by the mob that they had to fire to extricate themselves. Numerous casualties naturally ensued, but quiet was quickly restored, and the Egyptian troops were left in charge of Abdin Square, detachments of British troops remaining at the Caracols and patrolling the streets throughout the night.

The firm action of the authorities seems to have had a good effect, for to-day there have been no further disorders, and the funeral of yesterday's victims, which, seven months ago would have been made the occasion of fanatical demonstrations, took place this afternoon without any incident beyond the shouting of the students who followed the procession.

There have been similar troubles in Alexandria, where also the troops have had to be called in, but so far the provinces have aroused no anxiety. There is, indeed, reason to believe that if the authorities maintain the firm attitude which they took up yesterday, troubles such as these will speedily stop; for it is noteworthy that those participating this week consisted mostly of students and rabble, and that the better-class Egyptians have abstained from any outward participation. In other words, both in Alexandria and Cairo, it is the mob which has caused the trouble; and, that being the case, firm action, such as was taken yesterday, will speedily bring it to its senses and remove from it any desire to act as the catspaw of the political element.

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YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, November 24.

The Adriatic problem is looming very large in the public eye, and causing great anxiety. D'Annunzio's theatrical blow at Fiume, even if it finally ends in smoke, has caused widespread trouble and inconvenience by virtually blockading the country, which is in the unenviable position of having a population of some thirteen millions, spread over an extensive area, with a lengthy seaboard, in great need of imports, but with no port; for the two natural inlets, Fiume for the lands north of the Save, and Salonika, for Old Serbia, are in foreign territory. And now the papers are full of d'Annunzio's attack on Zadar, with rumours and threats of an organised attack on Shebenik (Sebenico), even Splijet (Spalato), built on the ruins of Diocletian's old palace, and the Bocche di Cattaro and Montenegro. The natives are in the greatest alarm; Splijet is a stronghold of Slavonic thought, and the further south we go the more shadowy become any traces of justifiable claim on Italy's part. The frightened natives have sent an appeal for help to the Government at Belgrade, while they read with dismay the political news from America.

The Belgrade papers have published statements that England is now taking Italy's part, and the people feel that they are deserted by all their friends. Serbs express surprise that when the Germans murdered a French sergeant in Berlin they were compelled to pay a fine of a million marks, but when Italians knifed French troops like sheep in the streets of Fiume no apparent notice was taken of it; and they draw their own conclusions. Now it is stated that the Italian Government is going to proclaim the annexation of Fiume before their new Parliament meets, for fear of Socialist opposition to their Imperialistic policy. They comment that Italy's Imperialism seems to meet with support from the Allies, whereas if Serbia takes the slightest action in furthering her national interests a chorus of reprobation arises in the Press. Perhaps they are hyper-sensitive; but, after all, Italy is the very last Power that should use force to prevent Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes from following her example of two generations ago.

Some amusement was caused by an Italian apologist explaining that while his nation had nothing but friendly feeling for their gallant Serbian allies they could not forget that the Croats had always been their oppressors. Poor Croats! One would have thought that they had been kept too busy, being oppressed themselves by the Magyars, to have any time or energy left to oppress anybody else; though, of course, Croatian troops in the Austrian army did their military duty in wars of bygone years. But any claim that Italy has to Fiume to-day is due to the deliberate policy of Hungary in separating the town from Croatia, and encouraging the Italian element, so as to keep the Croats in a minority. Italian colonies in Soho and New York are more important and numerous than they are in Dalmatia; though the influence of Italian civilisation is admitted.

The scare about the peace treaty has subsided on the publication of the gratifying news that the Conference has recognised the justice of the claims of the S.H.S. The wording of the highly objectionable Minority clause has been modified, excluding the territories which were Serbian in 1912. Though they would have preferred the date to be 1914, the Serbs feel that they

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cannot grumble. It has been explained that the League of Nations will act judicially, not in individual, but only in collective cases, and that the Minorities will have all the responsibilities of full citizens. The direct encouragement of *komitaji*-ism in Macedonia is thus removed; the suggestion of possible armed intervention on behalf of Minorities is annulled by an alteration in the wording. The question of the boats is more or less satisfactorily solved, in that craft of less than 2,000 tons will be returned to their original owners, and the fate of larger craft will be decided by a special commission. This favourable result is interpreted as a success on the part of Dr. Ante Trumbitch, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and as a rebuff to the Italians, who, incidentally, are openly accused in the Press of having a definite understanding with Bulgaria and also with Roumania in their common anti-Slavonic interests.

On November 15, the Serbian authorities, in the presence of Lt.-Colonel Malin and other French officers, entered Strumnitsa, and formally took possession of the territory from which the British troops drove the Bulgar Army a little over a year ago. Needless to say, both Serbian and Bulgar authorities claim that the entire population is on their side, rejoicing or depressed, immigrating or emigrating, as the case may be. Probably all they care for is a little peaceful life, for a change. "Turkish" until 1912, oppressed by the tax-gatherers, but otherwise little interfered with except by *komitajis* and propaganda-mongers, "Bulgar" for a few years, now under the Serbs, the people have probably but a rather vague sense of nationality; and, judging from conversations with natives of other Macedonian villages, they do not much worry what their official nationality is, provided they can be allowed to till their soil and herd their stock in peace and reasonable security. The anomaly of Bulgaria owning the valley of Strumnitsa, jutting in as an enclave almost up to the Serbian main line to Salonika, was thrown into violent relief by the incident of May, 1914, when Bulgarian *komitajis*, in possession of Government rations and weapons, suddenly attacked the Serbian frontier guards and cut the line, six months or more before she thought the moment ripe to declare war. The incident must have caused Ferdinand's Government some annoyance.

We hear less of politics now for a change. The Radicals are carrying on an energetic campaign in the provinces, and have submitted a memorial calling upon the Government to summon Parliament. As the present Skupshtina is so evenly divided, this would probably make the work of government impossible, and Dr. Davidovitch will probably postpone the summons till the New Year. Meanwhile, he has changed his Cabinet, as already foreshadowed. M. Kosta Stoyanovitch is Minister of Agriculture, M. Palechek, previously Ban of Croatia, is Minister for the Constituent Assembly, M. Sp. Piletitch is Minister for Public Health, and Dr. Hinko Krizman for Agrarian Reform.

Although Agrarian reform is one of the most controversial subjects here, the two main currents of thought appear to differ only in detail. All parties seem agreed that the peasant should have as much land to work as he can effectively handle. This system has been such a success in Serbia that its introduction in some form is inevitable throughout the kingdom. While the Socialists are said to demand a complete confiscation of estates, the Democrats and Radicals wish to see a proper indemnification of the landlords; the Democrats would give the peasants the land absolutely; but the Radicals appear to favour a kind of long lease, so that an improvident man cannot alienate his property. In Serbia something like 90 per cent. of the population own their own land, but across the river there is a quite different state of affairs. It is stated that in the Voivodina, there are very few small holdings, that 35 per cent. of the landowners hold between one and ten thousand acres, 9 per cent. have over 100,000 acres, while Count Esterhazy alone has 421,000 acres. Statistics for Bosnia and Herzegovina are also interesting; no less than 91 per cent. of the estates of "spahiluks" are held by the old Serbian Mohammedan landowning class, while the balance belongs to "Latins" or Roman Catholics, and the Orthodox Serbian population has none at all. It is clear from this that both in Bosnia and in the Voivodina there is a good case for agrarian reform.

A Serbo-Greek Incident.

The trial of General Dusmanis in Athens is followed in Belgrade with keen interest. His statement in defence that he offered military assistance to Serbia when the *casus foederis* arose, but that the Serbs said it was not required, met with incredulity and amazement here, and this was quickly followed by a *dementi* by M. Balukchitch, who was then Serbian Minister at Athens, and finally by a categorical denial issued in detail by Serbian G.H.Q.

There is little further news from Montenegro, except that that suffering land is in greater distress than usual owing to the recent incessant rains, which have caused the Moracha and Zeta to overflow their banks and flood the flat country round the Lake of Skadar, and the valley of Crmnitsa. This is all the harder as these alluvial plains are the richest parts of that craggy land. In response to the demand for clothing, the Ministry of Food and Reconstruction has sent 4,200 suits of clothes.

BELGRADE, November 26.

Public opinion has been greatly relieved by the announcement that the representative of a friendly Power has given the Government an official assurance that they need apprehend no danger of an Italian attack upon Splijet and the rest of Dalmatia, and that the Adriatic problem will very shortly be settled finally by the Peace Conference in a manner entirely satisfactory to the aspirations and national desires of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. This is welcome news indeed, and it is earnestly to be hoped that this nightmare will soon be dispelled for ever.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, November 18.

Cabinet and Nationalists.

The Cabinet is still hanging together, but, in spite of all official statements to the contrary, there is not the slightest doubt as to its weakness and the inevitability of its approaching downfall. In the first place, the much-advertised agreement that was supposed to have been concluded between the Nationalist Committee at Sivas and the present Cabinet, soon after its formation, is far from having been realised. Mustapha Kemal, the Nationalist leader, has made it abundantly clear that he wants to make the Sublime Porte dance to any tune the Nationalists like to play. This is all very well for the Nationalists, who are somewhere in Anatolia, where High Commissioners cease to trouble; but for those who have to shoulder the burden of responsibility, the position is impossible.

Meanwhile, with regard to the elections, from every part of the country come reports of illegal actions on the part of the Nationalists. In this connection there has been a quite piquant incident. Essad Pasha, an extreme Unionist, accused Mustapha Kemal Pasha of exerting undue pressure in the election campaign. Mustapha Kemal did not deny the accusation, but pointed out that Essad Pasha and his friends were guilty of the same thing, and the Nationalist leader evidently considers that thus everything is perfectly in order. Mustapha Kemal's reply was somewhat virulent; but that is to be regarded merely as a touch of the spur just to show the politicians in the capital who is really master.

The Sultan and the C.U.P.

The Sultan maintains his attitude of uncompromising hostility towards everything that savours of the Committee; but, in the opinion of many people, this is due rather to a determination not to allow the Imperial prerogatives to be usurped by any committee or other arbitrarily constituted body, than to any fundamental antagonism to the essential aims of the Committee of Union and Progress.

Mustapha Kemal himself has never made any secret of the Nationalists' aims—resistance to the peace terms—and in a manifesto to the Allied Powers dated November 11, he proceeded to make certain veiled threats that are not unworthy of attention as throwing some light

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upon the quarters from which the Nationalists expect help. After referring at some length to what the Nationalists consider to be Allied breaches of the Armistice conditions, such as the occupation of Smyrna and other places in Anatolia, he states that if the Allies continue to ignore the voice of the nation, the results may be very painful, and that there is reason to believe that these results, which would be a catastrophe before God and before humanity, might involve, not only certain countries, but also two great continents. He concludes by warning the Allies that the responsibility for such a disaster would rest solely with them, since the only object pursued by the Turkish nation, in whose name he professes to speak, is the assurance of its rights to exist in its own land.

There is, no doubt, a certain amount of bluff in the whole Nationalist movement, but there is also no doubt that it is capable of considerable mischief. It is reported that Enver is very active in the Azerbaijan Republic, and there are rumours that he is co-operating with Mustapha Kemal. This is far from unlikely.

A Turkish Rosebery.

With regard to the next Cabinet, it has been authoritatively stated and authoritatively denied that Prince Sabah ed Din, a nephew of the Sultan Abdul Hamid and founder of the Entente Liberale Party, will be invited to assume the responsibility of the Grand Vizierat. Sabah ed Din Bey, to give him his correct title—for as the son of a princess he has no right to the title of prince—is something of a Turkish Lord Rosebery: a very good orator, who never seems to be able to do more than talk. True, Sabah ed Din Bey has not yet had a chance of doing very much; but the condition of things is such that it is difficult to see what he could do to put matters right again. The Nationalists have the whip-hand, and the Parliament that will shortly meet will have a strongly Unionist majority. Once again the opposition to the Committee has lost the battle on account of its besetting sin—a complete absence of a constructive programme. The Entente Liberale have many good speakers and clever men, but their policy is purely negative, and consists solely of opposition to the Committee of Union and Progress. In any case, there is bound to be a Unionist Cabinet as soon as Parliament assembles, perhaps before, and it must not be forgotten that the Unionists are openly Anglophobe.

MALTA.

NOVEMBER 24.

Self-Government.

Malta is beflagged, and is rejoicing. Self-government, as far as local affairs are concerned, is assured. His Excellency, Lord Plumer, took immediate opportunity of informing the Council of the news he had received from Lord Milner, and read out the telegram in full, emphasising the fact that at this early stage no discussions could be allowed. Lord Milner's telegram conveyed the news that His Majesty's Government had decided that the time had arrived when the people of Malta might be entrusted with full responsibility of control over their purely local affairs, the right of control of military, naval and other fortress matters remaining vested, of course, in the Imperial Authorities. Moreover, at a later date a measure of assistance will be given to the finances of the Island, which have been seriously embarrassed by circumstances which have arisen out of the war, and by the subsequent reduction of the garrison and dockyard. The scheme, which will require very careful and detailed handling, is to come into force at the beginning of 1921. These announcements were received with an outburst of enthusiasm. It is to be hoped that the concession of self-government will go a long way to render matters more pacific than they have been of late. Self-government will prove a good thing, no doubt, but financial help will do more, whilst the magnanimous spirit shown by the Imperial Government should go a great way towards wiping out the evil effects of the misguided but turbulent Italian Party. It is worthy of note that whilst during the recent riots the Union (Service) Club was made one of the places of hostile demonstration by the Maltese, it was the scene of great applause this week. Recently the Union Jack was hauled down; now the flag is being extensively waved and exhibited So easily veers public opinion: so short-lived is the memory of a mob.

The Excess Profiteering Act.

This is still a burning topic, and at the request of the signatories from a number of members of the local Commercial community, the Chamber of Commerce is to hold a general meeting for the purpose of discussing the ordinance. All the commercial community is invited, but it is expected that little good will come of their deliberations.

PALESTINE.

JERUSALEM, November 14.

Verghi Temetu, or tax on trade, income, and profits, is being reimposed. This tax, always a difficult one to assess, was more or less a farce, falling, of course, unfairly on the less well-to-do, while the richer classes benefited from easy evasion. There will be little, if any, collection of revenue under this head in the current year.

At Jerusalem the speed of all motor-driven vehicles is limited. It must not exceed eight miles an hour within a mile and a-half radius of the Damascus Gate.

In the summer assizes sentences of fifteen years' penal servitude were imposed in seven case of murder. Next in order, criminal cases included chiefly burglary, highway robbery, forgery, and false evidence.

Warning is given that bank-notes issued by the Eastern Bank, Ltd., of Baghdad and Mosul, are not legal tender, and that such notes are liable to confiscation.

The so-called rebellion of Druses in a northern region has not been a matter of surprise. The old feud between Druse and Maronite is still very much alive, and liable to break out anywhere when sufficient occasion arises.

A race meeting of the 3rd Lahore Division is to be held at Sarfend (Zarepta), on November 29, and should bring together a good assemblage of the sporting element, which is well represented even out here.

The Government Gazette for O.E.T.A. (South) gives much useful information. An interesting table gives the prices, in parallel columns, of about thirty articles of food in the twelve principal centres. Post offices have been opened in twelve places besides Jerusalem, in which British postal orders can now be bought and cashed. Money orders are issued up to £20 and £40, according to country and destination, the fee being one piastre for every Egyptian £1. Inland and foreign newspapers, including many publications, may be registered for transmission on payment of 25 piastres annually. Parcels are accepted and foreign telegrams despatched. Telegrams may now be sent in Hebrew to addresses in O.E.T.A. (South), but must be in Latin characters. The post offices at present are at Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramleh, Nazareth, Tiberias, Acre, Haifa, Gaza, Nablûs, Safed, and Tulkeram.

A Correction.

According to a statement issued by the Agency Generale Balcanique, the Director of the *Kambana* (who is reported to have been arrested in connection with the prosecutions to be undertaken by the Bulgarian Government against those who were in any way responsible for the war) is M. Chrusto Stantcheff, not Stancioff, as previously reported.

The Armenian Delegation has addressed a letter to the Peace Conference demanding the union of the Armenian districts of the Ottoman Empire with the Republic of Trans-Caucasian Armenia, and points out that Arabia and Mesopotamia, which are Musulman countries, and Syria, which in part is also Musulman, have been entirely freed from the Turkish yoke.

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ROUMANIA AND THE POWERS.

I.

"The situation of Roumania as regards France, Italy, and Britain, is the same as regards Germany and Austria; that is to say, our Allies have become our enemies as far as foreign policy is concerned." This extract from a recent Roumanian newspaper must cause serious reflexion to those who know something of Roumania, of the part she played in the war, of her sufferings, and of her triumph. Everyone remembers Roumania's dramatic entry into the war on the side of the Allies, her preliminary advance into enemy territory, and her final retreat before Mackensen's army, which occupied the country for two painful years; but it is not generally realised that in the end her territory and population have been enormously increased by the addition of Transylvania, Bessarabia, the Bukovina, and a portion of the Banat. Those who do know this perhaps think that Roumania should be content with the realisation of her dream of nationhood, and ascribe her differences with her late Allies to mere "intransigeance." The question will repay a little study, though fuller knowledge may make us less confident in our conclusions.

The original trouble springs probably from the Secret Treaty which brought Roumania into the war. With indecent haste our Western statesmen promised Roumania almost all that she ever aspired to; behind the back of our Serbian allies, the whole of the Banat was to go to her; her other annexations were chiefly at the expense of our late enemies and were consequently freely promised, perhaps in the expectation that the promises could never be honoured. With oriental instinct, Roumanian statesmen had set their demands at their highest, and must have laughed up their sleeves at the Western Allies, whose ignorance of local and ethnographical questions combined with their zeal to gain a recruit led them to grant all. The overwhelming victory of the Allies produced, therefore, a very awkward situation. The Roumanian representatives arrived at Paris determined to exact all that the Secret Treaty had promised, but by that time the idealism of President Wilson had obscured with a mist of sentiment the frank and greedy realism of the secret treaties. Moreover, when the Big Four began to examine the Treaty they were aghast at the way in which the interests of Serbia had been neglected and at the length of their own promises. Monsieur Bratianu, who led the Roumanian deputation, would accept no compromises, however; and by personal unpopularity and lack of tact gained for Roumania the ill-will of the Big Four, who eventually made a settlement which she has so far refused to sign.

The burning question is the Banat, a strip of territory belonging to old Hungary close to the Danube, with a mixed population of Serbs, Roumanians, Souabes and Hungarians. Roumania and Serbia each claim this fertile province. The Big Four, to begin with, did not know where the Banat was; Mr. Lloyd George in the third month of the Conference had to ask for the Banat to be pointed out to him. Like Solomon confronted with the baby and the rival mothers, the Big Four proposed to cut the Banat in two. The boundary drawn, however, satisfies neither the Serbs nor the Roumanians. Its most objectionable feature is that in order to pass from one part of the Roumanian Banat to another, either by road, rail, or river, it is necessary to cross and re-cross the Serbian frontier. Another source of trouble lay in the League of Nations clauses of the Treaty. The political minorities in New Roumania and the Jews were placed directly under the authority of the League. This stipulation appeared to deny Roumanian sovereignty within her own borders. In the moment of victory, and acutely self-conscious of her new-found power and importance, Roumania was quite unable to suffer such an insult to her authority.

These differences upon the Treaty, however, have all sunk into the background compared with Roumania's treatment of the Hungarian Bolshevists. On few questions has the Council at Paris shown itself more vacillating and ridiculous. The incident began by the Roumanians being asked to furnish troops for an Allied offensive against the Hungarian Bolshevists. This they promised to do, but heard no more until they were themselves attacked. Not unnaturally they advanced against the now retreating Bolshevists and occupied Budapest itself. On a fierce remonstrance from Paris, they offered to withdraw immediately, only to be told that, if they did so, the Allies would hold them responsible for any disorder that might occur as a result of Hungary being left without the protection of an Allied army or police force. In the event the Roumanian soldiers stayed in Hungary throughout the summer and autumn, while an Allied Committee in Budapest made a careful record of every requisition, theft, or crime of which the Roumanian army is accused, and the Western Press vilified our late ally as a brigand and predatory State. Eye-witnesses, military and civil, have testified to the almost exemplary behaviour of the Roumanian army of occupation; although, without doubt, there have been some incidents and events which, to say the least, are characteristic of occupying troops. Even the Jews at Budapest recognise that the Roumanian troops saved them from one counter-revolution after another.

II.

Bolshevism flourished upon another flank of Roumania, in Bessarabia. Indeed, Roumania was almost hemmed in by Bolshevists, and it is remarkable that the infection never gained a footing inside her borders. But the country is mainly an agricultural one, and the rural population is well content. The land of the proprietors has recently been divided amongst the peasants, and though they are to pay for it by instalments this distribution has given great satisfaction. Moreover, the recent harvest has been wonderfully productive. There is now plenty of food, indeed, a surplus, while the prices, though lower, are still very high, so the peasant is amply rewarded for the portion of his crop that he has to sell. His wealth is mainly in stock, consequently he is not bothered with the depreciation of the currency. In towns the salaries and wages have had to increase as the purchasing power of the *lei* diminished, and, though prices are enormous when compared with pre-war figures, it cannot be said that there is any widespread discontent. In addition, the Army is large and well disciplined, and thoroughly able to cope with external or internal enemies. It is amusing to hear our Minister of War claiming that British support to Denikin has saved Roumania amongst other small States from Bolshevism. To a Roumanian such a claim can only appear laughable; in so far as Denikin is strong and likely to succeed his army is a menace. He stands for "Holy Russia, one and indivisible"; he represents in the mind of Roumanians a great power before whom they trembled, and under whom they suffered. If successful, he would take from them Bessarabia; though in the meantime he reassures them by the use of a diplomatic formula. In the early days of October there was a clamour in the Bucharest press for war against Denikin, and those in charge of British policy had better realise the unpopularity that may be gained for us by our support of men and policies in Russia which eventually may threaten the small States upon her borders.

Such an unsatisfactory and complicated foreign situation has necessarily its internal reaction. When early in September the blockade was declared by Paris upon Roumania for her diplomatic sins the Bratianu Ministry resigned, and three weeks of "crisis" followed. For a time it looked as though the National Liberals had fallen from power. There were hopes of the best political elements in Old Roumania uniting with new men from Transylvania and Bessarabia in an endeavour to rule the country in a cleaner and more Western spirit. This would undoubtedly have meant a reversal of her policy in Paris, concessions to her Western allies, and drastic internal reforms. After three weeks, however, no man had been found who could attach to himself sufficient support, and at last a Government of Generals was formed. In reality they were puppets of Monsieur Bratianu; they are admittedly a "stop gap" Ministry meant to rule the country until after the general election had made clear the political complexion of the people. Their policy will merely continue that of Monsieur Bratianu, and Roumania may still be governed by the National Liberals, whose influence extends from politics to finance and commerce in a remarkable manner. The country has been covered with banks, credit societies, and peasant co-operative associations, which are used to consolidate the power of the National Liberal party. Their influence, however, is confined to Old Roumania, and it is possible that the voting power of the new territories may turn the scale.

In the hour of her success, with territory and population nearly trebled, it is a bitter thing for Roumania to find herself in acute difference with former friends. She feels that the Paris Conference was misled by the Americans, who appear to have come over with preconceived notions and almost complete ignorance of European, especially South-European, politics, whose complexities demand a life study. The opportunist mind of Mr. Lloyd George, which leads him to snatch at expedients and forget principles, was a sad disappointment. Nevertheless, she holds her head high, feeling that a great future awaits her. In secure possession of some of the most fertile land in Europe, with ample mineral wealth and natural resources, and with a contented and industrious peasantry, she knows that she will shortly be able to supply the things that Western Europe lacks. Such confidence is not misplaced, and it entitles her to look to the rapid restoration of her economic and political prosperity.

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GREAT BRITAIN AND PERSIA.

BANQUET TO PERSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

The Persian Foreign Minister, Prince Firooz Nosret-ed-Dowleh, was the principal guest at the Persia Society's banquet at the Savoy Hotel on December 2. Lord Lamington presided, and the guests included Sir Hugh and Lady Barnes, Lord Bryce, Sir Harry and Lady Bax-Ironside, Sir Frederick and Lady Black, Sir John and Lady Cadman, the Lady Evelyn Cobbold, General Sir Alexander Cobbe, V.C., D.S.O., and Lady Cobbe, Homayun Ehtesham, Sir Harry and Lady Foster, Khan Noury Fatollah, Sir Charles and Lady Greenway, Capt. and Mrs. Greenway, Capt. J. G. Hogg, Emrad ul Molk and Lady Molk, Hussein Khan Ali Mirza, Lady Marling, Colonel Napier, Dr. Pollard, Emtezamel Molk, Sir John Rees, Admiral Sir E. J. W. and Lady Slade, Sir Percy Sykes, Sir Walter and Lady Townley, Sir Charles Walpole, Mr. C. A. Walpole, Col. C. E. Yate, M.P., and Sir Francis and Lady Younghusband.

After the toasts of the King and the Shah had been honoured, Lord Bryce proposed the health of the guest of the evening. In replying to the toast, H.H. Prince Firooz Mirza Nosret-ed-Dowleh, after a reference to the pleasure it gave him to be present at the dinner of the Persia Society, of which he was himself a member, continued:—

"It is interesting to recall this evening the speech delivered by Lord Curzon at the inaugural dinner of our Society eight years ago in this same place. Lord Curzon said on that occasion that it was good that a society should exist to recall to Great Britain that Persia has had a great and glorious past, that she has charmed humanity by the grace of her poets, by the beauty of her arts, and by the teachings of her philosophers, that she has produced great statesmen and great monarchs, and that she is still capable, provided that favourable conditions are assured her, of reproducing in the future some of these characteristics which have rendered her not only romantic but famous in the past. It was under such auspices at a critical moment in the history of contemporary parliamentary Persia that the Persia Society entered upon its career. This evening, after a long and fateful crisis which for five years of war has arrested every work and every thought in order that all strength may be concentrated on the principal object, that is to say, the struggle of right-minded humanity against despotism and force; at the moment when Great Britain issues from this war victorious and aggrandized, the Persia Society takes up once more its labours and continues its efforts. The moment is so much the more propitious in view of the new ties which will now bind the traditional friendship of England and Persia. Lord Bryce, with his profound erudition and with the great knowledge of a renowned historian, has given you a striking picture of our long and glorious history from its ancient origins. He has given me the assurance of the sympathy of the English people with our efforts to establish a democratic government, and he has been good enough to express the fervent desire of Great Britain to lend us her friendly aid while scrupulously respecting the independence of Persia. I would thank his Lordship for his kind and sympathetic words. My Government has an unshakable confidence in the sincerity and disinterestedness of Great Britain, whose common interests with Persia in the Orient are the surest guarantee of a collaboration fruitful in good results, not only for the two countries, but also for the establishment of peace and concord in Asia. Persia has preserved her national unity and her vitality in spite of all invasions and changes of fortune. She has been vanquished and subjected, and often, indeed, attempts have been made to absorb and subjugate her race and her language. However, she has always in the end eliminated her conquerors; her type has remained permanent and immovable, her language has not only survived, but it has even been enriched and refined. Have we not here a fine spectacle and a great lesson that this indestructible human family of ours is literally stronger than death?

"Persia, conscious of her strength, recognises at the same time her weakness, due to the shackles which up to the present have paralysed her efforts towards progress, and she desires now to advance with all speed on the path of modern realisations. Liberated from the gigantic weights which have pressed upon her shoulders so heavily, she wishes now to stand upright boldly once more, and to forge her future upon the model of her past and of her great history. By her geographical position, and by her intellectual faculties, Persia has always been the missionary of civilisation and of the arts in the Middle East. She desires to continue this rôle, while acting as the intermediary, after having adapted it to the Oriental mentality, for the transmission of the modern culture of the democracies of the West to the countries of Central Asia. She wishes to become once more, as in the past, the emporium of commerce between the East and the West, but to the great regret of those who are enamoured of the picturesque and the lovers of the East represented as the sole trace and the only survival of ancient times, she will do her utmost to replace this time the camel by the locomotive, and the delightful huts and the pleasant tents by those frightful palatial hotels which one decries, but which one likes all the same. I have no desire to be accused of extreme realism, or to be reproached for having ventured on a sphere opposed in its characteristics to the beauties of every kind conjured up this evening by Lord Bryce. I have no wish in any way to underrate the importance of aesthetic and sentimental consideration which have won for Persia the respect and sympathy of the whole world. I am myself a devotee of the literature and philosophy of my country. I recognise not only all the charm, all the grace, and all the profundity which they contain, but I admire above all the salutary and powerful effect of that spirit which has been able to form and maintain throughout the vicissitudes of the age this unconquerable spirit to which I have already alluded. I cannot help saying to you that I am firmly convinced that your great Fitzgerald in the past and our charming and loved Professor Brown in the present, with their works and their fine translations, have done for the *rapprochement* of our two peoples and our two countries much more than all the diplomatists with their compilations of treaties, agreements, etc.

"But side by side with this great field of intellectual and spiritual *rapprochement*—a *rapprochement* very precious and one which we must encourage on both sides—there are other fields of activity more accessible to which we can all aspire. And it is to these above all that I would draw your attention in setting out the desires of Persia. It is towards the economic and material development of the country, in view of its great riches of the soil and under the soil, that I would ask you to consider for a few moments. Some of us here know very well and in a manner more detailed than I do all the resources that Persia is capable of furnishing to enterprise and to capital. Well, Persia looks for that capital and that enterprise in the great centres of the world, and more particularly in England. What greater service could the Persia Society render to the common cause of Great Britain and Persia than to discover these needs, to direct the energies, and to encourage the two sides to come together, to understand one another, and to assist one another? The Persia Society can and must do more. It could not only encourage business, but it could still more advise the men undertaking that business. It could tell them that their interest, the praiseworthy product of energy and capital, is that which comes from a transaction honourable for both parties. The respect of the partner's interests is a more solid foundation, while its abuse or a desire for its abuse, from whichever side it comes and on whatever it may rest, is a thing often ephemeral and always detestable. The Persia Society, in my opinion, with a view to fulfilling the task which it has assigned itself—I mean the bringing about of a *rapprochement* between the two peoples, English and Persian—and in all the branches of modern activity, ought to preach confidence and exalt the acts and the elements which can maintain that confidence. That, I believe, is the finest and most fruitful of programmes.

"This programme exceeds by its very nature even the limit of economic activities, and concerns the policy of the Governments of the two countries as well as the effect of that policy on their nationals. I know very well that the Persia Society has excluded politics from its special field of activity, but it would really be too much to exact of a Persian Minister, although a member of this Society, that he should be prevented from profiting by such an occasion to say a few words on the foreign policy of Persia, the more so as this policy is still all aflame with reality, and that it interests your country in the first degree.

"As a matter of fact, the Anglo-Persian Agreement of August 9 last caused a vast expenditure of ink. It has even had the virtue of exciting some apprehension in certain chancelleries. I will not mention the misunderstandings and the erroneous misinterpretations, for I am certain that the declarations, as terse as they were precise and as cordial as they were frank, of your eminent Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the explanations that I have myself had opportunity to furnish, have sufficed to dissipate all suspicion. The Agreement which we have concluded with Great Britain was the logical result of our ancient traditions of friendship and of concord which themselves flow naturally from the geographical conditions of the countries, and of the position of their political interests

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on the central plateau of Asia. If we seek to plumb the spirit and the circumstances which have led to the conclusion of this Agreement, we have only to refer once more to the interesting speech delivered by Lord Curzon in this same hall eight years ago. Recognising the enormous difficulties against which Persian statesmen had to struggle after the change of *régime* and during the period of Russian encroachments, Lord Curzon said :—

"'No one realises more clearly than I do that it is for Persian statesmen and Persian Ministers to work out their own salvation. They know the circumstances of their own country, and they do not want gratuitous advice from us. Still, I may be permitted to put myself in their place and to say that if I were a Persian statesman—which, in the present circumstances, God forbid!—I would speak to myself in the following terms at the present juncture: "The first condition which my country wants is tranquillity and confidence." Now, that form of security can only be obtained by the possession by the Government of an organised and disciplined force, acting under the control of the Government and capable of carrying out its orders. I would further say: "Such a state of affairs can only be secured with the aid of those who are competent and trained to discipline the force, and, still more, by the security of regular pay." That brings us to the financial question, and for my part I witness with the warmest sympathy the efforts now being made by the Persian Government to reorganise their finances. Further, if I were the Persian statesman whom I have imagined, I would not hesitate for a moment, if the present resources of my country were inadequate, to obtain financial assistance upon suitable conditions elsewhere. I would not mind in the least going abroad for financial help, for guidance, for experience, for anything that might be useful for my country short of control. All that I would demand in pursuing this policy would be that any assistance I might receive should be absolutely disinterested in character, and that neither now nor in the future should it be directed in the smallest degree against the independence of my country.'

"Such is the spirit in which our agreement has been concluded. It was found in 1919 in Persian Ministers who, without knowing of the speech of 1911 to which I have referred, were imbued with the same ideas. We sought to reorganise our financial administration by engaging in our service counsellors and foreign experts who would not arrogate to themselves any right of illegitimate control, and would apply themselves to form and educate a body of good Persian officials; we desired to bring into existence an armed homogeneous force with the aid of foreign instructors who would devote themselves entirely and exclusively to their task without mixing in politics. We wanted to profit by the occasion to establish our rights before the Peace Conference. We have naturally turned towards England, the traditional and sincere friend of our country, and by a happy chance the same English statesman who has shown himself so sympathetic to Persia during the dark hours through which she passed, exposed to a reign of ultimatums, found himself at the head of the foreign affairs of Great Britain. The two spirits met, and there resulted the agreement that you know. It is realisation of this programme, the loyal interpretation of this arrangement, and the efficient support which Great Britain will furnish conformably to the terms of the agreement to the Persian delegates at the Conference with a view to establishing their claims that will calm all the apprehensions, all the anxieties, and all the susceptibilities aroused in the minds of Persians or foreigners Already in this order of ideas Lord Curzon has repeated and underlined the principles enunciated by him in 1911 in his recent declarations, notably in the course of the address that he delivered on the occasion of the dinner given in my honour last September.

"This, then, is the work of Governments, but it is not sufficient of itself. It must be completed and endorsed by a wise propaganda and an untiring activity in all circles to inspire in the mass of the two nations the indispensable confidence and the real appreciation of their common interests. It is in this sphere that the Persia Society can, and must, exercise its salutary influence, and rise to the height of its task. The better to reach this end, it must have branches in Persia. I shall be happy to encourage as far as in me lies the creation of Persian branches which will feed the parent society in London, and will become a powerful element of *rapprochement*."

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

The recent death of Mr. J. D. Crace, who had been hon. secretary of the Palestine Exploration Fund since the beginning of this century and on its committee since 1872, and the retirement of Mr. Walter Morrison from the treasurership, which he has held since 1868, make a serious break with the past of the society. The committee has, however, secured Colonel Sir Charles Close, K.B.E., C.B., Director of the Ordnance Survey, to succeed Mr. Morrison, and Dr. E. W. G. Masterman, formerly of Jerusalem and now medical superintendent of the Camberwell Infirmary, to take the hon. secretaryship. The committee has been strengthened by the addition of the Hon. W. A. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., and the Hon. E. Fielding. In view of the close harmony that it is hoped to establish with the British School of Archæology at Jerusalem, Professor J. Garstang, its director, and Mr. Robert Mond, its treasurer, have been invited and have agreed to join the committee. The Fund hopes to make arrangements for the excavation of a very important site as soon as political conditions in Palestine are settled. It is hoped that all the old friends of the society will rally round the Fund again, and make its objects known, that the necessary financial support may be assured to strengthen the committee in the work before them.

APPEAL OF THE CHALDEANS.

With a view to arousing sympathy in the cause of the Assyrian Chaldeans the Chaldean Archbishop of Diarbekr has sent to this country the Rev. J. Naayem, formerly general chaplain to the British and French prisoners of war in Turkey. During the war some 250,000 Chaldeans died as the result of Turkish persecutions, famine, and other causes, and an endeavour is being made to rehabilitate the last survivors of the Chaldean nation. Father Naayem, who has placed the case of his people before the Foreign Office, is forming a British committee with offices at 96, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

The Air Ministry announces that advice has been received from India that Captain Ross Smith, who is piloting the Vickers-Vimy machine in the flight to Australia, arrived at Allahabad at 5 p.m. on November 27, and left for Calcutta at 8.30 a.m. on November 28. M. Poulet arrived at Calcutta on November 26, and left for Akyab (Burma) on November 28.

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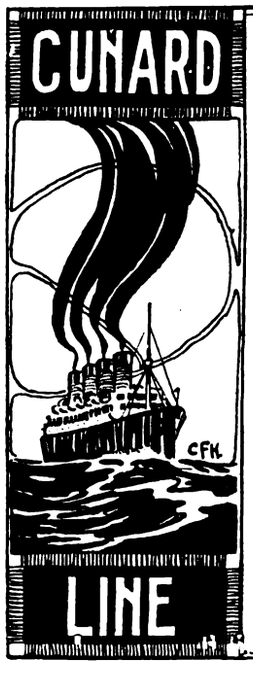

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

Mr. Walpole's lecture on Persia, part of which was recently given in THE NEAR EAST, contained some informative remarks upon sport in Iran. The Persian, of course, is known all over the world as a horseman, but I did not know (until I learned it from Mr. Walpole) that he had developed such enthusiasm for horse-racing. When I was there, there was very little horse-racing, but merely show-riding, firing on horseback, and so on. But now there are annual races, held at the A.P.O.C. Oil Fields, and organised and participated in by the Bakhtiari Chiefs. In Mohammerah and Busreh, indeed, racing is the chief sport among both the Europeans and the inhabitants. The conditions for racing must be extremely favourable: permanent courses can easily be constructed, and the Arab ponies, some of the finest in the world, are as numerous in the entries as the European horses. In addition to racing the Persian has taken up tennis, golf, and billiards. These facts seem very strange to me, but to the out-of-date all new things come as a surprise, I suppose. In what spirit the Persian plays our games I do not know, but I should think that handicaps are necessary for the preservation of his good temper. There are few beside the Englishman who do not mind losing.

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A few days ago a contemporary—an Irish journal, I think—asked the amazingly sensible and apparently unanswerable question: What is Jazz? Of course, by this time we all should know, but do we? We—that is the less restrained of us—jazz, and we hear jazz bands; but for all the understanding we have of it, we might be reading Einstein or hearing Horatio Bottomley talk. But ignorance of its meaning does not seem to cramp the development of jazz, and for aught I know even wild Turkomans may be jazzing at this moment. How far eastward it has spread I do not know; but the most excellent news that France has given us for some time seems to show that the extension of jazz is not to be infinite. The news is that a league has been organised in Paris against the jazz band, "as being the high road to Bolshevism in music." So that perhaps, after all, we shall be denied the delightful prospect of the Arab and Egyptian rioting in a debauch of syncopated hand-clapping. It seems a pity that France is to have the honour of being the first country publicly to protest against jazz, which, however, cannot be included in Bolshevist propaganda. Bolshevism in music (a vile phrase, and therefore dear to the heart of the journalist) is a quite possible thing; but it can come only through intellectual intricacies, not through the loud simplicities of the nigger. Wouldn't our high society jazzists love to be classed with the Bolshies!

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I was interested a little while ago to read, in the report of a lecture on "The Folklore of London," given by Mr. Lovett before the R.S.A., that the wearing of blue beads is widely regarded as a prevention against bronchitis. To me the interest lay in the fact that throughout the Near East beads, and especially blue beads, are worn as amulets or charms against the "evil eye." You seldom see an Arab or Egyptian toddler without his, or her, beads; and donkeys, mules, and other domestic animals very often have one or two beads hung on them to bring them luck—or, rather, to keep away bad luck. The custom here seems to be, too, to bury the beads with the owner on death; and—this struck me as most startling—Mr. Lovett stated that he had found instances of the burial of pets with dead persons, "as a survival of the ancient superstition of burying animals so that their dead owners might have the use of them in the future life." This is, of course, just what the Ancient Egyptians used occasionally to do, though they more often buried with the dead person clay figures of the animals or servants that were to serve him in the next world. Who has not seen *ushabiti* from the Egyptian tombs, or pictures or models of the various beasts and furniture that were provided for the use of the departed? But to find such ideas surviving, however dimly, in great, modern London is surely extraordinary!

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The Constantinople Correspondent of THE NEAR EAST refers to-day to Sabah ed Din Bey as a kind of Turkish Lord Rosebery. But would the Turkish politician take so calmly as the Scot an attempt to sell for the benefit of the State property which actually belonged to him? Lord Rosebery, I see by the *Morning Post*, has written to the Press to point out that the Ministry of Supplies has advertised for sale a farm which actually belongs to him. His lordship adds that he does not attribute this little eccentricity to lawlessness, "but simply to gross carelessness." That is very kind and very charitable. But, ye gods! as a corsair I do admire the M. of S.'s unlimited cheek. We ordinary robbers simply cannot compete with the Government Departments these days.

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Montenegro. November 27.

Mr. R. MCNEILL asked Mr. Lloyd George whether, in view of the fact that more than 3,000 dwellings in Montenegro had been burnt by the Serbian troops in occupation of the country, and that numbers of Montenegrins had been murdered, imprisoned, or driven as refugees to the mountains, he would propose to the Allied Council in Paris that compensation from Serbia should be demanded on behalf of Montenegro for those wrongs, seeing that this Ally had been excluded from the Peace Conference and from the Allied Council.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: As the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs stated on November 24, his Majesty's Government have no confirmation of the allegation contained in this question, and it is not, therefore, possible for me to take the course suggested. In answer to further questions by Mr. McNeill, Mr. Lloyd George added that the Montenegrin situation was one of the most difficult of questions. The people of the country were divided, and it was very difficult to ascertain what their views were and what their condition was. He thought the House was in possession of all the information which the Government had.

Sir J. REES asked whether any special responsibility in regard to Montenegro attached to Great Britain more than to any other of the Allies.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: Certainly not. We have to act together.

Egypt and Sudan (Civil Services). November 27.

Major GLYN asked the Prime Minister whether it was proposed to reconstitute the Egyptian and Sudan Civil Services, in view of the depleted condition of those services through casualties in the war and the suspension of recruiting during the war; whether the existing situation was one of the main causes of the present disturbed condition of Egypt, since adequate supervision of native officials was impossible; whether the new obligations of this country to other Arabic-speaking countries necessitated a new system by the formation of a Civil Service responsible for assisting in the good government of all Arabic-speaking countries under a British Protectorate or Mandate; and whether, without improved conditions of service, chances of promotion, and rate of pension on retirement, it was considered probable that suitable individuals would offer themselves for employment in the Civil Serice of Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine, etc.?

Mr. D. WARD: A selection board representing the Egyptian and Sudanese Goernments assembled in London during August and appointed candidates to fill vacancies in the Civil Service of the countries. As regards the second part of the hon. and gallant Member's question, it is impossible to analyse all the causes contributing to bring about the present disturbed condition of Egypt, but it is undoubtedly the case that the absence of sufficient British Civil servants during the war rendered the inspection and control of the work of minor Egyptian officials almost impossible. As regards the third part of the question, the proposal will receive consideration when the extent of our new obligations towards Arabic-speaking countries is determined. As regards the last part of the question, substantial improvement in the conditions of service in Egypt and the Sudan has already been effected, and further improvements are being considered.

Major GLYN: Arising out of the question, may I ask the hon. Gentleman whether Lord Milner's Commission, before they proceed to Egypt, will be able to consider the future government of Egypt with the knowledge that the British Government are prepared to set up a Civil Service which will embrace all Arabic-speaking countries over which we have either Protectorate interests or a Mandate?

Earl WINTERTON: May I ask whether the Milner Commission will be competent to inquire into the grievances, either individual or collective, of the existing British Civil servants in Egypt? Will that be one of their instructions?

These last two questions were not answered.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

EGYPT: Alleged Outrages.

INDIA: Ceylon Tea.—Mashuds.—British Troops (Cost).—Child Labour.—Burma (High Court).—Afghan Campaign.—Zhob Valley.—Fractional Silver Coins.—Imports (Japan). TASHKENT (TURKESTAN). BRITISH ARMY: Mesopotamia (Cost of Troops). MESOPOTAMIA (POSTAL FACILITIES). INDIA: Army Transfers.—Temporary Officers (Demobilisation). — Privileged Passages. (November 26.)

MONTENEGRO. LEAGUE OF NATIONS: Status of Egypt. BLACK SEA ARMY. PEACE TREATY: Ottoman Empire. EGYPT AND SUDAN (CIVIL SERVICES). BESSARABIA. INDIA (WAZIRI OPERATIONS). EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. SCHOOL OF MEDICINE. (November 27.)

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MUSICAL NOTES.

One of the most prominent features of the present season is the amount of British work that is performed. The rather shameful plea that we were martyrs to an ignorant public has been abandoned, and the British composer is getting an opportunity of standing or falling upon his (or, as may be increasingly the case, her) merits. It is true that the absurd campaign, waged in certain sections of the Press, to postulate as a necessity an essential value in British work, will do the nation no good. Moreover, the present disrespect for German music, and consequent respect for Allied music, would, if made permanent, create a host of one-eyed men in the artistic world. But in peace time, art, and especially music, should have no barriers to break down, no obstacles to surmount, and the native composer must start his flat race on the line with all the other competitors.

We have seen to what lengths war-time nationalism in music can take us. Because a thing is French, because a thing is Russian, it is good—this is an axiom which even the British public will not accept. Music is not the monopoly of a nation (it is one of the few things which Internationalism will never be able to corner), but it is universal.

In this connection it is significant to note that Paris decided recently by 4,983 votes to 213 in favour of an immediate revival of Wagner's works. The French do not confuse artistic delights with moral attitudes.

In this universal competition we do not find England handicapped. We get most of the best foreign artists to this country (and our preference of them to our own is not really an essential thing in musical criticism), and opportunities for performances of native work are becoming more and more numerous. Take organisations like the League of Arts or the Glastonbury Festival Players, for example, study the work they are doing, and you will realise how much is being done in these days to make the Englishman interested in music, especially in the music of his own country. Or take the programme of any piano or song recital at any of the important London halls, and you will find a percentage of English names which would have been impossible ten years ago. The outlook and publicity of British work are satisfactory; it is only the ranting nationalist wishing to restrict the music performed in this country to that of Entente and neutral composers who sets up the pathetic wail for more and ever more British work.

It was a disappointment to know that Sir Thomas Beecham could not give us Delius's "Romeo and Juliet," but on the other hand we have Granville-Bantock's "Pierrot of the Minute." Almost wherever you go you can find British music; and everyone to-day knows, even if he does not understand, some at least of the works of men like Holbrooke, Ireland, and Scott.

We are hearing almost overmuch of Russian music just now, but that part which touches the Middle East must be of interest to readers of this journal. A performance of the music of the Russian Orient was given at the Æolian Hall on December 3, but I am obliged to hold over until next week an account of it.

ANDANTE.

THE BALKAN COMMITTEE ON BULGARIA.

Speaking at a meeting of the Balkan Committee, held at the House of Commons on December 2, Mr. J. D. Bourchier said that it seemed impossible to stir any public interest in the Balkans. A treaty had just been signed in Paris which altered nearly all the Balkan frontiers, and made an entire reconstruction of territories, yet this had evoked not a word of comment in the newspapers, nor any protest from those who disapproved of the principles that had been adopted in that arrangement. Not a single member of Parliament had got up to say one word of criticism, censure, or praise. We had in our own time had three treaties affecting the Balkans—the Treaty of Berlin, that of Bucharest, and now this Treaty of Neuilly. The first of these had come to be decried by the whole world; the second was settled by a combination of enemies, who dictated to their solitary foe whatever conditions they chose to impose. It had been almost universally condemned until the recent war clouded people's judgment, and some, of whom he was one, had continued, notwithstanding the war, to maintain that it was a piece of brigandage carried out in haste, reminding one of an assembly of brigands dividing their booty as fast as they could for fear of a policeman coming into sight. It had been got through by Roumania threatening to occupy Sofia if Bulgaria would not give way over Kavalla. This cession of Kavalla had been done at the instigation of the ex-Kaiser; King Charles of Roumania and Venizelos had been willing that Bulgaria should have the port, but the ex-Kaiser wanted by every means to exclude Western trade from Bulgaria to the advantage of Germany. The first thing was to get boundaries on the same lines as nationalities. If this could not be done perfectly, transmigrations and other compromises must be resorted to, but the great thing was to get boundaries corresponding with racial limits; and he had hoped, when he went to Paris, that this principle of nationalities would be respected, and that each race would get its rightful inheritance. But a treaty had now been signed and sent to the Bulgars in which the principle of nationality was thrown aside altogether. Macedonia was by population mostly Bulgarian; the proportions were one-half Bulgarian, a quarter Turkish, and the remainder chiefly Greek, Albanian, and Vlach. There were hardly any Serbs at all, except a few officials and emigrants; and, leaving Macedonia out of account, there were other portions of Bulgarian territory which it was proposed to hand over to other States without the least attempt to give the inhabitants an opportunity to express an opinion as to their own future. Notwithstanding all we had heard about the right to self-determination, they were to be handed over without being consulted to alien and hostile rule. The cession of Tzaribrod to Serbia was especially to be protested against. The case put forward with regard to other regions inhabited by Bulgarian populations which it was proposed to hand over to Serbian rule was that these areas threatened the lines of Serbian military communications. But this could not be true of Tzaribrod, which was only thirty miles from Sofia. On the other hand, Tzaribrod threatened the Bulgarian capital, and if Serbia was allowed to retain the district she should at least be debarred from sending heavy artillery or any considerable body of troops into it. As to the Dobruja, the President of the Congress had formally declared that the question of the Dobruja was not affected by the present treaty; yet Bulgaria was compelled by its terms to accept the frontier of the Treaty of Bucharest, which assigned to Roumania the southern portion of the province. Without having any ethical claim, without having taken any part in the liberation of the peninsula from Turkish oppression, and without asking the permission of Europe, Roumania had in 1913 approriated the Southern Dobruja, which had been given to Bulgaria by the Berlin Congress. In this connection the case of Bessarabia would come up again. Roumania had a right to Bessarabia, but when she got it any right she had to the Dobruja would lapse, for the territory had first been given to her as compensation for Bessarabia. With regard to the northern portion of the country, Roumania might be considered to have a claim on account of the enormous sum of money she had spent in developing Constantza, but as to Southern Dobruja, when Roumania got Bessarabia again she should be compelled to hand it back to Bulgaria. As to Kavalla, Bulgaria should receive territorial access to the port, and this should not be dependent on the goodwill of another State, but should be regulated in accordance with the principles adopted in regard to the maritime outlets of Serbia on the Adriatic and of Poland on the Baltic. His next point was the protection of minorities. Justice demanded that the provisions for the protection of minorities to be imposed on Roumania, Serbia, and Greece should be identical with those imposed on Bulgaria; and this was all the more necessary because the alien elements to be incorporated in the three States first mentioned were incomparably more numerous than those included in Bulgaria. The military arrangements of the treaty also were open to serious criticism. They appeared to have been imposed in ignorance of local conditions and at the instigation of rival States aiming at the ruin of Bulgaria. A long-service army, with a voluntary system of recruitment, was entirely unsuited to a country with a peasant population; it would attract nobody but the offscouring of the towns. It would lay a heavy and unnecessary financial burden on the country, and probably lead to social disorders. Further, the stipulation under which Roumanian, Greek, and Serbian courts-martial sitting in Bulgaria would be allowed to judge Bulgarian subjects in time of peace was calculated to defeat the ends of justice and to cause serious trouble. The promise verbally given to the Bulgarian delegation that these military arrangements should be revised should be put into writing. Last of all, there was the question of atrocities. For five long years we had been taught that atrocities had been committed by Bulgars alone, but everybody who knew the Balkans knew that atrocities had been committed all round. If he could get these points considered and fairly dealt with, we might be able to say that justice had not left the earth entirely.

The following resolution was carried unanimously:—

The Balkan Committee protests against the territorial settlement imposed in the Balkans by the Peace Conference as a flagrant violation of the principle of nationality proclaimed by the Allied and Associated Powers. It especially protests against:—

(1) The enforced surrender of the district of Tzaribrod by Bulgaria to Serbia;

(2) The denial to Bulgaria of territorial access to the Mediterranean;

(3) The omission of any guarantee that the question of the Southern Dobruja will be reconsidered when the attribution of Bessarabia to Roumania arises;

(4) The failure to impose upon Roumania, Serbia, and Greece stipulations for the protection of minorities similar to those imposed on Bulgaria;

(5) The military arrangements of the treaty, imposing upon Bulgaria a voluntarily recruited long-service army, which in a country of peasant proprietors must inevitably lead to social anarchy.

The Committee further enters a vigorous protest against the political use to which reports of atrocities have been put for the purpose of inflicting vicarious punishment on considerable sections of the Balkan populations, and demands that the whole question of atrocities committed in the Balkans during the war shall be investigated by a Commission of the League of Nations upon which no Balkan State is represented.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"STONE WALLS."*

Two things prepossess us in favour of this book. First, that the author is a descendant of the bishop to whom is attributed the delightful "I cannot eate but lytyll meate"; and, secondly, that these verses were written in such difficult circumstances, both mental and physical. They were written when the author was a prisoner in the hands of the Turks, and the more important concern his experiences as a captive. (Part of the book, however, and this the duller part, is devoted to thoughts upon Ceylon.)

Yet it is impossible to allow one's prepossessions to carry one away, for Mr. Still's verse is mainly indifferent. At times it is quite bad. There is little passion in his work, and for the most part it is mere echoes. Southey, W. S. Gilbert, and even E. W. Wilcox might have written some of these lines, and of personality or even of individual style there is no evidence. We are sorry to find, for instance, lines like these in the book (having thought that only American females wrote thus):—

Oh, it's hard to seem fearless of death,
And it's hard to be patient of pain;
It's hard to face danger with even breath,
Or to carry a captive's chain.

Again these superfluous verities:—

A man may be clever and yet far from wise;
A man may be stupid and yet may surprise
By the sense he displays when another is ill,
For it takes more than brains a man's nature to fill.

At another time:—

I heard a voice come floating down;
I heard a cuckoo cuckooing.

Such things, of course, are true, but hardly illuminating. Mr. Still can do very much better than this, however. He does not often see with other than the physical eye, but in one poem at least—"The Poppy Fields"—he has had a vision, caught it, and given it to us. At Afion Kara-Hissar he saw the white poppy fields, and they made him speak of a time

When men marched forth for faith to fall
To fight for Jesu's praise.
To fight for Him who never fought,
To make a path to Heav'n with bleaching bones;
Claiming the praise of Him who sought
To lessen human groans.

He sees the picture through and says:—

Oh! fitting emblem of their pride!
Oh! biting symbol of their mad desire!
That opium poppies now wave wide
Where they spread sword and fire.

And he leaves the problem unsolved in peaceful words which Matthew Arnold might have used:—

While from the starry fields of white,
When rain leaves tears in all their glistening eyes,
The bitter breath of strange delight
Floats upwards to the skies.

We have given sufficient extracts to warrant our belief that though most of these verses are not indispensable, Mr. Still is capable of something worthy. When he has learned what to eschew—that is, possibly, when he writes in happier surroundings—he will give us rather a book of interesting poems than a dull human document.

BLOCKADED EUROPE.†

This little book is described as "a record of travels in enemy Europe," including descriptions of Hungary, Austria, Poland, and Germany, as seen in the early months of this year. But it is no mere painting of social conditions, nor is it a narrative of political events; it is quite frankly a work of propaganda. It is the author's thesis that the present (or recently past) miseries of Central Europe are due almost wholly to the Entente's blockade, and that the blockade was maintained to destroy Socialistic experiments. In proof of this Mr. Brailsford brings to bear a lucid style, some telling facts and some very powerful writing. His broad outline of the hungry chaos of these regions and the details with which he adorns his tale cannot but have effect. His enthusiasm is undoubted, and there is no gainsaying most of his facts: and yet we are unconvinced. . . . In the author's mind the case against the Entente was settled before he set out on his travels; and it was not difficult for him to discover those things which he almost wished to find. One receives the impression that his perverse love of and pity for the Germans and Austrians exist chiefly because these two peoples were the enemies of the Entente; and the ordinary Socialist's hatred of French ascendancy is very apparent in his pages. Like the author, we have much sympathy with the sufferings of the Central peoples; but, unlike him, we are human before we are humanitarian.

A NEW BAIN STORY.*

Stories by Mr. Bain always contain those essentials which charm us in fairy tales and very old legends—a simple plot that yet leaves us wondering and disputing about the motives of the characters, and a power to transport us into a world of delicious phantasy and haunting beauty. One can well believe that, as he tells his readers in the introduction to this book, they come to him "suddenly, like a flash of lightning, all together," and that he writes them down, "hardly lifting the pen from the paper," so easy and inevitable are the words in which he unfolds his tale.

In this little volume he tells how the morny-crested god sat with his wife, the Daughter of the Snow, on the banks of the Ganges, and read her the story of a queen, called Táráwalí, who was so beautiful that no man could see her without falling violently in love with her. She did not want this, but, being unable to prevent it, she could not find it in her heart to be anything but kind and gracious, for a little while at least, to these victims to her charm. This earned her a reputation for having many lovers and for being altogether heartless. The Daughter of the Snow, who finds Táráwalí's conduct inexcusable, entirely agrees with this verdict. But the opinion of Mr. Bain himself, put into the mouth of the morny-crested god, is that it was not her fault that every man became bereft of his senses at the sight of her beauty and that she must not be blamed for her sweet consideration of others and her desire to save them from pain, as these qualities made up a great part of her attraction. Her only fault was that she was too kind.

Mr. Bain's descriptions are as good as ever. The queen's garden is indeed a garden of enchantment, and one catches one's breath over the picture he draws of Táráwalí each time she receives the infatuated Prince Shatranjaya. Shatranjaya himself is the true fairy-tale prince, with his youth, his impetuosity, and his wonderful skill in playing on the lute. This book will take its readers on a journey into a far and beautiful country—it will fill them with admiration for Mr. Bain's skill in conveying the impression that the story is an actual translation from the Sanskrit, and it will leave them with much to ponder over in the problem of "The Heart of a Woman," the title which the author gives to the story of the beautiful Táráwalí.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Tanks, 1914-1918: The Log-Book of a Pioneer." By Lieut.-Col. Sir Albert Stern, K.B.E., C.M.G. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 12s. net.)

"Pioneers in India." By Sir Harry Johnston. (London: Blackie and Son, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"With Allenby in Palestine." By Lieut.-Col. Brereton. (London: Blackie and Son, Ltd. 5s. net.)

"Sir Victor Horsley: A Study of His Life and Work." By Stephen Paget. (London: Constable and Co. 21s. net.)

"Europe in the Nineteenth Century." By F. J. C. Hearnshaw, M.A., LL.D. (London: Macmillan and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

"No Man's Money." By Henry Milner Rideout. (London: Jarrolds, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Question of the Pacific." By Dr. Victor M. Martua. Enlarged in 1901 by F. A. Pezet, F.R.G.S., and brought up to date by the author.

"The Aussie Crusaders." By Joseph Bowes. (London: Humphrey Milford. 5s. net.)

"Snow-Birds." By Sri Ananda Acharya. (London: Macmillan and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Tales of the Persian Genii." Retold by Frances Olcott. Illustrated by Willy Pogány. (London: George G. Harrap and Co., Limited. 6s. net.)

BOOK NOTE.

Mr. Punch's Christmas Number, which is always eagerly expected, fully maintains its usual high standard, and contributes its allotted quota to the merriment of the season.

*"Poems in Captivity." By John Still. (London: John Lane. 7s. 6d. net.)

†"Across the Blockade." By H. N. Brailsford. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd.).

**"The Substance of a Dream." By F. W. Bain. (London: Methuen 5s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. December	1919. November		1338. Rabia I.	5680. Kislev.
5	22	Friday	12	13
6	23	Saturday.....	13	14
7	24	Sunday	14	15
8	25	Monday	15	16
9	26	Tuesday	16	17
10	27	Wednesday	17	18
11	28	Thursday	18	19

Lord Ribblesdale has left Southampton by the steamship Melita for Assam.

Sir John and Lady Lavery have gone to Tangier, Morocco, for the winter.

M. Picot, French High Commissioner for Syria, has left for Alexandretta, en route for Constantinople.

Major-General Raymond Reade, C.B., C.M.G., has returned to England on completion of special duty in Greece.

Captain Sir Charles William and Lady Miles, who have just arrived from India, are staying at Claverton Manor, near Bath.

Viscount and Viscountess Goschen and the Hon. Phyllis and the Hon. Cicely Goschen have left England for India for the winter.

A lecture will be delivered by Professor E. Newberry at 8.30 p.m. on Friday, December 12, in the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, on "The Tombs of the Kings at Thebes."

A service was held at the Russian Church, 32, Welbeck Street, W.1, on December 1, to celebrate the anniversary of the Union of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

After a visit of one week, the Maharaja of Kapurthala left Nice on November 29 for Marseilles, where he will embark for India. He intends to return to the Riviera next spring.

Lord Edward Hay, who has made a good recovery from his recent attack of pneumonia, has arrived in Paris from Sofia. Lady Edward has left London to join him at the Hotel Majestic.

The engagement is announced of Gerald Robert Smith, late captain, attached 93rd Burma Infantry, and Alice Orr-Ewing, fifth daughter of the late John Orr-Ewing and Mrs. Orr-Ewing, of Hazlewood, Weston-super-Mare.

The engagement is announced between Captain John Fagan Nugent, D.S.O., 28th Punjabis, Indian Army, eldest son of the late John Nugent, I.C.S., and Violet Gwendolen, the only daughter of Lionel Cox, of Colombo, Ceylon.

A marriage has taken place between Miss Maria Tabona, daughter of Dr. Tabona, Medical Superintendent of Gozo Hospital, and Mr. G. G. Millard, nephew of Mr. W. C. Millard, the Assistant Secretary to the Government for Gozo.

The engagement is announced of Major Robert Howell, 15th Lancers, Indian Army (attached Royal Air Force), third son of the late Lieut.-Col. Horace Howell, and Mary, second daughter of E. Jodrell Hopkins, 15, Hills Road, Cambridge.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place after Christmas, between Major R. de Warenne Waller, D.S.O., I.A., second son of Major and Mrs. R. J. Waller, of Hove, and Joyce Virginia, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Terry, of Hove, Sussex.

The marriage was celebrated on November 22, in Bombay, between Major Shirley V. G. Burroughs, 4th Rajputs, elder son of the late Rev. and Mrs. Burroughs, and Margaret Elizabeth, elder daughter of the late Charles Leicester Davis, of Ceylon, and Mrs. Davis, Blinklonnie, Tunbridge Wells.

Sir James Meston, whose retirement from the Finance Membership of the Governor-General's Council on account of the state of his eyesight was announced on November 10, took his seat in the Upper House on December 3 under the title of Baron Meston of Agra and Dunottar.

Dr. Lanitis and other members of the Greek Delegation from Cyprus, who have been in England for several months, leave London to-morrow to return to Cyprus. Two members of the Delegation will remain for the present in England.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in January, between Captain John Martin, M.C., Indian Army, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Martin, Woodlands, Davidsons Mains, and Elma, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gray M. Muir, of 17, Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh.

Reuter's Paris Correspondent writes:—The Prince Regent of Serbia, travelling incognito, arrived in Paris on December 1. He is accompanied by M. Protitch, Councillor of the Serbian Delegation, and M. Stoyanovitch, Minister of Agriculture, as well as by a colonel belonging to his household.

M. Venizelos arrived in Rome after midnight on November 28, and left the following day after a stay of less than 24 hours. He lunched with the King, Signor Nitti and Count Sforza being at the luncheon, and, in addition, had terviews with Signori Nitti and Titoni and General Albricci, the War Minister.

Among the meetings in the Æolian Hall arranged by the Royal Geographical Society are lectures by the following: December 15, "In Northern Anatolia, 1917," by Captain E. H. Keeling, M.C.; December 29, "Serbia and Yugoslavia, before the War and after," by Mrs. Dickinson Berry; and January 19, "Tibesti to Darfur," by Lt.-Col. J. Tilho, French Colonial Infantry.

Our Malta Correspondent writes:—
Judge G. Cremona, LL.D., has been appointed President of the Food Control Board.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes:—
Dr. Dragutin Koyitch, recently Chargé d'Affaires of the S.H.S. in London, has returned to Kragujevatz.
Dr. Mihail Gavrilovitch, new Minister of the S.H.S. in London, has been decorated with the Order of St. Sava, First Class.
Mr. Ivan Mestrovitch, the sculptor, has returned from London to Zagreb. Arrangements have been made for an exhibition of his work in Holland.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent writes:—Viscount Allenby is back in Cairo after his brief visit to Beyrout, for which he left on November 27. It is stated that he is very pleased with the reception given him, and especially with the complete accord which prevailed between General Gouraud and himself. Lord Allenby expressed the opinion that as regards the Mussulman population a policy of mutual cooperation between the representatives of France and Great Britain was bound to have successful results.

His Majesty's Government, on November 26, gave a farewell luncheon at the Carlton Hotel to the Sheikh Faisal and the members of the Central Arabian Mission. Sir Maurice de Bunsen, who presided, hoped that the visit of the Mission would result in a closer understanding with Ibn Saud the ruler of Central Arabia. The Sheikh Faisal, in responding, expressed his conviction of the excellent intentions of England towards the Arabs, and was certain that his Mission would strengthen the bonds already existing.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—
Mr. Fenn is returning to Cyprus as Registrar General, not having accepted an appointment that was offered in what was German East Africa.
Mr. B. Dickenson has been appointed President of the District Court of Nicosia during the time that Mr. J. R. Holmes acts as Puisne Judge; and also to act as President in the Kyrenia District until further notice.
Captain Fleury is appointed a District Commissioner, on probation.

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OBITUARY.

The death occurred on November 29 of Mr. John Rose Troup. He was seventy-one years of age, and was the last survivor of Stanley's Emin Pasha Relief Expedition.

The death occurred on November 14, in Bombay, of Thomas Newton, son of Mrs. Begbie, of 107, The Ridgway, Wimbledon, and the late John A. Begbie, aged twenty-eight.

The death occurred on December 1, from heart failure, of Thomas Charles Howell Spencer, Lieut.-Colonel, Indian Medical Service, retired, aged seventy-three, of Beechview, Kidbrook Grove, Blackheath.

Colonel Edward Smith Bridges, late of the Grenadier Guards, has died at St. Leonards-on-Sea in his eighty-first year. He entered the Army in 1856, and served with the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, when he was present at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir.

Colonel William Chrystie, late of the Royal (Madras) Engineers, died on November 29 at Ramsgate. He obtained his first commission in 1853, and served with the Abyssinian Expedition in 1868, obtaining mention in despatches and receiving the medal. He retired in 1883.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—

A sad accident occurred on Sunday, November 2, by which Captain Gillespie lost his life. He was returning from the English Club to the camp, at Famagusta, with another officer and a private in a car, which collided with a cart. The two occupants were injured, one of them not being yet out of danger.

Colonel A. A. Spottiswoode, late Seaforth Highlanders, died on November 27 at Southsea. He took part in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882. He was also in the Nile Expedition of 1898, when he was mentioned in despatches, and received the fourth class of the Mejidia. In 1908 he was on the North-West Frontier of India, and took part in the operations in the Mohmand country. He was in the engagement at Matta.

Sir Lionel Abrahams, of the India Office, died on November 30. Sir Lionel Abrahams, who was the only son of Mr. Mordecai Abrahams, secretary to the Initiation Society, was born in 1869. After entering the India Office, promotion soon came, and he was appointed assistant secretary to the Indian Financial Committee in 1898, assistant financial secretary in 1901, and financial secretary in 1902, which post he held until his appointment as Assistant Under-Secretary of State for India in 1911. Sir Lionel also served as member of the Departmental Committees on Indian Railway Administration and Finance, 1907-8, and on West African Currency, 1912, and was a member of the Indian Wheat Committee in 1915. He was created C.B. in 1908, and K.C.B. in 1915.

Colonel Sir Henry McCallum, whose death, at the age of sixty-seven, occurred at Camberley on November 24, was a distinguished Governor of great experience and strong personality, one of the many Royal Engineer officers who have held high civil appointments beyond the seas. From 1907-1912 he was Governor of Ceylon. Ceylon prospered during his term of office. There was a very great extension of rubber cultivation; the Colombo harbour works were finally completed, and railway extensions were carried forward, including the Manaar line, designed to bring Ceylon into closer touch with India. It was in this time, in 1910, that the constitution of Ceylon was radically altered by the introduction of an elective element into the Legislative Council. To the interests of the colony McCallum brought general Eastern and special engineering experience, abundant energy as long as his health lasted, and a keen perception of practical possibilities and requirements.

The death occurred on December 2 of Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G. He was born in 1838, and entered the Royal Navy in 1852. Two years later he was in the Black Sea, landed with the naval brigade at Balaclava and served before Sevastopol. Next year he was severely wounded in the unsuccessful attack on the Redan, and was then recommended for the Victoria Cross. In 1856 he went to Turkey with the 13th Light Dragoons, but contracted typhoid there, and lay at Scutari for some months. During the next three years he performed distinguished services in India. He continued to put in very meritorious work in various theatres, the details of which are too well known to need recounting. Suffice it to recall his deeds in Egypt, notably as Sirdar of the Egyptian Army (1883-4). Sir Evelyn lived a most active and energetic life, and has bequeathed an abiding influence upon the British Army. Few men have served their country better or in so many places of the world.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Pope has appointed Father Albano Goodier, a Jesuit, Bishop of Bombay.

To aid in the fight against typhus in Poland, the Roumanian Red Cross has set aside £800.

Our Malta Correspondent writes:—A batch of sixty emigrants under the new emigration scheme has left on the s.s. Tebe.

A communiqué issued at Athens states that Greek troops have advanced and occupied the new limits fixed for their occupation in the district of Smyrna.

Owing to a collision at Meaux between two motor-cars, the Bulgarian Mission, which was to have visited the liberated districts, was compelled to return to Paris.

An inquiry is to be held in January by the War Inquiry Committee of the German National Assembly into events between the Serajevo crime and the declaration of war.

Letters are now accepted by the French Post Office for Austria, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Turkey, and those parts of Russia not administered by the Soviet régime.

Admiral Mornet, a Beyrout message states, has made a complete recovery after undergoing five operations as the result of the attempt to assassinate him in August last.

A violent earthquake, lasting 17 seconds, was felt at Smyrna on November 19. Several casualties are reported, and considerable damage was done in the neighbourhood of Balikesri.

The War Office announces that the s.s. Elephanta arrived at Marseilles on November 24. During the voyage from Basra to Port Said 63 cases of influenza were reported, with two deaths.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (November 26):—The Serbian Relief Fund is continuing its excellent work, and is now opening a technical school at Topchider for war invalids and war orphans.

On the occasion of the signature of the Peace with Bulgaria enthusiastic peace celebrations were held in Athens. The city was beflagged, and the Royal procession was greeted with enthusiasm.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1919.

THE INDIAN SYSTEM AND NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.

The West has a cold fit just now. A year ago the triumphant Allies were laying aside their armour and hastening to start work on the foundations of the new world which it was their privilege to design, but twelve months of spade-work have produced the inevitable result; enthusiasms have dwindled, men are measuring achievement against aspiration, they are counting the cost, and in some instances they are pressing upon others the responsibilities which they were but lately so eager to assume. It would be a mistake to attach too much importance to such symptoms as these; reaction was inevitable, and presently the pendulum will swing back again; but there is a definite danger that injury of a permanent nature may result from temporary causes, and that decisions taken in a moment of lassitude may be found to hamper the energies of the workers when that lassitude has passed away. Danger of this kind is, in our view, indicated in particular in the appeals, so common just now, to what is vaguely spoken of as the Indian system; we are told that administrative intervention is inevitable in this region or in that, and the suggestion is offered in seductive terms that, while England may not at the moment have the requisite energy to spare, the Indian system can be applied, and the objective thus reached without unnecessary expenditure of effort. The frequency of such suggestions indicates that the idea is superficially attractive, and consequently we shall not be wasting time if we pause for a little to consider what the Indian system is, whether it is in fact transferable to other portions of the world, and what lessons can be drawn from India by pioneers of civilised administration.

In order to understand the Indian administrative system, the first essential is to realise that it is definitely Indian, that it is the product of Indian mentality and Indian character, and that while at the moment it is inspired by British ideals, the withdrawal of that inspiration could be effected without materially altering its framework. The system as we know it originated in the eighteenth century, when the Mogul Empire, then rapidly disintegrating and no longer able to discharge its vast responsibilites, granted the fiscal administration of Bengal to the Company of English Merchants who were established at trading stations on the seaboard. On the conferment of that grant the Company took over the administration as a going concern, and for some years allowed it to run on the customary lines. The result of that first experiment was unsatisfactory, because the Company was discredited by the conduct of agents over whom its control was little more than nominal, and the momentous decision was taken to appoint Englishmen instead of Indians to a proportion of the administrative posts, the smallest proportion consistent with the degree of efficiency which was desired. Later changes in organisation have been numerous, but they have been matters of comparative detail, and the administrative system of to-day is in essence the system of the Mogul Empire, which was itself based on earlier Indian institutions, but the Mogul system staffed at the head by Englishmen, and inspired in increasing measure by the ideals of its English officers. From the theoretical aspect this Indian system is very far from perfect; in Indian hands it was the instrument of a tyranny as crushing, perhaps, as ever existed in the world; its formal merit is that it is indigenous, and takes due account of the characteristics of the people among whom it grew; and its practical value depends almost wholly on the English spirit which it has acquired. In its daily working it falls far short of the ideals of its directors, and the keenest minds chafe unceasingly at its cumbrousness, at the undue influence of subordinates, at the excessive centralisation and deadening of initiative—in a word, at those features which derive most directly from its Indian origin; but Indian it is, and we do not anticipate any drastic remodelling of the old administrative machine.

The description we have given suffices to furnish an answer to the question whether this system is transferable to other portions of the world. It is not more transferable than the atmosphere in which it thrives, and any attempt to establish it in new conditions is likely to result in either a fiasco or a disaster. India does not offer to the world a ready-made suit of administrative clothing, but she has lessons which the world cannot afford to disregard, and whatever authorities may be charged with the reorganisation of those portions of the East whose fate is not yet formally announced will be well-advised to begin their task by a study of Indian experience, so that they may learn by past failures as well as past successes, and penetrate to the principles underlying the institutions of the present day. A few of these lessons may be briefly indicated. Assuming that the equipment of a country with entirely new machinery is not attempted at the outset, the first essential is that the staff of Englishmen should be numerically strong, and should be employed in an executive rather than an advisory capacity; otherwise the discredit of the old machine will attach to the new men who are not in a position to exercise effective control. Further, the staff should include at the outset an adequate proportion of experienced administrators. There is a science as well as an art of public administration, though it has as yet received but scanty recognition in the schools, and early Indian experience shows that the very best intentions may miss their mark for want of the trained judgment and almost intuitive perception which practice combined with study alone can give. More than this, no considerations of economy should be allowed to hinder the creation of a thinking branch of the administration; India has always suffered, and suffers still, from over-pressure at the top, and an administration which in the current phrase has no time to think is certain to fall far short of the limit of possible achievement. An administration staffed on the lines we have indicated will be able to face its task with quiet confidence; the old clumsy machine will be handled from the outset by competent engineers, able to judge of its capacities and to obtain from it the highest possible output, and meanwhile the thinking branch will be studying it in every detail, deciding what portions can be preserved and what must be scrapped, simplifying its complications, co-ordinating its parts, eliminating waste caused by friction, and ultimately transforming it into a triumph of modern efficiency. Mechanical perfection, however, will be of little use if the right spirit be lacking, and in the matter of spirit the new administrations may look with confidence to India as their guide. The spirit which animated the great men of the past is very far from being extinct; it flourishes to-day throughout India in the face of discouragements which assuredly do not decrease with time, and the traveller who cares to penetrate below the surface of British reticence will find from one end of the country to the other the single dominant ideal of self-less devotion to the interests of the millions who have no other protectors and who are still unable to protect themselves. It is this spirit which the new administrations will have to acquire. Happily its source is no secret, for it is only the highest expression of the genius of the British race, and the schools and universities of England will continue to pour it forth so long as our race endures. Our responsibilities are already great, and we have no desire to increase them, but if new burdens have to be borne, our course of action is clear; we shall not succeed by imitating this system or that, but by applying to each problem in turn the lessons we have already learned, and by giving of our best in heart as well as brains.

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AFGHANS AT MERV.

By Lt.-Col. A. C. YATE.

If the ambition of the Emperor William II. has achieved the downfall of his throne and the ruin of his family—events upon which the final seal has not yet been set—marks him as a political volcano *hors concours*, Napoleon, may be, ranks second; but since Napoleon's day science has centupled rapidity of motion and communication, and in like proportion stimulated the momentum of political forces. We still worship at the shrine of the "Armistice," and an impassive majority possibly still worships "Peace"; while on every hand martial, social and industrial convulsion warns us that there is no peace in this world. Look where we will, unrest meets the eye; and is as sure a symbol of danger in the Middle East as elsewhere. We have been complacently looking upon Egypt, Palestine, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia and Afghanistan, and even Armenia and Kurdistan, as a vast area of "buffer states" over which *Pax Britannica* will stretch forth its hand and murmur "let there be peace—and prosperity." We are waking up now from that flattering but delusive dream, and rude is the awakening. We have but to add India to this list of countries of the Middle East and "the Land of Unrest" may be stamped across the face of the whole. The labours of Hercules are child's play to the task which awaits the mandatory Power or Powers to whose charge the great territory interposed between Europe and British India is committed. We have just seen the Shah, and we purpose to help him to recreate a prosperous Persia. Just as we were looking to establish and strengthen Afghanistan under the rule of the loyal and friendly Habibullah the assassin's blow convulsed Kabul; and instead of that Central Asian Confederacy which Habibullah had in his mind's eye, we see Bolshevism shaking hands with the Barukzai Amir. It is almost like a dream to look back upon the Vitcovitch who provoked the first, and the Stolietoff who inspired the second Afghan Wars, both emissaries from one autocrat to another; and then watch the Amir of 1919 welcome Bolshevist envoys.

As we study events in Europe and in Asia, and as we reflect that it is at the expense of Europe that these Asiatic countries have been emancipated and brought into touch with the most advanced—I hardly dare to say the best regulated—administration of the era, we ask ourselves: Is it to remodel Asia that Europe has been pouring out all this blood and treasure? Has Christendom been immersing itself in thousands of millions of debt in order that Pan-Islamism and Pan-Turanism may commence their career with a clean balance-sheet?

Afghanistan has, it would almost seem, played its cards well. For a century it has held its own cleverly between British India and Russia. Only the other day we still looked upon the Amir of Kabul as under British tutelage. During the current year the scales have been gradually falling from our eyes, and it may even be admitted that Lord Curzon was right when he said recently in the House of Lords that it was no longer possible to control the foreign policy of the Afghan Government. What happened in 1836 and 1878 and what has happened during the late war are proofs that we cannot against the Afghan will control it. We have had two wars and the makings of a third, and when we look back on the heart-burnings and recriminations to which those wars, and number three above all, have given rise, the policy of giving Afghanistan a free run to enmesh itself in the toils of Bolshevism is, if a devilish, none the less a very salutary idea. Let the Amir Amanullah and his subjects have a good dose of Bolshevism! It will bleed them white!

When the Afghan Boundary Commission went up to Herat and the Murghab Valley in 1884, it was to support the Afghan claim to a frontier which crossed the Murghab near Sari-yazi, about 40 miles north of Penjdeh, where finally Russian and Afghan came to blows. I am aware of no historical proof that any Afghan dynasty or government ever held Merv. Some of us who have visited Merv, and who have followed during the last forty years or so its destinies, must have experienced something like a shock when we took up our daily paper and read: "Afghan troops occupy Merv." For my own part, the shadows of Skobeleff, Alikhanoff, Grodekoff, Lessar, Komaroff, and O'Donovan seemed to loom before me, and my thoughts went back to the latter part of March, 1885, when the Afghan Boundary Commission was encamped at Gulran, a little north of the Paropamisus range, and the Afghan General, Ghaus-ud-din, and his imperfectly armed force faced Komaroff and his Russians at Pul-i-Khishti. Captain C. E. Yate had a few weeks earlier succeeded Colonel West Ridgeway as British representative at Penjdeh. I had Sir Peter Lumsden's permission to join my brother at Penjdeh, and my kit was packed for starting, when the grave news came in, and I was told that I could not go. We all know what followed, but few, perhaps, except those with the Boundary Commission, have realised the danger of Captain C. E. Yate's position after the Russian defeat of the Afghans, or the hardships of his march from Penjdeh to Gulran, when the Saruk Turcoman chiefs escorted him and his party to the limits of their settlement and set him on his road. Nature selected that moment for one of her most tyrannical outbursts, which culminated in the blizzard of the Ausafid Pass. The story is told in my "Afghan Boundary Commission" (Blackwood, 1886), which up to the present has not been superseded by any more carefuly compiled narrative. Sir West Ridgeway, however, has just announced that his "Reminiscences" will give us "the true and inner history of the Commission which never yet has been revealed."

Afghan national feeling was stirred to the quick by that defeat inflicted on Afghan troops by Russians on March 30, 1885. A month later I was at Mashad, and had a long conversation with Sardar Mohammed Hashim Khan, Barukzai, a refugee from Kabul. Tears—and tears with an Afghan are rare—ran down his cheeks as he spoke of that defeat, and added: "Sahib, you English will surely avenge that!" We never did. The Afghans have avenged it themselves. A month or two later I found myself at Kuchan talking to that fine type of a Turk chieftain (dead long ago), Husain Khan, with whom O'Donovan had spent some time prior to his dash for Merv. The fame of O'Donovan (killed finally in the Hicks Pasha *débâcle*) still lived all along that Russo-Persian border from Sarakhs to the Caspian shore at Bandar-i-Gez. At the mention of his name a fervent "Aman-az-u" ("Defend me from him!") burst from the lips of Husain Khan, and when, a fortnight later, I rode the 40 miles from Astrabad to the port of Gez on the Caspian, my guide told me how on the same journey a few years before O'Donovan Sahib heroically wrestled with seven bottles of the wine of Kakhetie.*

It was not till September, 1890, that I myself visited Merv and saw how the Russians were striving to restore to it some of that prosperity which had won for it in the Middle Ages, when it was the seat of a Nestorian Archbishopric, the title of "Merv-i-Shah-i-Jahán," *i.e.*, Merv, Queen of the World. Some four or five square miles of land were planted with young trees, but Russian skill could not coax down from the Murghab River the supply of water which, 1,000 years ago, enabled Merv to maintain a reputed population of 250,000. Curiously enough, as we—General Sir James Hills-Johnes and Mr. C. E. Biddulph were my companions—steamed away from Merv towards Ashkabad and Krasnovodsk, Colonel Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff, then at the height of his fame as an irrigation engineer, passed us going to Merv to advise the Russians how to make the most of the Murghab as a means of irrigation. Twenty-nine years have gone by since then, and the vagaries of fortune have cast down the Russian from his seat and, as it would seem, raised up the Afghan. An Afghan envoy at Moscow claims access to the Peace Conference at Paris, and now that the Indian Government has cast the Amir

* The claret of the Caucasus.

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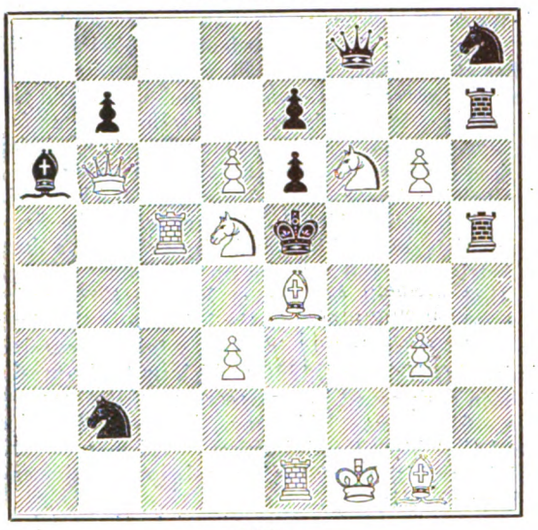
loose, the Court of St. James' will, doubtless, ere long open its doors to his Excellency the Minister-Plenipotentiary, from Kabul. Habibullah, be it remembered, entertained before his death the vision of a Central Asian Confederacy embracing Bokhara and other States. It is possible that Amanullah may achieve this. The Afghanistan of the future may be the ally, but not, as it would seem, the *protégé* of our British-Indian Empire; and it were well if, at this hour, we could reach out the hand of fellowship through Kabul to Bokhara, and thence to friends for whose safety we fear.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 5.



White.

White to mate in two.

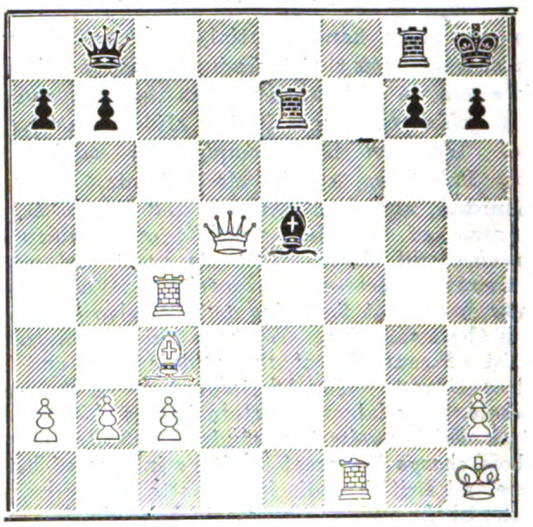
The above problem, by A. J. Fink, San Francisco, took the first prize in one of the competitions of the Good Companion Club.

Solution to Problem No. 4:—1. Kt x P(ch), if Kt x Kt; 2. R (or Q)—Q6 mate, if K—O5; 2. B—B2 mate.

Señor Capablanca's triumphal progress was continued at the House of Commons on December 2, when he met thirty-eight M.P.s and members of the Press Gallery, and won thirty-six of the games, drawing with Sir Watson Rutherford and Mr. A. Strauss. Mr. Bonar Law, who is one of the strongest players in the House, was unfortunately unable to take a board. Señor Capablanca has now left for Ireland, where he is to give one or two simultaneous exhibitions.

The game I gave recently of Charousek was, I understand, greatly appreciated by readers of this column, and I am emboldened, therefore, to give one more example of this master's style, and that, in my opinion, the finest game he ever played. It is the first game he played against Pillsbury, the meeting taking place in the Nuremberg Tournament of 1896. Opening Falkbeer, Counter Gambit; White, Charousek; Black, Pillsbury. 1. P—K4, P—K4; 2. P—KB4, P—Q4 (1); 3. KP x P, P—K5; 4. P—Q3, Kt—KB3; 5. P x P, Kt x KP; 6. Q—K2, Q x P; 7. Kt—Q2. P—KB4; 8. P—KKt4, B—K2; 9. B—Kt2, Q—R4; 10. P x P, Kt—KB3; 11. Kt—B3, O—O; 12. O—O, Q—B4 (ch.); 13. K—R, Kt—B3; 14. Kt—Kt3, Q x KBP; 15. KKt—Q4, Kt x Kt; 16. Kt x Kt, Q—B4; 17. Kt—K6, B x Kt; 18. Q x B (ch.), K—R; 19. B—K3, Q—Q3; 20, Q—Kt3, P—B3; 21. QR—Q, Q—B2; 22. B—Q2, QR—K; 23. Q—Kt3, B—Q3; 24. B—B3, R—K2; 25. Q—R4, Kt—Q4; 26. B x Kt, P x B; 27. Q—R5, B x P; 28. Q x P, R—KKt (2); 29. R—Q4, B—K4, 30. R—QB4, Q—Kt (3).

Position after Black's 30th move, Q—Kt.



31. R—K, R—Q; 32. Q—B5, B—Q3; 33. R x R, B x Q; 34. R x KKtP, R—Q8 (ch.); 35. R—Kt (dis. ch.), B—Q5; 36. B x B (ch.), R x B; 37. R x R, Q—KB; 38. R—Q3, Q—K2; 39. P—KR3, P—KR4; 40. R (Q3)—KKt3, Q—K5 (ch.); 41. R (Kt)—Kt2, Q—K8 (ch.); 42. K—R2, Q—K4, 43. P—KR4, Q—B5; 44. K—Kt, Q x P; 45. P—B3, Q—KB5; 46. R—Kt5, Q—K6 (ch.); 47. K—R2, Q—B6; 48. R(Kt2)—Kt3, Q—K7 (ch.); 49. K—R3, Q—K3 (ch.); 50. K—R4, Q—K5 (ch.); drawn.

(1) B—B4 is now generally played.

(2) Black's game is extremely difficult, but it is a case where anything may happen.

(3) The position at this point has been the subject of much debate. Tarrasch has claimed that 31, R—Q4, wins for white. Mr. P. W. Sergeant, who gives the analysis in his "Charousek's Games of Chess," states, however, that "there appears to be one weak link in this chain of reasoning."

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FREIGHT.—From England, 160/- + 10 % primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ⅔ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found the prospectus of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, giving details of the new issues of capital. Three million cumulative 6 per cent. (participating up to 8 per cent.) preference shares are offered at 23s. per share, and subscriptions are also invited for £2,600,000 5 per cent. First Debenture Stock at £85 per cent. In addition, a further 4,500,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each are being issued, to which the British Government and the Burmah Oil Company, Ltd., are subscribing for their respective proportions. At the price of 23s. the yield on the preference shares will be 7⅛ per cent., while the return on the debentures will be 6⅝ per cent. Applications from existing members of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd., and the Burmah Oil Company, Ltd., will, it is stated, be given special consideration.

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During the last few years the company has greatly extended its interests, and the aggregate nominal amount of its investments exceeds £8,000,000, while its fleet of tank and other steamers, tugs, lighters, etc., is valued at over £7,500,000. The present issue is made to provide the capital required for further considerable extensions to the refineries and pipelines in Persia, the completion of the refineries at Swansea, the provision of liquid fuel installations in all important ports for the purpose of establishing a world-wide bunkering business, and the acquisition of a large number of additional tank steamers.

***

The extraordinary progress made by the company is shown by the report for the twelve months ended March 31. The profit for that period, after paying Debenture interest and allowing for depreciation, amounted to £2,010,805, as against £1,308,558 for the previous year and £344,110 for 1917. Of this sum £1,200,000 is set aside to meet the excess profits duty, the allocations to Debenture stock redemption account, preference share reserve, and amortisation reserve are maintained at £80,000, £50,000, and £100,000, but the allocation to general reserve is £200,000 higher at £300,000. The ordinary dividend is raised from 8 to 10 per cent., and £275,528 is carried forward, as against £454,723. Remarkable as the results of this year's working have been, it must be remembered that the company is still in the development stage, and when its full programme has been carried out the return to the Government should prove a very substantial item. I would call attention in this connection to the statement in the prospectus that for the current financial year the net profits will show a further large increase.

***

The outstanding feature of the annual report of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company is the growth of its resources. This year the usual bonus of 6 per cent. to the deferred shareholders is being made in scrip, and not in cash, but it is evident from the report that the only reason for this step is the prudent desire to conserve resources. The results show an improvement on the previous year's figures of about £700,000, but this additional profit has been utilised to increase the company's reserves. In the previous year the allocations amounted to £100,000, they now consist of £450,000 to the contingent fund, which now comes to £1,000,000, £300,000 to the reserve fund, and £50,000 to the provident good service fund. As a result of the appropriations, the net profits are considerably lower at £559,530, as against £726,716, but as against this the amount required for the deferred shares is only £384,027 as against £575,701, and the carry forward is £115,230 as against £91,727.

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It is now mentioned that during the war the company lost 25 steamers of 186,703 tons. To meet this deficiency eight steamers have been purchased from the Government; five Class B steamers have been contracted for with Harland and Wolff for the Australian emigrant and cargo business, and a contract has been placed with Armstrong, Whitworth and Co. for large mail and passenger steamers of 15,800 tons, and other contracts are being made. The pre-war fleet consisted of 68 steamers of a tonnage of 551,468, and it is notable that the present fleet consists of 63 steamers of 552,717. It remains to add that the extension of the company's interests has been continued by the acquisition of a large holding of the shares in the Orient Company, which will continue to be worked as a separate concern, and also of the bulk of the shares in the Khedivial Mail Company, which will be worked as a separate concern to fit in with the P. and O. services.

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The Indian railway reports this season have made an excellent showing, and the latest available, that of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company is no exception. The gross earnings of this line for the year ended March 31 amounted to Rs.6,04,06,900 and the expenditure to Rs.2,90,28,400, increases respectively of Rs.33,24,000 and Rs.23,76,400 on the figures for the previous twelve months. The surplus profits realised £365,200 as against £358,300, and to this has to be added interest on investments making the total £385,550, as against £373,000. In addition to the guaranteed interest of £1 15s. per cent. it is proposed to pay a final dividend of 25s. per cent. and also a bonus of £2 per cent., the latter on account of the favourable exchange, making the distribution for the half-year £5 per cent., as against £3 for the corresponding period of the previous twelve months.

***

A satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Sudan Plantations Syndicate for the year ended June 30. 5,700 bales of cotton were dealt with at the ginning factories—roughly 600 bales more than in the previous year—and the gross profit amounted to £138,900, an increase of £17,700 on the previous figures. There was a rise in expenditure, however, and £14,000 as against £4,100 is allocated to depreciation and the general development account, and the net profit at £59,000 shows a decrease of £600. The dividend is maintained at 25 per cent., and the carry forward is £60,450, as against £35,200.

***

The fact that the British Exhibition at Athens has had such a remarkable success must not be taken by British firms to means that all will henceforth be smooth sailing as regards trade with the Near East. On the contrary, there is going to be the keenest commercial competition in that region in the future. Almost from the time of the Armistice the representatives of other countries have been actively engaged there in preparing the ground for trade development, and the advantage obtained by British traders through the exhibition will doubtless spur on competitors to renewed efforts. In no part of the Near East is trade rivalry likely to be more severe than in the Levant, where America and France in particular are putting forth great efforts to capture trade. France, which has the French-Levant Company to represent its interests in that region, and America have both adopted the practice of sending considerable shipments of goods on consignment, and by that means have established a considerable footing. But British goods have the preference in the Near East if they can be obtained, and I would once again emphasise the point that even at the risk of ignoring the home markets for the time being it is the duty of British traders to do everything possible to supply the immediate needs of these markets, since by so doing they will lay the foundations of permanent trade.

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I understand that Messrs. Cox and Company, the Army bankers, are to extend their sphere of operations to Egypt, where several branches will be opened.

COMMENTATOR.

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866.)

Head Office: 27, THROGMORTON ST., LONDON, E.C.2

Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCAREST.

Directors:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
GENERAL THE HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
P. NAVILLE, Esq.

Bankers. BANK OF ENGLAND. MESSRS. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & CO

A general Banking business with Roumania is conducted, and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

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The Port of Constantza.

Work of Reconstruction.

We have received from a correspondent the following report on conditions at the port of Constantza at the beginning of November:—

The port of Constantza, even in pre-war times, lacked many appliances which were gradually being acquired by the Administration, but everything was interrupted by the war, and when the Roumanian authorities resumed occupation at the end of December, 1918, conditions were worse than when they left it in September, 1916. The enemy destroyed or removed everything that could be laid hands on during the twenty-five to twenty-six months of occupation.

Of the two dredgers, one was sunk, and still remains under water. The greater part of the port was encumbered by sunken craft: sailing vessels loaded with petroleum and benzine in tins and in barrels, others in ballast, barges, and the sanitary boat, etc. The sanitary boat, from which the engines had been removed by the enemy, has since been refloated, and the port engineers are still busy removing the wrecks by refloating or destroying them, so as to render quay berths accessible.

The warehouses in the port are of wooden construction, roofed with sheet iron; they have nearly all been damaged or destroyed during the enemy occupation, but the authorities have repaired some of them, and seven warehouses are at present available for the storage of goods, the superficial area of these seven warehouses being 7,500 square metres, and it is estimated that 10-12,000 tons of general cargo can be stored therein. Constantza possessed only one small crane, of a lifting capacity of 6-7 tons, but this has disappeared, consequently, steamers loaded with heavy lifts must depend upon their own gear for landing same.

There is sufficient depth of water in the harbour for steamers to enter drawing 26 feet, and the channel at the entrance has a depth of 9 metres (30 feet). The U.S. s.s. Black Arrow, which arrived at Constantza about the middle of October, having a draft of 26 feet, was safely moored alongside the quay during a very strong gale. Sixteen berths are available at present for steamers discharging general cargo, and as all the quays where these berths exist have the railway line laid down, steamers fitted with long derricks can lift heavy packages direct into railway trucks alongside.

Two modern grain elevators of a capacity of 30,000 tons each, for storing and loading grain, are built on the quay, and each is capable of loading 300 tons of heavy grain per hour into a steamer alongside. The machinery is of German production, and considered of good finish; it is in good working order, but at present only one elevator can be used, as the other, being looted by the enemy, requires refitting. A third elevator of the same capacity as the other two was built before the war, and is awaiting equipment.

Water for drinking purposes, as also for ships' requirements, is brought alongside steamers as required at the loading or discharging berths by means of an iron barge provided with pumping gear

Petroleum Dock.

A special dock exists provided with four berths for tank steamers loading oil in bulk, the oil being pumped into steamer at the rate of 200 cubic metres per hour (white products), and at the rate of 150 cubic metres per hour (black products), by a pumping station which is connected by a pipe line with the petroleum station.

There are eighteen tank-cisterns for white products, and nine tank-cisterns for black products, of 5,000 cubic metres each. The station is provided with a heating system for warming the fuel oil when the pumping has to be conducted during cold weather. The petroleum station, pipe line, etc., have been repaired, and the complete installation is now ready in every respect for the purpose of loading tank steamers. There is at present 10,000 tons of distillate in the tank cisterns.

The pipe line which conveys the oil from the oilfields to Constantza has also been replaced and repaired. This pipe line in pre-war days was laid across the Czernavoda Bridge, a span of which was destroyed during the war. In order to get the oil across the Danube, the pipe line is laid upon a pontoon bridge, but as this will have to be removed this winter, when ice forms on the river, arrangements are being made to lay flexible pipes at the bottom of the river, so that no interruption in conveying the products from the oilfields may take place.

Unfortunately, the prospects for the transport of general merchandise between Constantza and Roumania proper are anything but favourable this winter. Whilst the pontoon bridge is in position, trains pass over without transhipment, but when this is removed, the only means of crossing the Danube will be by ferry-boat, which can take six trucks across each trip. This means of transport will be quite inadequate to cope with all the traffic, and the ferry-boat will have to stop running when ice sets in and the Danube becomes frozen over. Perhaps, however, it may be found possible to cut a channel through the ice for the passage of the ferry-boat to and fro, or the ice may be sufficiently strong to allow of transport over it. In any case, traffic will be very difficult and very expensive.

DISTRESS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agricultural Department, dated November 28:—Our telegram dated November 21. Famine operations have been practically closed in Bihar and Orissa, and famine conditions disappearing in Hyderabad, where village gratuitous relief has been stopped. In Madras famine operations closed in Udayagiri Taluka, and being closed in other areas. Numbers on relief:—Burma: works, 1,450; gratuitous, 100. Bihar and Orissa: gratuitous, 22,177. Feudatory States of Orissa, report not received. Central India: works, 3,300; gratuitous, 4,700. Hyderabad: works, 10,000; gratuitous, 8,000. Madras: works, 32,978; gratuitous (incomplete figures), 56,894.

SUDAN TOBACCO DUTIES INCREASED

The *Sudan Gazette* contains a new Ordinance entitled "the Customs (Tobacco Duties) Ordinance, 1919," providing for the increase of duties leviable on tobacco imported into the Sudan. The new import duties will be taken at the following rates:—On tobacco in leaf mills 500 per kilo, on tobacco in leaf stripped of its petiole or middle fibre and on tobacco manufactured cut or powdered or in cigarettes, mills 600 per kilo, on cigars whatever their quality, mills 600 per kilo.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.

Mr. E. B. Hiles, who has been fire manager since 1902, has expressed a wish to retire at the end of this year, and the directors have reluctantly accepted his resignation. As from January 1, Mr. Ferrers Daniell, who has acted as joint fire manager since 1912, will continue in the position of manager of the fire department, and Mr. W. T. Greig, formerly the corporation's manager at Buenos Aires, will assume the duties and title of assistant fire manager.

CONDITIONS IN ROUMANIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Business with Roumania at the present time is an exceedingly difficult proposition, caused principally by the political outlook, which of necessity has adversely affected the Exchanges. The writer has just returned after a stay of several weeks in Bucharest, and had special opportunities of ascertaining the exact position of affairs.

Previous to the war, undoubtedly Germany and Austria dominated the country commercially and otherwise, and although Roumanians (proper) are very sick of the treatment meted out to them by the Germans during "the occupation"; still, the "commercial" population, which is without doubt pro-German, is anxious and waiting to take Germany to its bosom again.

It is useless for Britain to think she can oust Germany from Roumania commercially unless she at once sets her house in order and goes about the conquest in a practical manner, and it cannot be too strongly pointed out that there is no time to lose, as German goods are already getting in at the "back door," and letters are received daily from German firms offering to resume operations.

There is a great chance now for British goods if the banks will only help English merchants to tide over the Exchange difficulty for a few months. At the present time it would be difficult to find one of the great English banks advancing *anything*, i.e., without *further* security. Surely this is a policy which might well be reconsidered in conjunction with the Government?

At present the politics of the nation are very unstable, owing in a great measure to the better class of Roumanians taking very little interest in the management of their country. The process of evolution will take some time, but it is sure to come, and Roumania, if properly handled, will become one of the richest agricultural countries in the world.

Several missions have been sent from Great Britain, and from various accounts some of them are only a waste of the country's money, owing in some cases to inappropriate selection of members; but the Government is to be congratulated on the appointment of their Commercial Attaché (Mr. Adams), who not only has the interests of British commerce at heart, but has a thorough and practical knowledge, and is most anxious to help British firms at this critical time. This is the spirit we expect to find when we visit our Legation and Consular offices.

What is wanted in the near future is an Agricultural Mission, consisting of hard-headed, practical Scotch and English farmers, with a few of their scientific assistants, to show the people what new machinery and up-to-date methods will do for the country. Such a mission would be of inestimable value, not only to Roumania but also to the commerce of this country.

In closing, it should be pointed out that this is being attempted by America, and we believe with some measure of success in Serbia.—Yours faithfully,

J. MACKECHNIE.

53, New Broad Street, E.C.2.

[We cannot subscribe to the view that the commercial population is entirely pro-German. The Roumanians are in great need of goods, and it is not surprising, if they are unable to satisfy their requirements from Allied sources, that they should feel obliged to take them from any quarter. ED.]

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Glimpses of Baghdad.

Pre-War Trade Conditions. — II.

(By A Former Resident.)

The chief currency was the Turkish gold lira (about 18s.), the silver mejidie, the ten, five, and one piastre pieces, and the small copper piastre (*gereush rige*) the Persian gold toman, the silver double and single kran, and the diminutive cumri. The English sovereign and Indian rupee were fairly plentiful, and always readily accepted. The value of the two latter coins, and also of the mejidie, fluctuated slightly in accordance with market supply and demand, but the Persian kran, a coin composed chiefly of base metal, was dangerous to handle in large quantities, a fall in silver tending to depreciate it almost to vanishing point. Money-changing was carried on to a large extent, and was in the hands of the Jews, who would change practically every known coin for a nominal fee. Money-changers were known as *seroffs*, and they had small shops in the bazaars, or would stand in certain busy thoroughfares rattling coin to denote their calling.

Merchants' sterling drafts at three months' sight and four months' date on London against produce shipments were readily negotiated, and were utilised chiefly for the payment of imports, those on firms of undoubted financial standing fetching from one to two per cent. more than smaller concerns' bills. A lot of the Imperial Bank of Persia paper came into the market in payment of goods despatched to Persia, and found a quick sale at top rates. A large exchange business in rupees on India and krans on Persia was another important feature of the market.

The native local merchants were of all classes, acting chiefly in the capacity of agents for up-country and Persian firms, and those of good standing and repute would be sold goods on credit terms to the extent of hundreds of pounds, *cumpiallas*, or trade bills, being given by them in exchange in equal proportionate value at 2, 4, 6, and 8 months, or 80, 160, 240, and 320 days from date of sale. These *cumpiallas*, in case of necessity, could be discounted at the bank or in the bazaars, the usual interest being 8 to 9 per cent. per annum. The bank would accept *cumpiallas* of approved merchants as security, to the extent of 75 per cent. of their face value, against an overdraft on current account, charging a small commission for collection. In rare cases where sales were made for cash a discount of 5 per cent. was generally allowed to buyers.

Manchester prints and cotton goods to the value of hundreds of thousands of pounds, with sugar (European and Egyptian), matches, copper, glass, machinery, etc.; and coarse cloths and Hessian from Indian mills swelled the total yearly imports to well over a million sterling. Manchester goods were used chiefly as mattress and furniture coverings and dress material, and went readily into consumption in all directions. The trade in sugar from Europe, both in loaves and crystals, was enormous, large quantities being absorbed locally, and thousands of cases finding a good market up-country and in Northern Persia districts. The imports of Egyptian sugar were small, owing to restricted output of Egyptian factories, and probably no more than 30,000 cases were absorbed annually. The native had a very sweet tooth, and would always take three or four ordinary lumps of sugar in his diminutive *finjan* (cup) of tea. Matches, chiefly the ordinary Swedish safety variety, were sold retail in the bazaars at the equivalent of 1½d. a dozen boxes, and the buyer would complain bitterly if he found less than sixty sticks in a box.

It was advisable to pack all merchandise destined for Persia in small bales, bags or cases, at the port of origin, in order to facilitate transport by mules and camels, and also to lighten the labour of the many handlings that goods had perforce to undergo on the long road journey.

Most markets were very conservative, the native being full of prejudice and very suspicious of any goods with different trade marks from those he was accustomed to, and difficulties bristled for the merchant wishing to introduce a new brand, despite any claim it may have had to superiority. For instance, the placing on the market of Egyptian loaf sugar, made from cane and consequently sweeter than the French beet varieties (and, therefore, more desirable to the native) was a long and tedious business, and involved considerable monetary loss. The two-kilo loaves were packed in blue paper and twine, and were identical in appearance to the French makes, but the trade mark was different, and this fact, in the mind of the buyer, was not compensated for by its better quality. An Arab of the desert would insist on a knife made by a certain Sheffield firm, and nothing in the world would induce him to take a different make.

Among the chief exports were wheat, wool, mohair, galls, gum, skins and hides, opium, Courci dates, sesame seed and rice. Most of these products were shipped in tramp steamers of 4/5,000 tons direct from Busreh to London. A lot of cleaned wool was sold direct to America, and the greater part of the date crop was bought for consumption in the Levant.

To secure the best wool and grain it was generally found advisable to advance money on the crop some months ahead, and for that purpose a trustworthy native living in a town in the vicinity of the up-country production area, and in close touch with local producers, would be selected to act as agent. He was put in funds for distribution to the various producers either by selling drafts on his Baghdad principals, or, in the event of money being scarce in the district in which he was working, by remittances of actual coin, chiefly mejidies, despatched from Baghdad by mail caravan. The latter was generally a safe method of transport, and specie so despatched could be insured for a small premium in London, where it was looked on by underwriters as an ordinary risk.

Sheep and goat skins in the raw from surrounding districts and up-country found a ready market in Baghdad. Some of the skins were shipped in a dry state with the wool and hair, but the great majority were tanned in a village called Maathem—a mile or so along the road north of Baghdad—and then packed by hydraulic pressure into bales of 250-300 skins and shipped to London, where generally the sheep skins would fetch from 11d. to 1s. 1d. per lb., and goat skins from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d., according to quality. The tanning was in the hands of bands of Arabs under the control of a sheikh, and practically the whole village of Maathem was given over to the industry.

The native was a born gambler, and liked nothing better than trying to manipulate markets, though his attempts in this direction were much hampered by the fact that Turkish control of the overland telegraph line was not conducive to secrecy in his operations. No coded message was permitted, and although simple words would be disguised, their interpretation was not a difficult task. The native was an adept at getting information of the most secret business transactions, and no matter how warily the merchant would act, it was not long before his operations were public property. The old game of trying to lower home produce prices by "bear" sales in foreign markets was very risky, the operator finding that producers as often as not got knowledge of his dealings, and squeezed him when the time came to fulfil his obligations.

With the advent of better transport facilities and a general sense of security brought about by the present British occupation of Mesopotamia, no doubt trade conditions have now greatly changed, and one may hope that the British merchant is no longer subjected to the heavy risks that were inseparably connected with the old vicious systems of crop advances and lengthy credit sales.

COMMERCE WITH SOUTH RUSSIA.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Rostov-on-Don reports that an Export Commission has been attached to the Department of Commerce and Industry by the Government of the Armed Forces in South Russia in order to co-ordinate all orders for goods given abroad by the various Government Departments, and all purchases of raw materials intended for export, made in the country for Government account. Henceforth the issue of orders for foreign goods and purchase of raw materials for export by the various branches of the public service and also all public organisations will be subject to the sanction of the Commission. The following will come under its jurisdiction :—(1) Examination of lists of goods proposed to be purchased by the different State Departments and public organisations, and issue of permits for same. (2) Co-ordination of value of purchases with foreign currency and disposal at counter-value of Russian goods available for barter, also terms and conditions of payment. (3) Study of conditions on which it is proposed to procure Russian goods for export abroad. (Permits for export must be obtained from the Export Commission.) The Commission is composed of delegates from all the interested Government Departments. It is hoped in this manner to bring all purchases into line and do away with the keen competition and consequent high prices observable at the present moment.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

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The Seed-Crushing Industry

Development During the War.

Before the Royal Society of Arts on December 3 Mr. J. W. Pearson, chairman and managing director of the British Oil and Cake Mills, Ltd., read an interesting paper on "The Seed-Crushing Industry." Lord Lamington presided at the meeting.

The seed-crushing trade, Mr. Pearson said, was probably one of the oldest industries in the world, and yet, like many another whose importance had not always been fully realised from a national point of view, it was left for the outbreak of the most devastating war in history to bring about a recognition of its vital importance. At the time of the outbreak of war there were some sixty different firms engaged in the trade in Great Britain, ranging in importance from small country owners with a mill capacity of 5,000 tons of seed per annum to the establishments of the British Oil and Cake Mills, Ltd., whose combined branches handled something like 45 per cent. of the entire industry. The importance of ensuring that oilseed factories should be kept fully at work during the war was quickly recognised, but, curiously enough, it was in the first place at the instance of firms engaged in the soap trade, who pointed out that the supply of glycerine for the manufacture of explosives was dependent upon the maintenance of adequate supplies of oils for soap manufacture. It was therefore considered necessary to include the trade of seed-crushing in the group of "controlled industries" under the Ministry of Munitions. Later on, the other aspect of the trade became more dominant, and the importance of the mills as a source of food supply—firstly, for the production of edible oils required for the manufacture of margarine, and secondly for the cakes so necessary to the production of meat and milk—resulted in the transfer of control from the Ministry of Munitions to the Ministry of Food. While during the days of its early growth this trade was mostly centred at the principal shipping ports, Hull, London, and Liverpool, there had been a gradual extension of factories at the outports.

British Empire's Oilseed Crop.

The major portion of the oilseed crops of the world were produced within the British Empire, and it was interesting to note that while a few seeds, notably linseed, rapeseed, and sunflowerseed, were grown in the Temperate Zone, the remainder were grown almost exclusively in the Torrid Zone, and, therefore, had to be imported by Europe for consumption there. England grew no oilseed crops, and was, therefore, dependent upon import for the whole of her oil production; but the continent of Europe raised considerable quantities of linseed, rapeseed, poppy, and sunflower. The claim to regard the oilseed trade as one of the key industries of the country was surely established when due regard was given to the huge quantities of oil required by the manufacturers of soap, paint, linoleum, varnish, lubricants, and burning oils among the technical trades; and baking, frying, cooking fat, and margarine manufacturers among the edible trades. The total consumption of oils for these purposes in Great Britain was estimated at 600,000 tons per annum.

As the world's requirements in oils and fats grew every day, the story of past development had been the loss to the technical manufacturer of one after another of his markets for cheap oils, in proportion as scientific achievement had enabled each in turn to be rendered suitable for the edible trades; so a substitute had always to be found to replace for the soap pan the oil now used for margarine. A multitude of varieties of less known oilseeds were found in the world in enormous quantity, but they were either in districts at present inaccessible or else in a condition or form that rendered them almost unserviceable; but there was little doubt that in years to come, with future scientific developments and treatment, these would take their place among the important sources of oil supply.

Dealing with the products, Mr. Pearson said that it was in handling the products of the mills that the most interesting developments had taken place in recent years, more particularly perhaps as regards the oil product, as the great and increasing demand for oils and fats of all descriptions during the last century had been the reason for the large increase not only in quantity but in variety. Indeed, many oils which less than a century ago had but little commercial value had now been brought into extensive use, not only for technical but also for the finest edible purposes. The most important developments had been connected with the edible oil refineries.

Oilcakes.

The other product of seed-crushing upon which a few words must be said was the residue or cake so largely used for cattle-feeding. The cakes most ordinarily produced in this country—*i.e.*, linseed cake and cottonseed cake—were so well known as to need but few remarks. It was, perhaps, not generally recognised that cake as a feeding-stuff was not only a concentrated food, but a cooked food. Its intrinsic value depended largely upon the extent of concentration, which varied entirely with the individual seed used. By far the most popular cake in England was linseed cake, which showed no sign of being routed from its premier position even by the introduction of more modern articles, such as sesame and ground-nut cake. Linseed cake served an all-round purpose which was attained by no other, and might be used either as a fattener or a milk producer. For dairy purposes ground-nut cake and coco-nut cake had become exceedingly popular, and would become more so as the industry increased in England. The newer production, palm-kernel cake, was still a difficult market. The residue was unpleasant in the mouth, woody and unpalatable to feel and taste. It was not consumed with relish by either cattle or sheep, and possibly the high proportion of fatty acids in the oil content might have something to do with its slightly unpalatable flavour. As a pig food it had always had an enormous outlet in Germany, and, while its qualities in that direction had been demonstrated over and over again in the last few years, it still remained to be seen whether it would be able to oust barley meal from its position as the pig-feeder's favourite when once the supplies of ordinary feeding-stuffs reached normal level again. When properly ground there was no doubt as to the feeding value of palm-kernel cake, and great efforts would be made to extend its use in England in order to ensure that this country might be able to retain the palm-kernel crushing trade which had been carried on here during the last four or five years, and which previously was almost an entire monopoly for Germany.

A trade round which much debate had centred had been that of the production of cottonseed cake. The practice in England had differed from that in most other crushing centres of the world. The difference in systems was usually described as the production of decorticated cake or undecorticated cake. The American crusher decorticated the whole of his seed, crushing the kernel alone and producing thereby a cake rich in albuminoids and highly concentrated as a feeding-stuff. The shell, however, was largely wasted or had to be sold at a very low price. The practice in England had been to crush the whole seed at one operation, kernel and shell together. This system produced cake of lower value with a lesser degree of concentration, and consequently a more bulky feeding-stuff. It retained, however, certain astringent properties which were highly valued for use with the soft lush grass of this country as a sheep or cattle food, and when fed to grazing beasts it had no effective substitute. The result had been that a relatively higher price was paid here for undecorticated cake than for the decorticated, and consequently the American process had never found favour on this side.

Mr. E. D. Segundo said that cottonseed might for all practical purposes be divided into two categories—the woolly or upland variety and the bald or Egyptian variety. In the case of the bald variety, the long staple cotton was practically all removed in the ginning process, and went to the textile industry; in the case of the woolly variety there was retained by the cottonseed in ginning an undergrowth of short cotton fibres. Of the 12,000,000 tons of cottonseed produced in the world in an average year, 95 per cent. was of the woolly variety. When the woolly fibres were removed they formed a well-known trade commodity called linters, from which was produced explosives, paper, felt hats, and many other things. A recent machine had enabled the defibrating process to be carried a stage further than hitherto, producing a commodity called seed lint, and at this point the woolly seed was reduced to the same condition as the bald variety. So far as the British seed-crusher was concerned, he took the seed in hand at this stage, turned it into oil and cake, and there the process stopped. But the American practice was different. The American decorticated his seed, and, in order to ensure efficient decortification, it was necessary that part of the fibre should be left upon it. The American split the seed, took out the kernel, and produced three products as against the two of the Englishman. He produced the oil, the hulls—which were the remnants of the seed after the kernel was extracted—and a highly nitrogenous and concentrated food in the shape of the decorticated cake.

Cottonseed Utilisation.

A machine, which had only been introduced commercially about two years before the war, separated the hulls into their component parts, hull fibre and shell bran. Linters, seed lint, and hull fibre were all different grades or qualities of the residual fibre left on the woolly cottonseed after ginning, and were all equally available for the production of cellulose, which was the basis of a number of industries, such as the manufacture of absorbent cotton, writing papers, artificial silk, artificial leather, and celluloid. Previously to the introduction of the machines alluded to for the defibrating of the woolly cottonseed, a great deal of the cottonseed produced had been unsuitable for the British seed-crusher; hence it might be considered that this kind of cottonseed was now entering upon a new era in its history. Mr. Pearson had pointed out that until comparatively recently the British seed-crusher was concerned mainly with the production of cake, hence his desideratum had been a raw material containing not too large a proportion of oil. On the other hand, manufacturers on the Continent for some years before the war had gone ahead in the manufacture of edible oils, and had therefore sought out the raw materials which gave the highest percentage of oil. The war had changed a good many things, and amongst others it had entirely revolutionised the ideas of the seed-crusher in this country as regards the primary product of his industry; the richer oil producing seeds had become much more prominent, but they would not force cottonseed into the background. Professor Todd had estimated that to meet the world's requirements there must be a cumulative increased production of 800,000 to 1,000,000 bales of cotton per annum, so we might look for a proportionate increase in the production of cottonseed, and 90 per cent. of it would be of the woolly variety. Whatever might be said about the richer seeds, cottonseed oil was still unrivalled as a means of producing margarine and other edible oils; so, provided the cottonseed was thoroughly cleaned by the seed-crusher before it was treated further, it would take in the near future a far more important place in the category of raw materials than it had held in the past.

Mr. Chadwick, the Indian Trade Commissioner, said that in our tropical possessions we had a very large area of land suitable for the production of ground-nuts, copra, and rich bearing oilseeds. Taking the Empire as a whole, we produce more of the richer oilseeds than of the poorer ones. The fact that crushers in this country had not wanted the richer oilseeds had led India to seek a market for them in Continental countries. Some authorities considered ground-nut cake to be for feeding purposes in no way inferior to cotton cake.

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YUGOSLAV CURRENCY PROBLEM.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, November 24.

The currency problem is still with us. The scarcity of small change, an inconvenience not peculiar to this country, has been met by the issue of a quite elegant one-dinar note. Light is thrown on the scarcity of silver by the recent attempts to smuggle several thousand silver kronen to Paris. This is quite a Turkish characteristic, for it was found that many of the Turkish labourers in the employment of the British Salonika Force had considerable sums in gold concealed upon them, sometimes a hundred pounds or more, which explains the fact that a certain amount of gold remained in circulation in Macedonia right through the war. The marking of the krone begins this week; by this the authorities hope to get to know the exact amount of stamped kronen in the country, which they will recall and replace by the new dinar issue before the New Year. The new issue will be covered by the old Serbian gold reserve, and by a new loan of fifty million pounds recently made jointly by England and France for this purpose. With the granting of this loan the monthly subsidy of nine million francs ceases, and the payment by England and France of the coupons on the old loans, which amounted to forty-two millions a year. The Serbs complain that they have to carry the whole burden of their war debt, which amounts to two milliards, running at 5 per cent. from next year, while defeated Bulgaria has been remitted her war debt to Germany; it sometimes pays to be beaten, the yargue, for they can compare Bulgaria's intact fields with their own ravaged towns and villages and ruined railways.

November 26.

It is notorious that for a long time huge quantities of unstamped krone have been smuggled into the country. From time to time arrests have been made and great quantities of this bad money confiscated; the offenders have in almost every instance been Hungarian Jews or their agents.

Communications.

Communications are still very bad, and there is little prospect of definite improvement until the mass of damaged locomotives is repaired. It is hoped to have two hundred more ready early in the New Year, and there are eighty yet to come back from Bulgaria. The coal shortage is another cause of irregular traffic; the fast train Liubliana-Zagreb-Belgrade was recently taken off owing to a colliers' strike at Trbovlie, and until the train was restored on the 23rd inst. the only communication with Zagreb was by the Orient express, which, of course, is always full. Better things are, however, in view, for it is announced that in a few weeks a sleeping-car service will be run through Belgrade to Nish, whence it will divide to Salonika on one hand and Sofia and Constantinople on the other. This is urgently needed, as the train journey at present to Salonika is a terrible undertaking that daunts the stoutest hearts.

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PALESTINE NOTES.

Development of Agriculture.

(From a Correspondent.)

While the fog of political uncertainty impedes progress to no little extent a brighter view is being steadily unfolded under the orderly methods of British administration. Every effort is made to get at the root of abuses, and many good measures are being taken to restore, or rather to develop, agriculture, which has suffered so much from the havoc of war, but was always terribly hampered under Ottoman sway by the vexatious restrictions which harassed every branch of this industry.

In the matter of tithes leviable on all agricultural produce substantial reforms are, of course, needed. Many articles will no doubt, be exempted from tithe, and old-fashioned methods of assessment superseded. As regards cereals the existing system of estimation on threshing-floors must be followed, computation on standing crops being very objectionable. Perhaps many of the changes introduced in Cyprus in very similar circumstances under British administration might be repeated with advantage here. There the old method of farming out the tithes, which led to so many abuses, was promptly abandoned. Then the assessing staff of officials was separated from the collecting—a very necessary step. But the system of assessment on open-air threshing-floors was maintained. Any adoption of fixed charges on land is out of the question under the climatic and other conditions in these regions.

Agricultural loans at 6½ per cent. repayable by instalments during five years are providing relief in some cases. Agricultural machinery and appliances are now exempted from customs duty. The exportation of livestock (cows, calves, sheep, and camels) is prohibited until further notice. The protection of olive trees is being enforced, a highly judicious step. Thus any person cutting a tree must preserve one shoot from the root (*tabûn*) and tend its growth. Neglect to do so is a punishable offence, and reports are made by agricultural inspectors. In regions that have suffered most relief is being given to poor agriculturists and field workers by labour on public works when possible. A considerable time must, of course, elapse before husbandry can return to pre-war conditions. But these were notoriously backward, or primitive, at the best.

As regards land and house taxes, the need of a cadastral survey and a revaluation of properties of all categories is, of course, manifest. Also delimitation of forests and determination of State domains. Ottoman records, based on a very old and irregular system of registration, are to a great extent lacking. The cost of creating a Land Registry, and of training an efficient staff will be great. Meanwhile things must inevitably remain in a decidedly chaotic state.

THE GOVERNMENT AND ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

In the House of Commons on December 3, in reply to Major Barnes, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. A. Chamberlain) said: His Majesty's Government at present hold two million £1 shares in the Anglo-Persian Company out of three million ordinary shares, and have agreed to subscribe in the same proportion to the total ordinary share capital for a further three million ordinary shares of £1 each, on which 1s. per share will be immediately paid up. It has been arranged that the remaining 19s. per share on two million shares will be paid up shortly. The calls on the remaining million shares will not be made for some years. Tentative arrangements for financing the call of 19s. per share on the two million shares have been made, and will be embodied in a Bill which will be presented to the House immediately.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market is distinctly dearer than a week ago. Rates in yarn and cloth have been put up to a greater extent than the rise in the raw material. Numerous spinners and manufacturers are asking extraordinary prices, but it seems quite impossible to check the enterprise of buyers. A feature of interest has been the striking advance in Egyptian cotton. The upward movement in Alexandria is said to be due to the greater difficulty experienced in securing supplies from the country districts as a result of the labour disturbances. Buying on the spot in Liverpool has been rather smaller. Many people are of opinion that values are now on a very dangerous level. Spinners of Egyptian yarns have raised their quotations to a marked extent. The advance in 60's twist since a week ago is about 12d. a pound, but in certain special qualities 15d. a pound more has been demanded. Many leading sellers have begged their customers not to operate at present, but the undercurrent of demand is very persistent. In cloth for Egypt there has been a considerable inquiry. Some encouraging sales have been put through in sized shirtings. Printed and dyed goods have also been in active request. Remittances from the other side are very encouraging. A healthy turnover has transpired for the several outlets of the Levant. India has done well in miscellaneous fabrics, but the grey staples have attracted rather less attention. Operations for China have been somewhat irregular. Manufacturers are in a stronger position than ever. Shipping yarns have moved off freely for India, China, and Japan. Demand has been well maintained for Near Eastern markets.

Cotton Spinning in 1919.

Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, has prepared his usual analysis of the reports of Lancashire cotton-spinning companies for the twelve months ended November 30, 1919. The figures show that record profits have been made. In a table of twenty-three companies which issue balance-sheets the total profit is £340,090, being an average profit per company of £14,786. The share capital of these concerns amounts to £945,815, and loans £369,938. The value of the mills, including machinery, is £890,489, the total number of spindles being 2,241,728. The profit on share capital works out at 35.95 per cent, against 34.34 per cent. last year. The profit on share and loan capital combined is 25.84 per cent., as compared with 21.90 per cent. in 1918. According to a table of 100 companies, with a share capital of £4,723,475, the average dividend paid during the twelve months is 21.34 per cent., the amount distributed being £1,007,989. These 100 mills contain 9,182,418 spindles. During the year the directors of twenty-six of these companies have increased the amount paid up on shares by the payment of bonus calls out of profits. The year opened with trade in a depressed state as a result of the slump following the Armistice, but business revived early in April, and since then there has been an increasing trade in yarn, and the margin of profit has steadily widened. It is probable that the stocktaking announcements at the end of December will show even more satisfactory results than those mentioned above.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from November 16 to November 23 amounted to 3,000,000 francs, as against 1,560,000 francs for the previous year.

At the monthly meeting of the "S.P.C.K." the Rev. J. Goodchild will lecture on "Overland to Baghdad—Railway Expansion and Missionary Enterprise."

A branch of the London County, Westminster and Parr's Bank is being opened at 227c, City Road, under the management of Mr. F. Littell (manager, Old Street branch).

M. Huszar, Hungarian Prime Minister, states that communism cost his country 18 milliard crowns (£750,000,000 pre-war), and the Roumanian invasion 36 milliard crowns.

M. Adossides, the Governor-General of Salonika, has returned to Salonika from Athens, where he has been arranging with the Hellenic Government for the development of agriculture, education, and transport in Macedonia.

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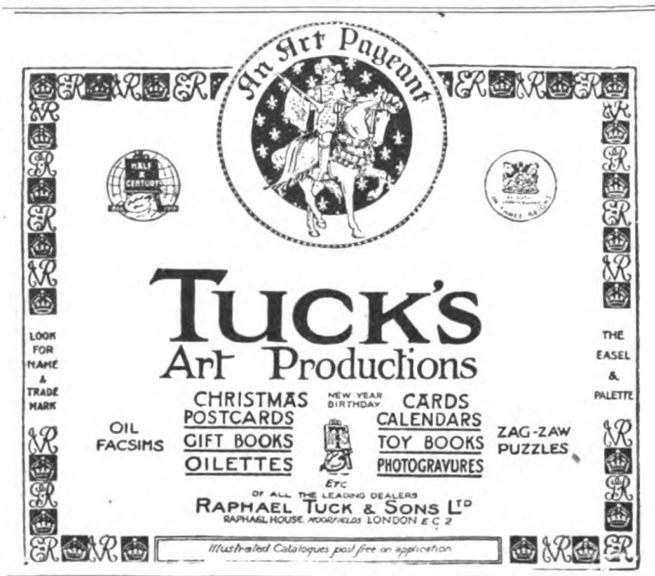

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Engineering.

MOTOR SHOW REFLECTIONS

III.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

There was only one American car, so far as I could see, offered at £250 or under, against which I noticed four British two-seaters, two two-seaters with a third seat, and one four-seater, offered at prices ranging from £200 to £250. So that here again British prices compared more than favourably with those asked for similar but less well-finished vehicles made in other countries.

Two high-grade British four-seaters were on offer at rather under £350, and two two-seaters and three four-seaters at prices ranging from £250 to £300. There were also two American four-seaters offered at between £350 and £400, but in this class I counted no fewer than nine British two-seaters, one three-seater and five four-seaters. Practically the same thing was noticeable with cars offered above that price and under £500; and what to my mind was the finest American product on view, the eight-cylindered Cadillac, priced at £1,350, was certainly not the equal as regards finish, fittings, or power of many British cars offered at less money. It may be mentioned here that the Cadillac car has a self-starter, electric lighting, aluminium disc wheels with detachable rims, wind screen, luggage grid and tyre-carrier, hood, and hood cover. The most expensive British car was the magnificent Napier at £2,185, and this, in my view, was absolutely the last word in car construction. This is said advisedly after exhaustive examination and a lengthy trial run under adverse weather conditions on both tar macadam and medium and bad country roads.

British v. Foreign Requirements.

When comparing prices and qualities of British and foreign cars, however, it must be borne in mind that we have in England a large motoring public which exists only to a very small extent in other countries; that is, a public which is prepared to pay any price in reason, provided the product it buys is absolutely the best obtainable. The other section, that which desires to buy good quality products at the lowest possible price, is perhaps not so numerous here as elsewhere, and the predominance of this section amongst American and other buyers is the reason why American cars are built in the cheapest manner possible. It is noticeable that an increasing number of British manufacturers are now catering for this section, and, concentrating their energies on one, or at most two, models, are producing or are about to produce these by methods of mass production—a term which is now so familiar as to need no explanation. These models are known in the trade as "quantity" or "production" cars, and here the object has been to produce as fine a car with as well-finished a body as the average man could wish to have, at a price lower in many cases, and certainly no higher in any, than those cars imported into Great Britain.

In these there has been no sacrifice of efficiency, power, or appearance, and a close examination of every "production" model showed that engine, chassis, springing, and all other essentials were constructed on the soundest of engineering lines. It was in this section of cars that perhaps the most noticeable departures from pre-war practice were to be observed, and the effect upon them of aero-engine design was very marked. Weight was cut down to a minimum without the slightest sacrifice of strength, road clearance was good, wheel bases and wheel tracks such as would be suitable for practically any class of road down to the merest country lane, and both home and overseas buyers could invest in one of these cars confident that they were not only getting the fullest value for their money, but were buying a sound proposition which would serve them in good stead anywhere, in any weather, and on any roads.

British Supremacy.

There was actually as much change in the right direction in regard to the construction and finish of the more expensive "luxury class" cars, but here it was not so largely in evidence by reason of the number of other refinements which were added. But whatever the class of car, and no matter what its power and price, it can be confidently asserted that there was not a single model on view which did not compare favourably in every way not only with those models offered before the war, but also with those models which had been sent into the show for the purpose of showing British engineers and British buyers what the workshops of other countries could produce.

I have compared my impressions, derived from an almost constant attendance at the show and an exhaustive examination of every model on view, with those of other engineers, and find a remarkable unanimity of opinion. I have said before that in my opinion there is not only nothing wrong with the British motor industry, but that we know as much about efficiency and engine power and design, road shocks, wind resistance, springing, lighting and starting as it is possible to know in the present stage of development. In several of these respects we are ahead of French and Italian designers and leave the Americans hopelessly in the rear. In saying this I fully admit the many good points of American products, and then say deliberately that with one exception, the Cadillac, there is no American car that, as regards all that goes to make up a car, is even in the same street as our medium cars; and certainly there is not one, so far as I can ascertain, that even begins to compete with such British productions as the Napier, Rolls-Royce, Lanchester, Vauxhall, Daimler, Sheffield-Simplex, Armstrong-Siddeley, Sunbeam, or a number of others that could be mentioned did space permit. Our quantity productions are in the same position, comparatively speaking, and it is certain that the lead thus established will be well maintained now that conditions are more normal.

Weight Reduction.

Speaking more particularly to overseas buyers, I would point out that the elimination of all unnecessary weight in engine and chassis is all to the good. Reduction of weight, as I have said, does not mean a sacrifice of strength, but actually the reverse, in modern car construction. It is practically certain that more will be done in this direction, and that the use of specially selected woods, used either plain or reinforced with steel plates, will be developed. Where steel is necessary, higher-grade alloys, as manganese steel, vanadium steel, chrome-nickel and tungsten steels, will be probably used more extensively in the future, and many parts at present made from ordinary steels may in future be constructed of certain aluminium alloys. Already duralumin is being used to a considerable extent, and it may well be that the monobloc type of engine, in which the cylinders and upper portion of the crank case are cast in one part, will give way to a design in which the cylinders are made with their heads from weldless steel tubes specially forged and machined. Already one large firm is making its engines in this way, and if they stand the test of hard usage—and there is no reason to think they will not—other makers will certainly follow the lead. In this way the cost of construction will be reduced by the elimination of the large casting, as at present an appreciable proportion of castings contain hidden flaws which only come to light under the exhaustive tests and the machining to which they are subjected.

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MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

Cotton-Growing in Mesopotamia.

The great possibilities of Mesopotamia for grain and fruit cultivation, it has often been pointed out by us, will open up a very promising business field for the enterprising British agricultural engineer and machinery merchant. This view has recently been further emphasised by the results of practical experiments which have been carried out to test the possibilities of the soil and climate for cotton growing, and which proved that Mesopotamia can also yield large quantities of cotton. The experiments were conducted under the auspices of the Agricultural Department of the Expeditionary Force, and they have given results that are exceedingly encouraging. Judging from these experiments the type of cotton that will thrive best is Middling American Upland, for which there is in ordinary times an immense demand. The specimens actually produced are described as "fairly long" in staple, of good colour, and of high ginning percentage, while the amount of the yield per acre was exceedingly liberal.

Some points in the experiments may be mentioned as of special interest. Alluvial land near Baghdad was sown with varieties of seed imported from India, America, and Egypt. Four varieties of American seed were found to give the best results. Three of these were from cotton acclimatized in India, and well known in the Punjab and Sind under the titles of "F. 285," "4 F," and "Triumph," while the fourth, "Webber 49," was imported from America direct. The yield in amount was remarkable, being over 2,000 lb. of seed cotton to the acre. Taking a third of this as actual cotton or lint suitable for ginning, there is a much higher yield to the acre than in India or Egypt. It must be mentioned, however, that the land selected for the experiment was richer than the average, and that it received better attention in the way of deep trenching and irrigation than the Arabs could give, at any rate for some time. Labour is likely to be an initial difficulty in any attempt at cotton growing on a considerable scale, and artificial irrigation would be necessary. In February and March, before the cotton is sown, the rivers are in flood, and they are low at the time when water is most needed for the young plants. Still, neither of these obstacles is insuperable given a determination to make progress with an enterprise that on the whole should be exceedingly promising.

Petrol from Water.

The recent news of the discovery of a miraculous powder which, it is alleged, turns water into petrol has evidently circulated widely in the Near East, since inquiries are being sent from various parts of that region for particulars, the price of the substance, etc. The fact that there are thousands of motor-cars and other vehicles in the East, most of which, owing to the great scarcity of petrol and its very high price when it can be obtained, have been either locked up in the garage since the war, or only occasionally used, justifies the apparent excitement of the owners at the prospect of being able at a trifling cost to prepare one gallon of petrol at the nearest water tap, pump, or brook. It is not pleasant to lower such hopes, but, unfortunately, experts are not very hopeful of the invention, which according to reports from the place where the mysterious chemical was shown, is very simple. The powder is said to be the invention of a South American, who takes a bucket of water and drops some sort of chemical powder into it—a secret preparation of his own. Then the resultant compound, it is said, is ready to drive even a 20 h.p. limousine at high speed, with perfectly smooth running qualities. The experiments with the new fuel created much interest among motorists, but opinions are divided on the merits of this latest petro substitute. The prospect, however, of replenishing one's motor fuel supply at the nearest parish pump, water-tap, brook, or fish-pond has excited as much speculation among motorists who were watching the experiments on the spot, as among those who heard of it in the East.

It is not the first time that such claims have been made, as a leading motoring authority said, for about eight or nine years ago a similar experiment was made before a number of experts. The inventor filled the glass reservoir of an ordinary oil-lamp with water. A small pill, said to consist of chemicals, was dropped in the water, and when the lamp-wick was lighted, it continued to burn like ordinary oil. Some of the onlookers came away from the experiment quite bewildered, but nothing further was heard of the matter. Another expert in motoring matters said he was very sceptical about this latest discovery, and pointed out that something similar was tested in America in 1917. His concluding remarks are worth mentioning:—"If the present motor-fuel project is the same as the foregoing, I don't think there is much in it, as Americans are usually alive to the advantages of such a thing." It was said that the American inventor and his attorney were, recently, in London awaiting developments, and that a £2,000,000 company was prepared to exploit the invention; but so far nothing is definitely known.

Water Gas.

Apropos of the above American invention, it may be mentioned that in answer to a remark of a British officer that "some of our expert chemists may be induced to investigate the conversion of water into fuel, and that the benefits may be assured to the already struggling community," a correspondent pointed out that, apparently, he overlooked the fact that for many years water has been used as a fuel in the form of water-gas, which is produced by passing steam over heated carbon, and the result of this is the production of $CO+H^2$. These gases are then led to an internal-combustion engine, where, mixed with air, they form an explosive mixture. The application of this principle to motor lorries has already been effected, and it has also been tested out and reported upon very favourably by an Inter-departmental Government Committee, who have expressed the opinion that such portable gas-plants have the following advantages:—(1) Lowest known fuel cost; (2) Large radius of action without recourse to compression or the use of containers; (3) Use of home-produced solid fuel; (4) Low cost of upkeep.

SOUTH RUSSIA'S IRON ORE SUPPLIES.

The British Economic Mission at Rostov-on-Don makes the following report on the Krinz Rig Mines, the output of which region in 1913 was equal to 69 per cent. of the total production for the whole of Russia:—Although there has lately been a certain activity in the region, all mines are at present at a standstill and water pumping has ceased. The stocks of iron ore in mines and factories are:—At the mines, 95,000,000 pouds; at the factories, 35,000,000 pouds. Allowing for a reserve stock of 30,000,000 pouds, there remains 100,000,000 pouds at the disposal of the South Russian factories. There is sufficient for four months' work at full capacity for all factories. The factories have also half-finished material for four months, and are safe-guarded for full-speed work for eight months. One can estimate that stocks will actually suffice one and a-half to two years, as factories will only reopen gradually. If factories are restarted on part-time work, and only the most productive mines worked for the present, it can be reckoned that a large part of the total stock might safely be exported now. The ore at present can be exported by rail through the station Dolinskaia to Nikolaeff, and from there by sea.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the contracts given below, and must be made by the dates mentioned:—

India Office.—Supply of road bridges, 100, 80, and 60 ft. spans. (Spec., Director-General of Stores, Whitehall.) December 9.

India Office.—Supply of vacuum brake gear. (Spec., Director-General of Stores, Whitehall.) December 10.

Madras Corporation.—Supply and delivery of about 67 miles of English stoneware pipes, from 4 in. to 18 in. internal diameter. (Spec., 5s.; Messrs. J. Mansergh and Sons, 5, Victoria Street, S.W.1.) February 2.

A report has been submitted by the Alexandria Hellenic Chamber of Commerce to the Athens Ministry of the Interior advising the abolition or the reduction of export duties on tobacco exported to Egypt.

The export from India of the following articles is now generally permitted:—Goatskins, raw; goatskins, tanned; hides, buffalo and cow (including calf), raw, partially tanned or tanned; sheepskins, raw; sheepskins, tanned; jute, raw.

Dr J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne

Of all Chemists. 1/3 and 3/-.

Safeguard your Health with this Reliable Medicine.

Cuts short attacks of HYSTERIA, SPASMS, PALPITATION.

A true palliative in NEURALGIA, GOUT, TOOTHACHE, RHEUMATISM.

Checks and arrests FEVER, CROUP, AGUE.

The Best Remedy known for COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS.

ACTS LIKE A CHARM IN DIARRHŒA, CHOLERA, DYSENTERY.

Always ask for a 'Dr. Collis Browne's

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE.

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GREEK FINANCES.

Control of Exchange Operations.

The following report from H.M Minister at Athens gives particulars of the control of exchange operations in Greece :—

The present Greek regulations relative to exchange operations have attracted a great deal of attention. The Law of September 30 amends previous laws regarding the control of foreign exchange, and in view of its importance to British financial houses. and the difficulties experienced by traders, its main clauses are given below. It is understood that representations have been made by the Greek Chamber of Commerce to the Ministry of Finance with a view to obtaining some modification of the regulations, if not the abolition of all restrictions.

A circular from the Ministry of Finance, dated June 25 (No. 554,907), permits remittances abroad in cases where these remittances concern orders for goods to be imported into Greece, provided that clients deposit a sum equal to 10 per cent. of the remittance as a guarantee that the goods will be sent to Greece. This sum can be reclaimed after permission has been obtained from the Special Exchange Bureau of the Ministry, to which clients are obliged to present proofs that the goods have been imported to Greece against the remittances concerned. The proofs demanded by the Ministry in this respect consist of the following documents :—Invoice-duplicate, bill of lading if possible, and Custom House declaration stating that the Custom House duties on the goods in question have been paid.

A subsequent circular of the same Ministry, dated July 28 (No. 67,532), exempts the members of the Greek Chamber of Commerce from the regulation regarding the deposit of 10 per cent. as guarantee, provided that such members will sign a guarantee undertaking to deposit a sum equal to 10 per cent. in case the goods are not imported into Greece within six months from the date on which the remittance is made by the bank. Such deposits of 10 per cent. are allotted to the public revenues in case the goods are not imported within the period of six months.

Confirmed Credits.

Validity of confirmed credits is fixed for a period of three months (Ministry of Finance Circular, dated September 23, No. 4,155). Customers opening confirmed credits through a bank in Greece must deposit 10 per cent. as guarantee, or a written personal guarantee if members of the Greek Chamber of Commerce, as in case of remittances abroad, except that the period is fixed at three months and not six, as in the latter case.

If for any reason the credit is cancelled, the customer is obliged to pay the bank any difference in exchange; should, however, the exchange be in his favour, any difference must be paid to the National Bank of Greece to the credit of account "Difference on exchange on funds abroad" against the issue of bank-notes (Law published in Government Gazette No. 207 of September 29, 1918). For any extension of the validity of confirmed credits, customers have to apply to the Ministry of Finance, and to present proofs to the Special Bureau that the credits have not been utilised during the period of three months owing to force majeure (Ministry of Finance Circular, dated September 23, 1919).

Bills with bills of lading sent for collection :—Proceeds of such bills with bills of lading cannot be permitted to the senders abroad, unless customers submit to the Special Bureau of the Ministry, through the bank, a Custom House declaration that the relative goods have been imported into Greece. Consequently, banks before delivering the bills of lading to the customers are obliged to ask 10 per cent. of the face value of the bill from them as guarantee, or, in the case of members of the Greek Chamber of Commerce, a guarantee letter stating that the relative goods will be imported into Greece, and not be re-exported into other countries. Such a guarantee is returned to the depositor when he submits the Custom House declaration as stated above, and obtains the permission of the Special Bureau

Exports.

The export of goods from Greece (tobacco, currants, etc.) is permitted only on condition that the exporter gives a guarantee to the Ministry that the value of the goods will be remitted to him within six months, in exchange on Paris, London, New York, Switzerland, Holland, Spain, etc., or that an equal value of merchandise will be imported within that period. Members of the Greek Chamber of Commerce and exporters permanently settled in Greece, are entitled to deposit a letter as guarantee, while from others a cash guarantee of 20 per cent. of the value of the goods is required. This cash guarantee is credited to the Government in case the full value of the goods is not received, or if merchandise of equivalent value is not imported, within the period of six months.

The same measures are taken for goods imported from abroad which are re-exported to foreign countries, viz., deposit of guarantees, etc., etc. (Law of September 17, 1919).

By the same Law of September 17 the import of the following bank-notes and paper money is forbidden :—Roubles, lei, Austrian crowns, marks, and Turkish pounds.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Shipping Notes.

It is announced in the report of the P. and O. Company that the board are arranging to fit the passenger steamers now under construction for burning oil instead of coal.

The Suez Canal returns for the second quarter of this year show that the number of passengers was 640, excluding warships and transports, with an aggregate net tonnage of 2,199,086. During the period January 1 to June 30 1,094 vessels, with an aggregate net tonnage of 3,717,772, passed through the Canal.

It is announced that the passage dues for ships in ballast of the Suez Canal Company will be reduced by 2 francs 50 centimes to 6 francs per ton as from March 1. The dues for loaded ships will remain at 8 francs 50 centimes per ton.

The s.s. "Woodara," built to the order of the British India Steam Navigation Company, underwent her trial trip successfully on the Clyde on November 27. The vessel, which has a dead weight carrying capacity of 10,500 tons, realised a speed of 16½ knots. She is insulated throughout in holds and in all 'tweendecks for the carriage of frozen meat.

The Moss line s.s. "Amasis" leaves Liverpool on December 13 for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Johnston Line's s.s. Cundall, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 10.

The Ellerman Line's s.s. Polo, from Liverpool for Bari, Venice, Trieste, and Patras, will close for cargo on December 10.

The Ellerman Line's s.s. Malatian, from Liverpool for Alexandria, will close for cargo on December 20.

The Cunard Line's s.s. Sea Serpent, from Liverpool for Piræus and Patras, will close for cargo on December 10.

The Cunard Line's s.s. Sahara, from London for Piræus, Constantinople, Constantza, Odessa, and Batoum, will close for cargo on December 6.

The Papayanni Line's s.s. Bavarian, from Liverpool for Malta and Alexandria (taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Mersina, Cyprus, etc.), will close for cargo on December 6.

The Bibby Line's s.s. Oxfordshire will leave Liverpool on December 10 for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon. This company will also have a steamer leaving London for Rangoon next month.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

The petroleum output from September 27 to October 3 was 21,296 tons, and the stock available was 79,196 tons.

The coal output from September 27 to October 3 was 4,152 tons, and the available stock 16,815 tons.

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce are considering the abolition of Customs formalities which are at present imposed on foreign newspapers coming into the country.

There is great activity on the Bourse in respect of shares in banks, insurance companies, maritime and river navigation companies, and several of these are increasing their capital, whilst new companies and banks are being formed and registered, showing that commercial circles in Roumania are preparing for considerably increased business from next year onwards.

An inspector from the Secretariat of the Ministry of Agriculture has been delegated to proceed to Poland to buy about 700 tons of coke. The Minister of Industry and Commerce has modified some of the conditions imposed up to the present in respect of the exports of timber to the effect that in future only half of the valuta obtained abroad must be deposited, which amounts to 100 francs per metre cube. The export tax of 2 per cent. and the State tax of 20 per cent. must be paid as heretofore.

The Red Star Line is establishing a service between Galveston, U.S.A., and the Orient.

It is reported that Japanese firms have been doing a considerable trade in hosiery for Egypt.

The directors of the Bombay Stock Exchange, who recently fixed maximum prices for shares in which there is most speculation, are now stopping all forward business from January 5, says the Bombay correspondent of the *Times*.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS.

MINING ENGINEER, A.I.M.M., Fully qualified. Experience, England, South America, and 10 years in Near East. Offers his services, management, erecting plant, reporting, etc.—Address, Engineer, care of Editor, NEAR EAST.

CAUCASUS, Northern Persia and Russian Black Sea Ports. Firm desires representation of British Manufacturers for above areas. Consignment of goods on commission also wanted. A chain of wholesale stores and retail shops throughout these districts ensures satisfactory realisations. Partner just arrived can give full particulars as to most suitable and advantageous articles (particularly textiles and conserved foodstuffs). Those interested, write, W. H. Lacey, Pembroke House, Epping.

CAPABLE LADY SECRETARY seeks engagement (would go abroad). Good shorthand, typing, book-keeping, household and estate accounts, interviewing, initiative. Highest references. 70s.-80s. — K.J., The Ladies' League, 118, New Bond Street, W.

GOVERNESS-COMPANION desires post. Usual English subjects, good French and music, cert. drawing and painting, nature study, games. £100.—G. L., The Ladies' League, 118, New Bond Street, W.

THE LADIES' LEAGUE (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, W., successfully recommends Lady Secretaries, Housekeepers, Companions, Governesses, Chaperons, Nursery Governesses, Lady Nurses, Nurse Companions, etc.

RANKEN CIVIL & MILITARY TAILORS,
13a, GEORGE STREET,
Spécialité—INDIAN ARMY OUTFITS. AND HANOVER SQUARE,
And at CALCUTTA, DELHI, SIMLA, LAHORE, and RAWAL PINDI. **COMPANY** LONDON, W.
Telegrams—"Mentally."
'Phone—Gerrard 59

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A Copy of this Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

The Subscription Lists will be closed on or before the 6th December, 1919.

Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1908 to 1917.)

SHARE CAPITAL - - £20,000,000,
IN SHARES OF £1 EACH,

	Already Issued.	Now being Issued.	TOTAL.
Cumulative 6 per cent. (Participating up to 8 per Cent.) Preference Shares	2,000,000	3,000,000	5,000,000
Ordinary Shares	5,000,000	4,50.,000	7,50 ,000
Unissued Capital	—	—	7,5 ,000

The Company has also outstanding £2,400,000 of 5 per Cent. First Debenture Stock. £2 ,00 ,000

ISSUE OF 3,000,000 Cumulative 6 per Cent. (Participating up to 8 per cent.) Preference Shares of £1 each, at £1 3s. per Share, Payable 2s. 6d. per Share on Application; 5s. 6d. per Share (including premium) on allotment; 15s. per Share on 15th January, 1920.

The Preference Shares now offered will, as from the 1st October, 1919, rank in every respect equally with the 2,000,000 Preference Shares already issued and are entitled to a Preferential and Cumulative Dividend at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, payable half yearly on the 31st July and 31st January in each year in respect of the financial half-years terminating on the previous 31st March and 30th September, the first Dividend in respect of this issue (for the half-year ending 31st March, 1920) being payable on the 31st July, 1920. The Shares now offered will also rank for the participating Dividend of 2 per cent. as from the 1st April, 1919.

After payment of the Cumulative Preference Dividend and payment of a Non-cumulative Dividend on the Ordinary Shares for the year at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, the profits in each year will be applied in payment of a further Non-cumulative Dividend on the amounts paid on the Preference Shares at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, and subject thereto such sums as the Directors may determine will be carried to a Special Reserve Fund out of the profits of each year, which fund will (unless otherwise determined by an Extraordinary Resolution of a Meeting of the Holders of the Preference Shares) be applied only (*a*) in making up any deficit on the 6 per Cent. Preference Dividend, and (*b*) in the event of a reduction of Capital or a winding-up, in payment of the Capital paid upon the Preference Shares and the premium of 10 per cent. payable in respect thereof, but such reserve may be used as part of the Working Capital of the Company.

Subject as aforesaid, the balance of the profits available for dividend belongs to the holders of the Ordinary Shares.

On a winding up the Preference Shares will be entitled to a preferential payment of an amount equal to 110 per cent. of the amounts paid thereon. The remainder of the surplus assets will belong to the holders of the Ordinary Shares.

Each Preference Share entitles the holder to one vote, and each Ordinary Share to two votes.

AND OF

£2,600,000 5 per Cent. First Debenture Stock at £85 per Cent.

PAYABLE

£25 per cent. on application. £60 per cent. on 8th Jan., 1920

The Debenture Stock is secured by a First Floating Charge on the whole of the Company's undertaking and assets and is redeemable at the Company's option at 5 per cent. premium, either in whole or in part, on the 31st December in any year, on not less than six months' notice, and is redeemable at the like rate in the event of a voluntary winding up for the purpose of amalgamation or reconstruction. The Company will redeem the whole of the Debenture Stock of £5,000,000 outstanding and now offered on or before the 31st December, 1960, at the rate of not less than £125.000 nominal value annually, either by drawings at 105 per cent. or by purchase at or under that amount. The Company has the right to issue further Debenture Stock, ranking *pari passu* with the Debenture Stock already issued or now offered up to a total amount equal to half the amount of the issued capital for the time being.

Interest on the Debenture Stock is payable half-yearly on the 30th June and 31st December, the first payment of interest on the present issue calculated from the 1st January, 1920, being payable on the 30th June, 1920. The Stock is transferable in multiples of £1.

Applications from existing Members of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, and The Burmah Oil Company, Limited, will be given special consideration.

Application has been made to the Committee of the London Stock Exchange for permission to deal in the Preference Shares and Debenture Stock after allotment.

PROSPECTUS.

The Company was incorporated in 1909 for the purpose of acquiring and has acquired a Concession granted by the Imperial Government of His Imperial Majesty the Shah of Persia, giving the exclusive right to search for, carry away and sell petroleum, natural gas, asphalt and ozokerite throughout the Persian Empire (except five Northern Provinces bordering on the Caspian Sea) for a period of sixty years from the 28th May, 1901.

The Company, through its subsidiary, the D'Arcy Exploration Company, Limited, of which the Company holds all the Capital, has acquired concessions and options on large areas of petroliferous territory in various other parts of the world, on some of which test drilling operations are being carried out and on others geological examinations are in progress.

The Company and its subsidiary Companies also hold the whole of the issued Share Capital of British Petroleum Company, Limited, British Tanker Company, Limited, Homelight Oil Company, Limited, Petroleum Steamship Company, Limited, and National Oil Refineries, Limited, and practically the whole of the Shares in The First Exploitation Company, Limited, and Bakhtiari Oil Company, Limited, a controlling interest in Scottish Oils, Limited, and various other smaller investments. The aggregate nominal amount of these investments exceeds £8,000,000.

The Company has since its formation carried out in Persia a large amount of exploratory and development work, with the result that large areas of very productive Oil Territory have been proved. The knowledge, which has been gained during these operations has demonstrated that the Concession held by the Company covers a petroliferous area of enormous extent and great richness. The Oil now being produced is all obtained from flowing wells of large volume, and consequently the cost of production is very low.

The crude Oil is of a high grade, containing unusually large percentages of Benzine and Kerosene, good qualities of Lubricating Oils and Mineral Wax, Fuel Oils of high thermal efficiency, and it also yields a satisfactory percentage of Toluol.

Pipelines have been laid from the Fields now being worked to the seaboard on the Persian Gulf; extensive up-to-date Refineries, Storage Tanks, Jetties, etc., have been erected and equipped, and large additions to these are now in progress. The fleet of Tank and other Steamers, Tugs, Lighters, etc., have been considerably augmented during the past year, and is at to-day's market value worth over £7,500,000. Distributing Stations for the sale of the Company's rapidly expanding supply of Petroleum Products are being constructed as fast as material becomes available.

To provide additional funds for Pipelines, Refineries, &c., His Majesty's Government in the year 1914 subscribed at par for 2,000,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, 1,000 Preference Shares of £1 each and £199,000 Debenture Stock, thereby securing a controlling interest in the Company. A further 4,500,000 Ordinary Shares are now being issued and the Government and The Burmah Oil Company, Limited, are subscribing for their respective proportions.

The present issue is for the purpose of providing the capital required for further considerable extensions to the Refineries and Pipelines in Persia; the completion of the Refineries of the National Oil Refineries, Limited, at Swansea; the provision of Liquid Fuel Installations in all important ports for the purpose of establishing a world-wide bunkering business, and the acquisition of a large number of additional Tank Steamers.

Up to March, 1916, the Company was more or less in the development stage. Since that time the net profits after paying Debenture interest, allowing for royalties and making liberal provision for depreciation, but not for Excess Profits Duty, were, as shown by the Audited Accounts of the Company:—

For the year ending 31st March, 1917	£344,109
For the year ending 31st March, 1918	£1 308.558
For the year ending 31st March, 1919	£2,010,805

For the current financial year the nett profits will show a further large increase and when the extensions referred to above are completed it is anticipated that the throughput of Oil will be more than doubled and the profits of the Company thereby be further considerably increased.

The whole issue of Preference Shares and Debenture Stock has been underwritten under a Contract dated the 24th November, 1919, and made between the Company of the one part and Messrs. Robert Fleming and Co., of 8, Crosby Square, E.C., and Messrs. S. M. Penney and Macgeorge, of 24, George Square, Glasgow, of the other part, for a commission (including sub-underwriting commission) of 2½ per cent.

In December, 1917, the Company offered for subscription 1,000,000 Cumulative 6 per Cent. Participating Preference Shares of £1 each at the price of £1 2s. 6d. per Share, the whole of which have been allotted and are fully paid. The whole of the issue was underwritten for commissions amounting to £28,750.

Copies of the Contract above mentioned and of the Contract dated the 15th December, 1917, and made between the Company of the one part and Messrs. Robert Fleming and Company of the other part, relative to the underwriting of the previous issue and of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and of the Trust Deeds relating to the Debenture Stock, may be seen at the office of the Company at any time during business hours while the list remains open.

Application for Shares and Debenture Stock should be made upon the forms accompanying this Prospectus and be sent to any of the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount of the deposit.

Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the number of Shares or amount of Debenture Stock allotted is less than that applied for the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the remaining sums payable, and any surplus will be repaid to the Applicants.

A brokerage of ½ per cent. on the par value of the Preference Shares and Debenture Stock will be paid on allotments made upon applications bearing Brokers' stamps.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the offices of the Company, and of The Burmah Oil Company, Limited, in Glasgow and London, and from the respective Bankers and their Branches, and from Messrs. S. M. Penney and Macgeorge, 24, George Square, Glasgow.

Dated 1st December, 1919.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CHAIRMAN:

Sir CHARLES GREENWAY, Bart., 13, Wilton Crescent, London, S.W.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Admiral Sir E. J. W. SLADE, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., The Greenings, Charlwood, Surrey.

Sir HUGH S. BARNES, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., Woodlands Corner, West Byfleet, Surrey.

JOHN T. CARGILL, Chairman, The Burmah Oil Company, 175, West George Street, Glasgow.

JAMES HAMILTON, 175, West George Street, Glasgow.

The Right Hon. LORD INCHCAPE, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., 4, Seamore Place, Mayfair, London, W., Representative of His Majesty's Government.

F. W. LUND, 81, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

The Right Hon. LORD SOUTHBOROUGH, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., etc., 17, Airlie Gardens, London, W.

FRANK C. TIARKS, The Manor, Davies Street, London, W.

ROBERT I. WATSON, Britannic House, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.

MANAGING DIRECTORS.

Sir FREDERICK W. BLACK, K.C.B., H. E. NICHOLS,
J. B. LLOYD,
Britannic House, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.

BANKERS.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL AND UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED, Head Office, 15, Bishopsgate, London, E.C., and Branches.

THE BANK OF SCOTLAND, Head Office, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, and Branches.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA, 25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.

SOLICITORS FOR THE COMPANY.

ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP & CO., 17, Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.

BROWN, FLEMING & MURRAY, C.A., 35, Walbrook, London, E.C., and Glasgow.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCKHOLDERS.

The Right Hon. LORD LAMINGTON, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., 26, Wilton Crescent, London, S.W.

The Right Hon. LORD SOUTHBOROUGH, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., etc., 17, Airlie Gardens, London, W.

SOLICITORS FOR THE TRUSTEES.

FRESHFIELDS & LEESE, 31, Old Jewry, London, E.C.

SECRETARY.

F. MACINDOE.

OFFICES.

Registered Office: Britannic House, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.
Glasgow Office: 175, West George Street, Glasgow.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Anglo-Persian Oil.

The report of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., for the year ended March 31 states that the profit, after allowing for depreciation, debenture interest, home charges and royalty, amounts to £2,010,805, to which has to be added the balance brought forward of £454,722, making a total of £2,465,527, from which falls to be deducted reserve for excess profits duty for all accounting periods up to March 31, £1,200,000. The following appropriations have been made:—Debenture stock redemption reserve, £80,000; preference share reserve, £50,000; general reserve, £300,000; amortisation reserve, £100,000, leaving £735,527. From this the following dividends have been paid:—On the preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent., less income-tax, for the half-year ended September 30, 1918, £60,000, and at the same rate for the half-year ended March 31, 1919, £60,000. The payment is now recommended of the following further dividends:—On the preference shares participating dividend at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, £40,000, and on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, £300,000, leaving a balance of £275,528 to be carried forward. The amount payable by the company for excess profits duty for the accounting periods up to March 31, 1919, has not yet been settled with the Revenue authorities. As will be observed, however, a sum has been placed to reserve amply sufficient to cover all possible liability in this respect. In view of the largely extended operations of the company, it has been decided to increase the capital of the company to £20,000,000, and an extra-ordinary meeting was called for November 1 to pass the necessary resolution. The claim against the Persian Government for losses sustained in connection with the cutting of the company's pipe-line in 1915 still remains unpaid, but negotiations for a settlement are now proceeding. The throughput of the refinery in Persia shows a substantial increase on that for the previous period. Work on the extensions referred to in the last report has again been delayed by the difficulty experienced in securing delivery of the large amount of plant and machinery required, and further delay has been caused by the inadequate supplies of labour required in connection with the erection work, but the position is improving, and satisfactory progress is now being made. The work connected with the erection of the refinery at Swansea is proceeding as satisfactorily as can be expected under present labour conditions. The high productivity of the oil fields is fully maintained, but the quantity of crude oil procured has necessarily still to be restricted to the capacity of the existing pipe-lines. Further pumping stations are in course of erection, and a long section of one of the lines is being relaid with pipe of a larger diameter. Every effort is being made to complete these extensive works as soon as possible. The company's fleet of tankers has been further largely increased by the purchase of a number of ready boats, and contracts have been placed for the building of a large amount of additional tonnage. In July, 1919, the company made an offer to the ordinary shareholders of the five Scotch shale oil companies with the object of combining the respective interests and affording a future outlet for the company's oil. This offer was accepted by 98 per cent. of the shareholders of the Scotch companies, and a company entitled Scottish Oils, Ltd., was registered in September with a capital of £4,000,000 to give effect to this combination. The accepting shareholders of the Scotch companies receive payment in preference shares of Scottish Oils, Ltd., and the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., has subscribed for the whole ordinary issue of 1,000,000 £1 shares. Since the last general meeting Mr. J. B. Lloyd has been elected to a seat on the board, and Sir Frederick W. Black, K.C.B., who last year was nominated by the Government as their second representative, has been elected an ordinary director. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., December 8, noon.

P. and O.

The report of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. for the year ended September 30 states that owing to the delay experienced in connection with the accounts of steamers worked on behalf of the Government, estimates have had to be made in some cases, but care has been taken to frame these on the safe side. Out of the year's results the directors propose to add £50,000 to the provident good service fund. The steamers have been badly knocked about during the war and there has been little opportunity for overhaul. It is necessary, therefore, to put aside a considerable sum which would otherwise have been spent during the year, and an addition of £450,000 has been made to the contingent fund. The directors propose to add £300,000 to the reserve fund instead of paying the usual bonus of 6 per cent. This is only a little more than would have been required to pay the tax-free bonus. They also propose to add another £200,000 to the reserve out of the year's operations. The contingent fund will then stand at £1,000,000 and the reserve fund at £2,000,000. After making these provisions there is a credit balance on the year's accounts, including £91,727 5s. 4d. brought forward from last year, of £651,257 1s. 3d. The directors propose to deal with this balance as follows: 5 per cent. dividend on the deferred stock (of which 2½ per cent. was paid as an interim dividend), £152,000; 12 per cent. dividend on the deferred stock, free of income-tax (of which 6 per cent. was paid as an interim dividend), £384,026 18s. 10d., carrying forward £115,230 2s. 5d. Owing to an appreciation in value of some of the company's assets the directors consider that the amount standing to the credit of the company's reserve funds will admit of the distribution to the deferred stockholders of approximately £200,000 deferred stock *pro rata* to their holdings. Stock certificates for the proper amounts will be issued as soon as possible to those whose names were on the register on November 25, but this will take some time, as the work involved is considerable. There will naturally be some fractions of £1 to deal with in the appropriation of the stock, and these, instead of being paid in stock, will be paid in cash based as nearly as possible on the market price of the deferred stock, but the amount will be trifling. This new stock will rank for dividend as from October 1, 1919, and will in all respects be *pari passu* with existing deferred stock. £59,860 of the first and second debenture stock has been redeemed during the past twelve months, but the company retains the power to re-issue this at any time if necessary. The fleet was depleted to the extent of twenty-five steamers of 186,703 tons by enemy action and other causes during the war. Since the date of the last report the directors have purchased eight steamers from H.M. Government. Five ships of the "B" class have been contracted for with Messrs. Harland and Wolff, suitable for the company's Australian emigrant and cargo business via the Cape. A contract has also been made with Messrs. Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., of Elswick, for a large mail and passenger steamer of 15,800 tons, and some progress has been made in the construction of this ship, which will also have geared turbine engines. The directors are making contracts for the building of other steamers. In July, 1914, with vessels building, the company's fleet consisted of 68 steamers of a gross tonnage of 551,468 tons. To-day it comprises 63 steamers of a gross tonnage of 552,717 tons. The board are arranging to fit the passenger steamers now under construction for burning oil instead of coal. This will save considerable time in loading fuel and will avoid the discomfort to passengers involved in coaling at intermediate ports. Operating costs have increased by leaps and bounds, and the cost of new tonnage has risen quite 200 per cent. above pre-war level, but despite the uncertainty of the outlook the board feel it incumbent upon them to maintain and increase the fleet, so that they may hold their position in their various trades. The directors regret to report the death of Mr. William Gair Rathbone, who had been a member of the board since 1893. To fill this and another vacancy which occurred last year, the directors have nominated Lord Cunliffe and Lord Chalmers, and, in accordance with the provisions of the charter, they will present themselves for election at the annual meeting. Two directors, Lord Burghclere and Lord Balfour of Burleigh, go out of office by rotation on the day of the meeting, but will offer themselves for re-election. The directors recently had an opportunity of acquiring a large holding of the shares in the Orient Company. The Orient Company will continue to be worked as a separate concern but in close conjunction with the P. and O. and its allies. The fleet of the Orient Company when the purchase was made consisted of six steamers of a gross tonnage of 72,295 tons, all of which are of high class and have been recently built. One of these the Otranto, has since been lost while on service as an armed cruiser. The directors have acquired the bulk of the shares in the Khedivial Mail Company, and while it too, will continue to be worked as a separate concern, it will fit in with the P. and O. and British India Companies' services at Port Said. Steps are being taken to build up the fleet, which suffered severely from enemy action. There are liquid funds in hand sufficient to do this. Meeting, 122, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C., December 10, 11 a.m.

Sudan Plantations.

The report of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., for the year ended June 30 states that the issued share capital remains at £135,000. The debenture capital, on the other hand, has been repaid with the exception of £1,000. The crops handled were as follows:—Zeidab, 2,053 bales, against 2,012. Wad Medani, 3,682 bales, against 3,120. The prices realised for cotton were again satisfactory. The profit and loss account, after deduction of all outgoings, shows a net profit of £59,046, which, added to the balance brought forward of £35,156, brings the total credit to £94,203. A dividend of 25 per cent., equal to 5s. per share (less tax), payable to holders registered December 10, is recommended, carrying forward £60,453 Mr. Alexander MacIntyre has been appointed managing director in place of the late D. P. MacGillivray. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., December 17, noon.

Barnagore Jute Factory.

The report for the year ended August 31 states that the profit, after making provision for depreciation, is £103,069, and £1,906 is brought forward, making £104,975. Ad interim dividend 10 per cent. and final 20 per cent. on ordinary, writing off cost of land purchased £1,092, transferring to general reserve £4,823, carrying forward £630. Meeting, 28, Fenchurch Street, E.C., December 10, at noon.

By a recent Roumanian Decree-Law, the general Customs Law, the Customs Tariff Law, and the Law on the marking of the precious metals, now in force in Roumania, are extended so as to be applicable in Transylvania, the Bukovina, the Banat, and other territories united to Roumania.

An important addition to the Indian Income-Tax Rules, published in the *Gazette* of September 27 as Section 43 (2) (c) of the Indian Income Tax Act, 1918, affects the position of Indian branches of non-resident companies.

THE NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY. LIMITED.

INTERIM DIVIDEND OF 9d. PER SHARE (5%) LESS INCOME TAX OF 6s.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 5th day of December to the 12th day of December, both days inclusive, for the purpose of preparing Dividend Warrants in respect of an interim Dividend of 5 per cent., payable the 13th December, less tax at 6s. in the £.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that COUPON No. 8 will be PAID on and after the 13th day of December.

Coupons should be lodged at the Registered Offices of the Company, Pinners' Hall, Austin Friars, E.C.2, to permit of three clear days for examination, and will be received on and after the 4th day of December.

By order of the Board,
THOMAS DAY,
London Manager and Secretary.

Pinners' Hall, Austin Friars, E.C.2,
2nd day of December, 1919.

Forms for depositing Coupons may be obtained at the Registered Offices of the Company.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are from a recent report of the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

STAMBOUL, November 15.

Imports.

The rise in American cotton continues at Liverpool and at Manchester. The price of this article has risen this week to from 24d. to 27d. per lb., a rate above the highest price (26d.) realised during the war. Cotton goods of every description have increased in price in the places of manufacture, but this rise has not yet had an effect on the Constantinople market, where the demand for Russia has been weaker than in the preceding weeks. This diminution is mainly due to the low rate of the rouble (Kerensky roubles from 195 to 225).

Three steamers have arrived this week from England.

It is significant that the expenses of unloading—which were £T3 per ton before the war, and which had lately been brought to £T8-£T15 per ton, have just again been increased to double, that is to £T30 per ton.

SUGAR.—A lively demand from the Allied countries has caused a brisk rise in the places of production. Thus the price for Java has mounted to £65-£70 per ton. Here the sugar in customs has risen from £T34 to £T35½ per 100 kilos, with a tendency to rise. The arrivals of the week have been only a dozen wagons. No shipments destined for our port.

COFFEE.—Market weaker; very little business transacted.

PETROL.—The price has moved some piastres. American is quoted at Ps. 500-510 per case. An appreciable fall is expected when the arrivals from Batoum, which are supposed to be imminent, make their appearance on our market.

Exports.

OPIUM.—Some important transactions have taken place in this article, with sustained prices. 140 cases were sold at Ps. 720 per oke, new druggist, at 750/755 old, and at Ps.1,000 per oke, fine quality (soft).

MOHAIR.—Arrivals of the week amounted to 410 bales. Sales about 300 bales, prices being Ps. 72/75 second quality and Ps. 85/90 extra quality. No lots have been exported this week.

WOOL.—Arrivals 200 bales. No sales.

SILK.—Market everywhere firm; prices are still high at £T16.20-£T16.50 per kilo for Broussa silks. The week's sales have only been from 4 to 5 bales owing to lack of stock here. Syrian silks have been entirely neglected.

CEREALS.—The arrivals this week have been relatively weak, the railway company not disposing of sufficient wagons for the transport of the cereals which are abundant in the centres of production. The Constantinople market has therefore only received during the week 82 wagons of wheat and 30 wagons of barley. The rates are at a new height: Wheat from Eski-Chéhir (extra) has risen from Ps. 14½ to Ps. 15½, that of Konia (second quality) from Ps. 13½ to Ps. 14½ and barley is at Ps. 6½ per kilo.

FLOUR.—Native flour is at £T12 per sack of 63 kilo and American at £T12½ to £T13 per sack of 72 kilo.

FOR GENUINE
TURKISH & EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES
TRY
THE SMYRNA CIGARETTE CO.
ASK FOR PRICE LIST
JOSEPH G. CORBETTI & BOURDELAKIA BROS.,
22, Great Chapel St. Oxford St., London, W.

STRANGERS' HOME FOR ASIATICS,
WEST INDIA DOCK ROAD, LIMEHOUSE, LONDON, E.
"I was a stranger and ye took me in."
CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD., LOMBARD STREET E.C.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.
EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

PARIS.
LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
A. HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER:
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
41-45, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Beyrout. Hamah. Saida.
Alexandretta. Damascus. Homs. Tripoli.
Caiffa.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.
(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Coffee.

5,950 packages were offered at auction this week. The demand was very small, but rates were nevertheless firm. Colombian good bold greenish made 140s., while Costa Rica bold grey greenish realised from 138s. to 141s. 6d. The futures market has been steady. Quotations are: December, 120s. 3d.; March, 117s. 9d.; May 114s.; July, 111s. 6d.; September, 108s.

Sugar.

The demand for free sugar continues, but there are naturally few transactions for future delivery owing to the control of imports after December 27. White Mauritius afloat is quoted 79s., and white Java from 84s. to 84s. 6d.

Oilseeds, etc.

There has been a quieter tone, seeds having been in less request. Linseed, Calcutta to London, November-December, is quoted 51s., ditto, Bombay, 52s. Rapeseed is firm, with Toria quoted 45s. There has been a strong demand for Egyptian cottonseed.

Oilcakes, etc.

There is little fresh to record in regard to oilcakes. Oils have been steady with a tendency to firmness. Linseed has been done at 103s., while rape oil has been strong at 110s., the crude quality being 5s. cheaper.

Sudan Crops.

The following particulars are given in the C.E.B. report for September:—

Gum.

The exports during September were, via Port Sudan, 1,214,407 kilos of hashab of the value of £E57,489; 5,010 kilos of bleached of the value of £E284; and 11,453 kilos of talh of the value of £E346.

Kordofan Province.—5,291 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during the month, as against 6,794 last year. The average price was £E1,374 per kantar of 100 rottles. 3,203 kantars arrived from Nahud, compared with 1,853 last year. There were no arrivals at Rahad and Um Ruaba.

Sennar Province.—575 kantars of hashab and 323 kantars of talh gum were exported from Singa out of store. There has been none on the market.

Cotton.

Red Sea Province.—Tokar: The latest reports show that the prospects for next season are good. A good deal of land that had not been cultivated for some years has been flooded, and should therefore produce a good crop.

Berber Province.—Wad Hamad Basin has been flooded most successfully this year. Operations began early in the month; practically the whole of the upper basin had been drained by the end of the month, and as much of the lower basin as the cultivators were ready to plant. The Gendetto cotton area has now been ascertained to be 596 feddans, and the greater part of it looks extremely well. The maize area so far planted is 417 feddans. This should give a fair crop. There are also 69 feddans of ground nuts, which are progressing satisfactorily. There has also been a little boll shedding in the Kitiab cotton, but it is not so marked as at Kabushia. Planting at the latter place in the middle of May has been a little early, but Kitiab being further north, early cotton probably suits better there than further south. At Tinerab the cotton (about 350 feddans) is on the late side, but it is better than last year. Dura planting is now going on there. Cotton at Darmali is only fair, but a good deal has been picked already up to one and a-half kantars (of 100 rottles) per feddan in some fields. At Miknilab cotton has improved a little, but boll worm is present, and the results are likely to be poor. Cultivators there do so well with dura, and particularly dura stalks, which they sell in Berber market for export to Halfa, that they take no interest in cotton.

NEW COMPANIES.

British Cotton Seed Products.

The British Cotton Seed Products, Ltd., was registered on November 26 with a capital of £250,000 in £1 shares, to carry on the business of manufacturers of fibre, husks, and other by-products from cotton seeds or from decorticated cotton seeds, hulls or otherwise, spinners or manufacturers of and dealers in cotton, silk and other fibrous substances, seed crushers, manufacturers of linseed, cotton seed and other cakes, oil extractors, etc. Agreement with Cotton By-Products, Ltd. The first directors are:—N. B. Foster, 29, Great St. Helens, E.C., oilseed crusher; Major M. B. H. O'Dowd, 46, Bassett Road, W.10; J. W. Pearson, 29, Great St. Helens, E.C., oilseed crusher; W. H. Pinnock, 30, Mark Lane, E.C., merchant; E. C. de Segundo, 17, Queensborough Terrace, W.2, consulting engineer. Minimum cash subscription, £100,000. Solicitors: Cox and Co., 17, Tower Royal, E.C. Registered office: Dashwood House, New Broad Street, E.C.

Petroleum Power Investment.

The Petroleum Power Investment Corporation, Ltd., has been registered with a nominal capital of £1,000,000 in £1 shares (999,800 ordinary and 200 management), to establish or finance oil and other undertakings, also to carry on the business as importers, exporters, shipping agents, and ship owners. The first directors are:—N. E. Holden, vice-chairman British Industrial Corporation, Ltd.; C. A. Bendix, director British Industrial Corporation, Ltd.; A. E. K. Cull, of Richards, Daniels and Co., Stock Exchange; J. G. Raphael, of John Raphael and Co., merchants. Solicitors: Parker, Garrett and Co., St. Michael's Rectory, Cornhill, E.C.

British Armenian Chamber of Commerce.

The British-Armenian Chamber of Commerce was registered on November 22 as a company limited by guarantee, not formed for profit, with an unlimited number of members, each liable for one guinea in the event of winding up. Objects: To promote and extend the trade and financial relations between the United Kingdom and Armenia, to promote the industries and exploitation of the natural resources of Armenia, etc. The following have consented to act as members of the council:—E. A. Brayley-Hodgetts, 36, Elverston Place, Queen's Gate, S.W.7; L. A. Martin, 21, Mincing Lane, E.C.; Sir Robert W. Perks, Bt., 2, Central Buildings, Westminster, S.W.; E. B. V. Christian, 71, Finsbury Pavement, E.C.; R. S. Fraser, 71, Finsbury Pavement, E.C.; Lord Blyth, 33, Portland Place, W.; C. E. Town, "Rozel," New Barnet. Three-fourths of the council must at all time consist of British subjects. Various trade sections are to be formed. Registered office: 1-3, Oxford Court, Cannon Street, E.C.

A. R. Akbar.

A. R. Akbar and Company, Ltd., was registered as a private company on November 26 with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To take over the business carried on at 59, Whitworth Street, Manchester, as A. R. Akbar and Company, and to carry on the business of general Manchester merchants, manufacturers and printers of and dealers in cotton, linen, silk, worsted, woollen and other textile goods and fabrics, etc., and to enter into an agreement with Agha Reza Akbar. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—Agha Reza Akbar, 59, Whitworth Street, Manchester, merchant; K. Rensham, Cherry Lane, Lymm, Cheshire, merchant's manager. The first directors are:—Agha Reza Akbar and others to be appointed by the subscribers. Qualification, £1. Registered office: 59, Whitworth Street, Manchester.

New Egyptian Companies.

Among the companies recently registered at the Mixed Tribunals of Cairo and Alexandria are the following:—M. de Chamberlaine and Co., with a capital of £E5,000, for transport with auto-motor-cars, Ph. Garozzo and C. Dimitriu, with a capital of £E3,000, for building contracting business, O. S. Mavridès, with a capital of £E6,000, for general trade, and Eliatrou Politi, Scentob S. Politi and Co., with a capital of £E6,700, for trading in Japanese articles.

Nile Steamship.

The Nile Steamship Company, Ltd., was registered as a private company on November 18 with a capital of £50,000, in £10 shares. Objects:—To carry on the business of carriers, coal merchants, ship and insurance brokers, marine insurers, wharfingers, lightermen, stevedores, forwarding agents, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—L. Glen, 153, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, shipowner; R. Wilson, 153, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, shipbroker; L. Glen is the first director. Registered office: 153, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

At a meeting of the Beau Sejour (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Company to be held on December 11, a resoluton will be proposed: "That the capital be increased to £120,000 by the creation of 400,000 Ordinary shares of 2s each."

The Bank of England announces the numbers of 458 Four per Cent. Egyptian Government Irrigation Trust certificates which have been drawn for redemption on January 1, when interest thereon will cease.

The directors of the Consolidated Tea and Lands Company have declared an interim dividend of 10s. per share on the Ordinary shares.

The directors of the Tara Tea Company have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent., less tax at 6s. in the £, upon the Ordinary shares on account of 1919, payable to holders registered on November 26.

The directors of the Doom Dooma Tea Company have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., less tax at 6s. in the £, on account of 1919, payable to holders registered on November 26.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put export advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Nov. 26	Price Dec. 3
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	52½	52½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	31	31
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	76	76
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	75⅝	73⅝
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	63½	62
Greek 5%, 1881	62⅛	58
Do. 5%, 1884	62½	58
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	55½	55½
Do. 4% Rents, 1889	50	50
Do. 5% 1890	63	58
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	63	63
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	62½	62½
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	56	56
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	68½	67
Do. 5% Currant	94	94
Montenegro 5% Loan	70½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	79	80
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	62	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	73	72½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	63	62⅝
Do. 4% Unified	44½	44½
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅜	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	7
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	69	69
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	71	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17½	17⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	37/6	37/6
Bank of Athens	62/6	69/9
Bank of British West Africa	7	7xd
Bank of Roumania	8	8
British Trade Corporation	10	10
Imperial Ottoman Bank	10	9⅝
Imperial Bank of Persia	10⅛	10⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅛	6⅛
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅛	6⅜
London County and Westminster	16⅜	16
National Bank of Egypt	20⅜	20⅞
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6½	6⅜
Do. 5% Debs.	79	78⅞
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	12½	12½
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	17	17
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	62	59½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	58	59½
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55	55
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66xd	66xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	53	53
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	31/6	31/-
Do. 6% Debs	110	110xd
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	1	1
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	14⅞	15⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	40/3	40/3
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/2 paid)	2/1½	2/1½
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	14/3	14/3
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	70	70½
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	14/6	14/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅛	2⅜
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	2	2
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85xd	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	64½	64½
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	7	7
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	73	73
New Egyptian Co.	27/6	27/3
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅞	2⅞
Sudan Plantations	7⅛	7⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	4⅜	4½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (10/- paid)	7/4½	7/-
Alexandria Water Co.	11½	11½
Egyptian Hotels	35/-	35/-
Do. Markets Ord.	23/6	23/6
Do, do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86xd
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	£3	£3
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99½	99½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅛	5⅛
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅛	3⅛
Levant Co. (fully paid)	13/6	19/-
Morum's Oriental Stores. Partptg. Pref.	19/3	18/3
Suez Canal	fr.178	fr.178
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	99	98½
Chinese 4½% 1898	72	70
Do. 5% 1896	84	83
Argentine 5% 1890	82½	81
Do. 5% 1907	85½	85
OIL.		
Algerian	—	4/9½
Anglo-Bulgarian	8 7½	9/9
Anglo-Egyptian B	5⅛	5⅛
Anglo-Persian Pref.	25/3	24/9
Do. 5% Debs.	91⅛	91½
Anglo-Roumanian	9/6	9/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	5/1⅜	5/1½
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	8/3	9/-
Roumanian	24/9	23/-
Do. do. 1st Chgs. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez, 1915 (fully paid)	7/9	8/6
Traian (Roumanian)	12/6	13/3

The directors of the Deamoolie Tea Company have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent., less tax at 6s. in the £, on account of 1919, payable to holders registered on November 26.

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Nov 26	Dec. 3
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	61½	60⅜
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	67½	68
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
	Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959	82	82
	Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	73½	74½
	Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938	74⅛	75
BANKS.			
	Chartered of India	86	85
	Eastern	7⅜	7⅛
	Mercantile of India A.	38½	38½
	National of India	58	58
MINES.			
	Balaghat Gold Mining	4/-	4/6
	Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	½	½
	Burma Corp.	12⅛	12⅜
	Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	14/6xd	16/-
	Champion Reef Gold	3/9	4/-
	Mysore Gold Mining	1⅛	1⅛
	Nundydroog	⅝	16/6
	Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	17/9	17/6
	Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	20/7½	20/6
	Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)	24/3	24/3
OIL.			
	Assam Oil	2⅜	2½
	Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	2½	2⅝
	Brit. Burmah	2⅛	2⅛
	Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	17⅛	17⅛
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	1⅛	1⅛
	Do. 5% Cum. 2nd Pref.	10⅛	10
RAILWAYS.			
	Assam Bengal	56	56
	Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	141½	141½
	Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	58xd	58
	Bengal-Nagpur	122½	122½
	Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	108	108
	Burma Railways	114	114
	Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
	E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13	13
	East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	12⅜	12⅜
	Gt. Indian Pen Ann. "A," 1948	13	13
	Madras and S. Mahratta	112½	117½
	Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	132½	133½
	Nizam's Guaranteed State	85	86
MISCELLANEOUS.			
	Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	11⅛	11
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	9½xd	9⅜
	P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	92½	92½
	Do. Deferred	685	655
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
	Assam Co.	78	78
	Bengal United Tea Ord.	17	16½
	British Indian Tea Ord.	9⅜	9⅜
	Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17	17
	Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	12/3	12/-
	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	8xd	8
	Consolidated Estates	7⅛	7⅛
	Darjeeling Co.	30/-	28/-
	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	63/6	65/-
	Dooars Tea Ord.	82/6	4⅛
	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	⅝	⅛
	Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	3⅜	3⅜
	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	35/-	34/-
	Hewagam Rubber Co.	1⅛	1⅛
	Jhanzie Tea Association	12⅛	12⅛
	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	24½	24½
	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	1	⅞
	Lanka Plantations Ord.	30/-	30/-
	Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	57/-	60/-
	Malayalam Rub. and Produce	2⅞	46/3xd
	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14⅛	14½
	P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	1⅛	32/6

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to September 30, 1919. (New Style January 14 to October 13, 1919):—

		Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, Naxos emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Dr.	Dr.
Gross receipts September, 1919		4,369,746.25	4,178,889.15
Do. do. 1918		3,525,785.55	2,581,000.00
Estimated receipts for 9 months (Law of Control)		21,675,000.00	8,025,000.00
Actual do. do. 1919		35,408,794.00	35,009,394.35
" " 1918		28,121,842.60	24,021,000.00
Difference between estimated & actual receipts for 9 months	1919	+13,733,794.00	+ 26,984,394.35
	1918	+6,446,842.60	+51,996,000.00

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

The market has been good again this week, Egypt coming in a buyer again for nearly all the best land shares.

In Government stocks, Egyptian Unifieds and Egyptian 3½ per cent. preferences have been again offered from the Continent, and are substantially lower at 73⅜ and 62 respectively.

Amongst bank shares, Nationals have again been in good demand, and are closing ⅝ up at 20⅞, whilst Agriculturals are inclined to be a shade easier at 5 19-32.

In Land shares, Aboukirs have receded 6d. to 31s. Beheras have advanced ½ to 15⅜, but New Egyptians, although some thousands of shares have been bought for Egypt, are closing 3d. easier at 27s. 3d. Sidi Salems have also been in demand up to about 51s., but no shares have come out yet. Union Foncières have again been persistently inquired for from Egypt, and are closing ¼ better at 4½.

In Miscellaneous descriptions, Salts and Sodas have been as high as 3⅛, but are closing unchanged at £3.

Amongst Greek securities, the 1881 and 1884 have again been very weak, closing at 58. Monopolies and 1902 Loans are unchanged. The 1890 Loan has dropped 5 points to 58, and the 1914 Loan has again been offered from Paris, and has lost 1½ points at 67. Bank of Athens shares have been quite a feature of strength, and are closing to-night 3 7-16, a rise of 5-16.

In oil shares Anglo-Egyptians B closed at 5 1-16, and Roumanian Consolidated at 25s.

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Oct. 22. Rs.	Oct. 29. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	66⅛	66½
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	300
Bank of Bengal	1950	1930
Bank of Bombay	2007½	2007
Bank of Madras	1500	1500
Bank of India	160	160
Tata Industrial Bank	70	70
COAL.		
Baraboni	17⅞x	19
Bengal	895	890
Burrakur	55½	56⅛
East Indian	38	38
Equitable	46½	47¾
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	70⅛	74
Standard	65	66½
JUTE.		
Alliance	780	776
Barnagore	219	218
Budge Budge	720	732
Clive	340	340
Dalhousie	585	595
Delta	740	740
Fort Gloster	1107	1120
Gourepore	1260	1359
Howrah	54	54
Kamarhatty	1055	1032
Kanknarrah	827	823
Khardah	555	555
Kinnison	1110	1126
National	485	485
Standard	790	796½
Union	965	1026
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	92⅛	92½
Bengal Timber Trading	500x	500x
Burn and Co.	330x	350
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	226½	226½
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	206x	206x
Howrah Oil Mills	44	44
India General St'm	200	200
Indian Iron and Steel	110	110
Marshall Sons and Co.	99	99
Titaghur Paper	385	410

The directors of the Rupai Tea Company have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent., less tax at 6s. in the £, on account of 1919, payable to holders registered on November 26.

The directors of the Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Company have declared an interim ordinary dividend of 2½ per cent. (equal to 5 per cent. on the old capital), less tax at 6s. in the £, for the current season, payable December 24.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 449.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Bulgarian Treaty has now been signed by Greece, Roumania, and Yugoslavia, in addition to the Great Powers and Bulgaria herself. Strictly speaking, therefore, the settlement of the Balkans, as distinct from Turkey, Hungary, and the Adriatic question, has been completed, and the four Balkan States — Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, and Bulgaria—are nominally at peace with one another, if we take for granted an amicable agreement between Roumania and Yugoslavia over the Banat. From this moment onward the interests of the Peninsula as a whole are centred in the strict observance of peace, and in the cultivation of friendly relations between the different States. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon their Governments and peoples that their individual interests are bound up with those of their neighbours. The Greeks have been encouraged to set great hopes on the possession of the whole coast line of the Ægean Sea; but the inhabitants of Salonika and other ports on the northern littoral will quickly cease to share the general enthusiasm if they find that the whole trade of the interior is deflected from their towns owing to the failure of the respective Governments to arrive at a working agreement.

M. Clemenceau is now a welcome visitor in London, and the French Press is hopeful that his visit will result in speeding up the settlement with Turkey and the solution of the Adriatic problem. The hope will be fully shared here, but in view of the unfortunate hitch that has occurred in America, it almost looks as if France and Great Britain are—voluntarily, of course—in a position where they can do no more than make known their own views. With regard to the Fiume deadlock, at least, it would seem that they have already done this, unofficially. In fairness to themselves, as well as to Turkey, it would surely be well if they and the other Allied Powers followed a similar course with regard to the Ottoman Empire. It is to be hoped that Great Britain's interests will be constantly borne in mind, and that those who are entrusted with the duty of safeguarding them will not be turned aside from that duty by any desire to oblige our friends—or anyone's enemies.

The announcement that the Milner Commission has arrived in Cairo and is getting to work without delay puts an end to a period of suspense that has had an extremely bad effect upon the Egyptians. Nevertheless, things have by no means reached a stage where we need despair of the future, even of the immediate future, and it is quite likely that the Commission's reception will be very much more friendly than has been generally anticipated. Lord Allenby's proclamation has had an excellent effect; and while the extremest Nationalists will probably remain irreconcilable, and may conceivably perpetrate fresh follies, the Moderates have evidently taken heart, thanks largely to the Prime Minister's courageous conduct. Another cause that may contribute towards restoring peace and sanity to the country is the cotton "boom," which will result in enormous sums finding their way into the Nile Valley.

For the moment it would be unprofitable to examine the situation in Egypt in detail, as it is bound to undergo considerable change, one way or the other, in the near future. It will not be out of place, however, to glance at the effect that any change in the status of the country is likely to have upon the Sudan, which, though it is—most unfashionably—keeping its opinions to itself until they are asked for, is known to have tolerably clearly defined views upon its relations with Egypt. It is notorious, of course, that no love is lost between the Egyptians and the Sudanese. The tie of a common religion is not a very strong one in this case, because the Sudanese are inclined to look on the Egyptians as backsliders; and it would be idle to deny that the former regard the latter with a contempt which is more or less heartily reciprocated. The Sudanese know quite well that, if by any chance they should be handed over to the Egyptians without British control, their lot would be very unenviable, and it is not an uncommon thing for them to say that if the British evacuated their country, they would soon rid themselves of the Egyptians once and for all.

As Lord Curzon pointed out recently in the House of Lords, the attitude of the Sudan during the troubles in Egypt has been highly commendable; the Sudanese have declined to be carried away as the Egyptians have been, and "have given notable evidence of their affection towards Great Britain"; and the Sudan afforded shelter and safety to English and other Europeans who found themselves in danger in Upper Egypt. While the more intelligent natives of the Sudan unaffectedly condemn the unrest in Egypt, it seems that they have some hope that it may lead to their release from Egyptian control; and the hope is a very natural one. At present the Sudan Budget and all legislation have to go through the Egyptian departments concerned for approval, and the system does not tend to promote progress. Egypt has

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admittedly spent a good deal of money on the Sudan, but chiefly for her own advantage, since she must have peace on her southern borders; and it would be easy to make some arrangement by which the Sudan, while receiving financial help as long as may be necessary, should be left to manage its own internal affairs. There are good judges who hold that systems and institutions which suit Egypt can never suit the Sudan, and it is certain that the Sudan itself desires that the ties with Egypt should be loosened rather than drawn tighter. Mr. Balfour told us the other day that the questions of Egypt, the Sudan, and the Canal form one organic and indissoluble whole; but it does not necessarily follow that the Sudan must always remain tied to Egypt's apron strings. The subject would almost certainly repay investigation by the Milner Commission, which might well proceed to Khartoum, if it can possibly find time to do so.

The future of navigation upon the Danube is of such importance to South-Eastern Europe that it is satisfactory to learn that the Inter-Allied Commission for the Danube, which has been sitting at Belgrade, has been making progress with the regulations regarding the traffic. The pilot service at the Iron Gates and the hydro-technical service of the river are to be internationalised, and to be controlled by the Commission; and measures are to be taken for the improvement of navigation and of pilotage on the river generally. Undertakings which may be regarded as international in character are to be studied in bureaux to be created, and the Commission is working hard to ensure that the river shall become in fact an international waterway for commerce.

The grant of the new Constitution has given rise to the liveliest satisfaction in Malta, and Lord Plumer, to whom the islanders chiefly attribute the change, has been the object of several popular demonstrations. Lord Milner, who touched at the island on his way to Egypt, took the opportunity to talk with some of the leading men, and to impress upon them that the new scheme, if it is to be a success, must be made so by loyal co-operation on the part of the Maltese. If the island will now settle down to steady work, and, turning a deaf ear to agitators, make an honest attempt to follow Lord Milner's advice, it should enter upon a period of real progress.

The *Morning Post* reports that disturbances of a serious character took place recently at Damascus, the inhabitants resenting the reported intention of the French to advance to certain points in the interior. As a result, the Syrian Congress nominated itself the Constitutional Assembly for the whole of Syria, and proclaimed the Emir Faisal king of a united and independent Syria. As the report goes on to say that the Emir's Chief of Staff, General Yassin Pasha el Hashimi, was deported from Damascus by Viscount Allenby, it probably refers to events that took place before the British "made over" to the French. In any case, it is obvious that the situation in Syria is unsettled and dangerous.

Last week's proceedings in the House of Commons might well be taken as a model by the brood of new Legislatures which are so soon to see the light in India. The Commons were nearly at their best, and disposed of the complicated measure before them in a workmanlike way. As was only to be expected, individual members led their ewe-lambs before the House, one seeking to save sanitation, another education, from the hungry dyarchy; but one by one the lambs were sent to the slaughterhouse, and the Bill, which had been substantially altered in Select Committee, passed without further amendment and without the formality of a final division. The achievement has been described in some quarters as a personal triumph for Mr. Montagu, and undoubtedly he has increased his reputation by his conduct of the Bill, but the occasion is far too momentous to give much scope for such considerations, and for the moment we are less concerned with personalities than with the light thrown on India's future by the debates.

Three voices in particular deserve our attention—Labour, Lancashire, and what may be called Progressive Unionism. The Labour Party presented once again the familiar combination of high ideals and narrow limitations, and it is characteristic of their attitude that while extensive claims were made on behalf of industrial workers, scarcely a word was said for the much larger body of village labourers, who stand to lose more, perhaps, than any other class. It must be remembered that peasant-farmers constitute a majority of the whole population, and it is quite possible that the agricultural labourers will have to be safeguarded before their employers finally take charge of the country. Mr. Montagu invited some of the Labour Members to go out to India and study industrial problems at first hand, and if any of them accept the invitation, they will do well to look into the conditions prevailing in the villages, and learn what peasants really think about wages and hours of work; such Western ideals as a 48-hours week may take on quite a new aspect in that unfamiliar atmosphere.

Lancashire was represented in the debate by Mr. Denniss, the Unionist member for Oldham, who entered a formal *caveat* against the grant of fiscal freedom, so far as it might operate to the prejudice of the cotton industry. The issue is one which will probably have to be faced in the near future, or as soon as the National Assembly find it necessary to impose additional taxation: the opinions of Indian politicians on this subject are well known, and unless some sudden change should take place, we must expect them to look to the tariff for all the money that is needed. The tariff, however, would be a broken reed if cotton goods—by far the largest item in the list of imports—were left out, and, consequently, the chances are that the first serious clash between English and Indian opinion will take place over this particular question. We have at present no means of judging the volume of English opinion hostile to India's probable claims, but we must take it from Mr. Denniss that its voice will be raised, and it is well to recognise clearly that this is one of the rocks ahead.

It was left to a decidedly progressive Unionist, in the person of Captain Elliot, to lay stress on the greatest danger of all—the danger that dyarchy may develop into oligarchy. One naturally looks to the Labour members to provide the most effective safeguard against such an accident, but, as Captain Elliot justly said, the Labour Party has lined up behind the oligarchs, and the watch over the great experiment must for the present be performed by others. We look confidently to Captain Elliot to take his due share in this task, and we hope the House of Commons will place him on the Joint Committee which in the course of next year will examine the electoral rules. Judging by his speech, he should prove a vigilant watchdog. He said, very truly, that "the man at the bottom looks for his remedy to the man at the top," and the Indian lower classes will, for some time to come, be very much "the men at the bottom," though eventually we hope to see them come into their own.

Before leaving the debates in the Commons, we may note that Colonel Yate maintained to the last his demand for further inquiry, and threw out the suggestion that the Prince of Wales might go out as President of a Commission for this purpose. For the Prince's sake we are glad that he is to be spared such a heavy burden, but we shall not be surprised if his services should be required in India for a somewhat different purpose. Mr. Montagu hopes that the preliminaries will be completed in time for the new Legislative Assembly to meet in Delhi in January, 1921: persistent, though still unconfirmed, rumours assert that the Prince's promised visit to India will take place next winter; and it requires no exceptional perspicacity to suggest that, if all goes well, he will probably be found representing the King-Emperor at the opening ceremony of an Assembly which, for good or evil, marks definitely the passing of the old Indian order.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

A New Political Party.

Mr. Lloyd George's eagerly awaited speech at Manchester resolved itself into a vigorous and generally convincing defence of the Coalition. There must be a Coalition, he argued, since no single party has a clear majority or any hope of one; and no party Government, he declared, could have done so much in so short a time. There have been expressions of dissent in the Press on the part of those who maintain a personal quarrel with the Prime Minister, but the public seems generally satisfied that his apologia and statement of policy routed the critics. Orthodox Liberalism has uttered one or two threats that sound more like groans, but is anxious not to push the quarrel to an extremity, owing to its increasing fear of the Labour Party, which strongly rejects Mr. Runciman's plea for a Liberal-Labour Coalition; and it is possible that some of the few remaining Independent Liberals may yet seek refuge under the Prime Minister's banner.

The Government, indeed, gives the impression of being stronger now than for some months past, partly because it has not been defeated at any by-elections recently, and partly because of its daring move in putting up a Coalition Liberal to oppose Sir John Simon, the Independent Liberal, in the Spen Valley contest. Captain Guest, the Government Whip, who is *capable de tout* in the way of indiscretion, has now definitely asked the Liberals in the constituency not to vote for Sir John, which is rather strong political meat even in these days of coupons.

Most of these manœuvres, as a matter of fact, may be taken as the preparation for the launching of the new Centre or Moderate Party which Mr. Lloyd George is to head, and of which Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Churchill are to command the Right and Left wings respectively. The party will be a fusion of Liberals and Conservatives, and it expects to attract the bulk of the commercial and professional vote, which before the war was divided between the two. Its natural tendency must necessarily be towards Conservatism, while the stalwart Radicals, who used to find a home in the bosom of the Whigs, will now have to join the Labour Party. The latter are working very hard, but they will have to find somebody with more political *flair* who can strike the imagination of the whole country before they can hope for office. At present they are like a Band of Hope in more ways than one.

The Railway Negotiations.

The railway settlement—if it can be called a settlement when the negotiations are not yet completed—is coming in for considerable criticism. One excellent feature is indeed generally admitted—the fact that no strike is to be called until after a long period of discussion; whether it will prove an effective remedy is uncertain, since the extremists in the Labour world are all in favour of the "lightning strike," and have even threatened one a few days before Christmas. But it is pointed out that the railway operators are aiming at the complete control of the industry, and that they look on the present arrangement as a kind of half-way house towards Syndicalism. So far as can be gathered, there appears to be some truth in the allegation.

On the other hand, it is contended, and seemingly with justice, that the share of the traders and public in the new Control Boards is insufficient. The Government railway managers are represented, and the railway operators; the public are in a decided minority, and if the bureaucrats and the operators combine—as on many matters their interests are the same—the public's position will be that of the nut between the crackers. The arrangement is not likely to pass without some discussion in Parliament, despite the long recess which has been arranged at Christmas.

Meantime, a special Trade Union Congress called this week to discuss direct action and nationalisation has tended strongly towards moderation, and has postponed the demands for immediate direct action. It concerned itself mainly with suggestions for reducing the cost of living, a subject which appeals to all; but its ideas do not seem to have gone beyond the advocacy of subsidies on food all round—an increased subsidy on bread, and further subsidies on milk and other articles. This method, of course, is utterly uneconomic, and it will be impossible for the Government to take such recommendations seriously. It would operate merely to transfer the excessive price of the grocer's account to the income-tax.

Oxford and Cambridge.

The eternal question of compulsory Greek was again discussed at Oxford last week; the proverbial home of lost causes is certainly putting up a valiant fight for the classics. Had it not been for Professor Gilbert Murray, the Modernists would have triumphed long ago, but the distinguished classic, who is a Radical in everything else, is ultra-Conservative as regards his own particular occupation.

Cambridge appears to be preoccupied with a very different problem—nothing less than the bad manners of its undergraduates, which are alleged to have degenerated badly the last few terms. Scandalised complaints have been appearing in the Press about "ragging," "barracking," and similar honoured occupations of studious youth; and Oxford, which has been extraordinarily well-behaved of late—perhaps because many of its students are married, a legacy of the war—carries itself with conscious rectitude and perhaps a little secret envy of the notoriety of Tabland. Some of the severer type of classical dons are understood to put the riotous spirits of Cambridge down to its abolition of compulsory Greek and its cultivation of Science, which is still regarded with grave suspicion at Oxford; but Oxford itself is not exempt from the innovator, since a Correspondence College has been established there which professes to give all the advantages of Oxford culture to any aspiring person by post. The latter appears to have no direct connection with the University, but its establishment is a sign of the passion for education which is becoming more marked in England than before the war.

The University Match.

One of the few obvious manifestations that we are at peace again was the revival after six years of the annual Rugby match between Oxford and Cambridge. The game was played at Queen's Club on December 9. Unfortunately, the conditions were not good, a thawing mist making a frozen ground very slippery. One did not suppose that the play would be up to pre-war standard, and, in truth, there was much more keenness than skill shown. The teams were quite evenly matched, and the win for Cambridge by a penalty goal and a dropped goal (7 points) to a goal (5 points) did more or less indicate the run of the game, though Oxford scarcely deserved to lose. The forwards, upon whom the results of University matches chiefly depends, were good on both sides, and of the backs Oxford, who had three old Blues in their three-quarter line, showed better combination, if no more efficiency, than Cambridge. The ground was packed with the best of English crowds, and was honoured, as usual, by the presence of the King.

The Stores Strike.

A strike at the Army and Navy Stores at the beginning of the Christmas shopping season disturbed and amused London a little during the week. The employees appear to have been badly paid in comparison with others engaged in the distributing trade, and the directors' policy was alleged to have been autocratic. If that was so, they speedily repaired their mistake, for within forty-eight hours of the strike they decided to recognise all the various trade unions representing the staff, a step which has not yet been taken by any of their larger rivals in the same business. Public opinion seems generally to have been in favour of the strikers, and the *Daily Mail* offered to open a fund in their behalf.

Spiritualism Spreading.

The extraordinary revival in the doctrines of spiritualism is indicated by the fact that Sir A. Conan Doyle,

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who is a fervent convert, has arranged to address a meeting of the Anglican clergy on the subject, and subsequently to undertake a world-tour, presumably with the photographs of ghosts which are his *pièce de résistance* in his portmanteau. He has just returned from a lecturing crusade on the subject in South Wales, where an enthusiastic population, not unaccustomed to religious revivals, has heard him with great interest; his teaching—and his knowledge of the subject—is ridiculed in many quarters, but he could probably fill any hall where he chose to speak, while it is doubtful whether his opponents would gain any considerable audience.

The Spiritualists, like all zealous propagandists, are extremely active in spreading their views. A clergyman, most of whose doubtless admirable discourses are quickly buried in oblivion, no sooner announced his intention of devoting a sermon to Spiritualism than his church was packed, and he received a two-column report in a local newspaper; for weeks afterwards, he told me, with a rueful countenance, his letter-box and study-table were littered with pamphlets *pro* and *con*, protests, recriminations, threats to write to the Bishop if he touched the subject again, and threats not to enter the church any more if he did not at once announce a long series of addresses covering every aspect of the topic.

Spiritualism appears to have quite outstripped Christian Science as the popular creed of the moment, but it is doubtful whether it will last. Any serious examination of its doctrines involves profound philosophical problems, and the atmosphere of the Society for Psychical Research has hitherto been too calm and grave for the emotional and general interest.

The Boxing Match.

The betting had run so steadily in favour of Beckett and against Carpentier before the great boxing match last week that the result came as a general surprise. Carpentier was physically a smaller man in every respect than his opponent, but the slight disadvantage in physique was more than counterbalanced by superior mentality. It was expected that he would adopt forcing tactics from the start, as it was generally admitted that he could hardly stand the strain of going through every round to the finish, but it was certainly not anticipated that Beckett, even if defeated, would be knocked out in a minute and a quarter. It cannot be said that Carpentier's victory was unpopular in England, for he is a general favourite; in France, of course, it has made him almost as much of a hero as Foch or Clemenceau. But it is rather curious that England, which used to be regarded as having a prescriptive right to every sporting championship, should have been beaten by France in tennis and boxing in the same year.

The arrangements are now being made for the match for the world's championship between Dempsey, the present holder, and Carpentier, the aspirant to that honour. There is keen competition between London, Paris, and New York as to the site of the contest; Dempsey frankly declares that he will fight wherever there is most money to be made. Carpentier has preserved silence on that point, but the fact that he has entrusted his side of the arrangements to Mr. Cochran makes it probable that the match will be held in London. Certainly it would be almost impossible to conceive of a greater crowd assembling either in Paris or New York than that which filled the Holborn Stadium and rendered the rest of Holborn impassable for a couple of hours last week.

A few protests have been made against the continuance of these matches by the more rigid moralists recently on the old ground that they are brutalising and degrading. But they seem to be voices crying in the wilderness, for boxing becomes steadily more popular. A curious feature of the matches during the last few years has been the increasing number of women who attend them. This still seems a little odd, even to those who are not very old-fashioned, for ten years ago one would no more have thought of a woman at the Stadium than in the House of Commons. Now we are getting accustomed to both.

The Bookshelf.

The most interesting book of the week has been the Life of Pasteur, which, translated from the French, is likely to become a standard work. The biography makes it quite clear that Pasteur, apart from his extraordinary scientific genius, had a sweet and lovable character, and he was throughout his life the ideal type of French patriot; he returned his degree to Bonn University after the war of 1870 in disgust at the conduct of the Prussians, and he refused the German Order "Pour le mérite" which the late Kaiser wished to bestow upon him many years later. His religious belief never varied from the simple faith of childhood, and although his discoveries, particularly his refutation of the theory of spontaneous generation, were used as a stick in the Science *v.* Religion controversy, he did not himself intervene in those debates.

Some considerable excitement has been caused by the announcement that a very different kind of biography will soon be forthcoming. Mrs. Asquith has been writing her reminiscences, and intends to publish them. She has lived in the centre of things ever since the day when as Margot Tennant she corresponded with Jowett, of Balliol, and if her reminiscences are anything like her letters to her friends, they will be vivacious in the extreme. She should have a good deal to say about the "Souls," the little coterie which included Mr. Balfour and Mr. George Wyndham; but the wits suggest that her political chapters will destroy the last hope of her husband returning to power. The jest is an unkind one, for Mrs. Asquith certainly does not love the new Coalition.

Meantime, the Life of Lord Kitchener, which was expected early in December, is likely to be delayed until the New Year. It will be a large work in three volumes, and the numerous documents it quotes will necessarily make it a book of historical importance.

The most popular novels of the moment are probably those of Ibañez, the Spanish writer, whose "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" is to be followed by "Marc Nostrum," a wonderful story of love and submarine warfare in the Mediterranean. The English novels of the autumn have proved extremely disappointing, and Mr. H. G. Wells, who could usually be relied upon for a book, has turned from story-telling to the history of the world from the time the moon parted company with the earth, or a little earlier, to the signature of the Armistice. In his first number—the work is to be published in twenty fortnightly parts—he seems to have got about as far as the mammoth, so the chapters dealing with the Reformation and the French Revolution, which an enticing prospectus promises, seem likely to be a little condensed, and author and readers alike will be a little breathless when the downfall of Germany is reached.

OCELLUS.

The popular Cairo *Sphinx* has resumed publication, and shows abundant signs of vitality. It retains most of its old features, introduces some new ones, and promises yet others, and it is likely to prove very welcome to Cairo's "season" visitors and its residents as well.

We have received from Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons some specimens of their Christmas and New Year cards for this season, together with sample wall calendars and books for the young people, suitable for presents. Many of the cards are extremely attractive, and all are produced in the perfect manner which we have learned to expect in Messrs. Tuck's productions. The books, too, especially the painting and model books, are bound to appeal to the little ones for whose amusement they are designed. Messrs. Tuck and Sons have kept up to their own high standard again, and we congratulate them on a wonderful production of seasonable goods.

Major-General Sir George Younghusband has shared with Cyril Davenport the authorship of "The Crown Jewels of England," which has been published by Messrs. Cassell and Co. at 63s. net.

Messrs. Longsmans announce a study of "Indian Nationality," by Professor R. N. Gilchrist, Principal of Krishnagar College, Bengal, with an introduction by Professor Ramsay Muir; and also an illustrated volume containing "The Life and Letters of George Alfred Lefroy, Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India," by Bishop H. H. Montgomery.

Messrs. Constable have in preparation a book entitled "From Persian Uplands," by Frederick Hale.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, November 25.

The New Cabinet.

The hope expressed in last week's letter, that it would be found possible to form a Cabinet notwithstanding the opposition set up by the Extremists and the difficulties created by the campaign of intimidation carried on by them, has been realised, and on Friday, the 21st, the Sultan signed a decree approving of the formation of a new Ministry which is constituted as follows:—Yussuf Wahba Pasha, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; Ismail Sirry Pasha, Minister of Public Works, War and Marine; Ahmed Ziwer Pasha, Minister of Communications; Ahmed Zulfikar Pasha, Minister of Justice; Mohammed Tewfik Nessim Pasha, Minister of the Interior; Mohammed Chafik Pasha, Minister of Agriculture; Yehia Ibrahim Pasha, Minister of Education; Hussein Darwish Bey, Minister of Wakfs.

It will be noticed that the new Prime Minister is a Copt. While it is the second time that a member of his community holds the Premiership, he is the third Christian to be appointed to that post since the Ministerial system of Government was introduced. Wahba Pasha has been in the Cabinet since 1912, when it was reconstructed on the resignation of Saad Pasha Zaghlul. He has held the portfolios of Foreign Affairs, and Finance, the latter since 1914; and in each Cabinet his sound advice has always been highly valued by his colleagues. It says much for the personal courage and sense of duty of the new Prime Minister that he should have assumed such heavy responsibilities at such a critical juncture.

The new members of the Cabinet are Yehia Pasha Ibrahim, who has for long held the Presidency of the Native Court of Appeal with dignity and success; Mohammed Pasha Chafik, Under-Secretary of State for Wakfs, who is a very able engineer and owing to his intelligence and ability has for some time been marked out for promotion to Ministerial rank; and Hussein Bey Darwish, who is a respected and talented Counsellor of the Mixed Court of Appeal. The new Cabinet is, on paper, a very much stronger combination than the last one. Unlike the Said Cabinet, it has come into office with a fairly clear definition of policy on the part of the British Government; and, such being the case, it should be able to stand its ground and provide a nucleus around which moderate Egyptian opinion can rally.

At the same time I feel that it would be unjust to pass over without any mention the work done by the Said Cabinet. It came into office last May at a time when the post of Minister had greatly depreciated in prestige owing to the political events of the immediately preceding month. In spite of the determined efforts of the Zaghlul clique and their adherents to harass and irritate those who might hold, or be inclined to hold, office under the existing regime, the Cabinet contrived to carry on and bridge over the period intervening up to the creation of a more definite situation brought about by the recent declaration made by Lord Allenby. By so doing it has undoubtedly rendered an invaluable service to Egypt; although it will probably not be in this generation that this fact will be recognised by the Egyptians.

In all this the greatest credit falls to Mohammed Pasha Said, who in April, 1914, had definitely retired from public life. None knew better than he what difficulties lay ahead of any man who took up the task of forming and directing a ministry, but none knew better how important it was for Egypt that cabinet government should continue. Realising this, he agreed again to take office, and throughout the six months during which his Cabinet lasted, he contrived to combat the campaign of the Extremists and to consolidate the position of his Ministry. He made one unfortunate mistake, in granting the interview to the delegation which visited him early in October and in giving expression to his views in the matter of the coming of the Milner Mission. But just as he has throughout been loyal in his collaboration with us, so he was equally true to the declaration he then made; and at once resigned when he found the eventuality which he foresaw was about to occur. In the circumstances, therefore, it is difficult to blame him for resigning; and in all fairness it should be added that if it has been possible to form a new Cabinet, it is in great part due to the efforts he has made during the intervening week to get the present combination to accept office.

The formation of the new Cabinet has, of course, not been to the liking of the Extremists, who have raised a great outcry against its members. Especially have the Copts expressed their lively dissatisfaction, and have gone to the length of practically excommunicating the Prime Minister. In regard to the latter, their agitation is not improbably due to a fear that the appointment of a Coptic Prime Minister may bring down upon their heads the vials of wrath of the Moslem community, and to a desire to impress their Moslem fellows with the idea of their solidarity with them.

Firm Action by Lord Allenby.

At about the time when the Cabinet was in process of formation and the Extremists were making every effort to prevent a successful result, the High Commissioner sent for Mahmud Pasha Soliman, the President, Ibrahim Pasha Said, the Vice-President, and Abdel Rehim Bey Fahmy, the Secretary of the Cairo Committee of the Zaghlul Delegation; and, informing them that he had come to Egypt to maintain order under the Protectorate, that he would brook no interference with the regular administration of the country, and that he held them responsible to a very great extent for the present unrest in the country and for the campaign of incitement which is being conducted in the Press, he ordered the two first-named to proceed at once to their provincial estates and the third to remain in his house in Cairo, and to abstain from all political activities.

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The two Pashas refused to obey the order, and they were consequently arrested and placed on Soliman Pasha's dahabieh, on which they are now proceeding to Upper Egypt. In addition, two other active agitators were similarly warned; one of them obeyed the warning, and the other has had to be arrested.

Action has also been taken in regard to the vernacular Press, two organs having been suspended and others warned. Although the attitude of the Press has throughout been very disgraceful, it should be pointed out that the suppression ordered by Lord Allenby in his capacity of Commander-in-Chief has been decided on, not for political reasons, but because the two papers in question published inflammatory matter appealing to those who were entrusted with the maintenance of public order, *i.e.*, the Egyptian Army and Police, to disobey the orders which they might receive. A somewhat milder tone has been noticeable in the other papers, and it is to be hoped that the hint conveyed by this action will be taken.

General Situation Improved.

The general situation seems to have undergone a change for the better, and there has been no trouble of any description anywhere in the country since the riots in Alexandria. There have been one or two attempts at demonstrations in the provinces, but they led to nothing serious. Similarly, last Friday, a great meeting called by the religious students at the Abu el Abbas Mosque at Alexandria after the usual Friday prayer, dispersed quietly at its conclusion, without any attempt being made to demonstrate. Whether, once the troops are withdrawn from their present positions in Cairo and Alexandria, there will be any further attempts at disorders remains to be seen; but there is every hope that the indications given by the British authorities to stand no further nonsense, and to see that the administration of the country is not interfered with, as it has been during the past months, will not have been without their effect, and that both the rank and file and the political agitators will come to the conclusion that in the circumstances the game is not worth the candle.

The only unsatisfactory feature at the present moment is the attitude of the students. It may be remembered that they refused to attend their schools on the 13th, in order to celebrate Egypt's "Independence Day." The Government thereupon ordered the closing of the schools for a week. Two days before the reopening Lord Allenby, having heard that the students had decided to continue their strike until further notice, issued, under Martial Law, an order calling upon them to return to their schools and colleges on the 22nd, and regularly to continue their attendance until the forthcoming examinations. Otherwise they would not be allowed to sit at those examinations, and the regulations as to age limit, etc., would be applied to those who might be thus excluded. Some of the students resumed their studies on Saturday, the 22nd. the day fixed for reopening; but on the following day they were so intimidated by their defaulting comrades that very few of them have continued their attendance. What they stand to gain from their persistence it is difficult to see, but the main blame lies with the political agitators, who have gained such a pernicious influence over the younger generation, and with the parents, who seem to have abandoned all control over their children. From the moral and intellectual point of view this is most regrettable, and it is to be feared that as a result the coming generation may produce a body of men who, apart from being of no use to their country, will further swell the ranks of the malcontents, and so quite possibly become a serious obstacle to its material progress.

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PORT SAID, November 25.

The Canal Anniversary.

The outstanding event last week was the jubilee celebration of the Suez Canal Company, which, on November 17, commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Canal. The decade previous to 1869 may be said to have witnessed the birth of steam propulsion for ocean travel, but the sailing ship was still holding its own, and that era saw the creation of those most wonderful and perfect things of their kind that have ever come from the hand of man—the China tea-clippers. However, with the opening of the Suez Canal, the "floating tea-kettle," as the steamers were then contemptuously called by seamen, gradually ousted the clipper, in spite of the fact that the smell of oil from the engine was said to spoil the tea. Nowadays sailing ships are an interesting and somewhat rare sight, and one of the chief causes of their decay is the Suez Canal.

It had been planned by the Canal Company that all their employees should meet at the offices and then march to the statue of Ferdinand de Lesseps on the breakwater, there to lay wreaths and palms at the foot of the statue. The authorities, however, prohibited the march through the town, so the employees were all transported by water down the harbour to the vicinity of the statue. When the wreaths were placed in position, speeches were delivered, and by a most happy coincidence, Monsieur Jacques de Lesseps, son of Ferdinand de Lesseps, was present, and, in a short speech, thanked those who were there, in the name of the family, for the honour done to his father's memory. The next day all the employees that could be spared, numbering nearly two thousand, were invited by the company to a banquet held in the Casino Palace Hotel. Naturally this taxed the resources of the place to the utmost, but everything went off in a most satisfactory manner, and great credit is due to all those concerned in the arrangements.

The Canal Company have also given the employees a jubilee bonus, averaging one to two months' pay, according to length of service. The method of calculation has led to dissatisfaction in some cases, as the bonus was based on the fixed salary. In the case of the pilots, for example, the fixed salary is small, and the greater part of their pay is for work actually done; and as this pay did not enter into the calculation for bonus, a pilot with, perhaps, twenty to twenty-five years' service got the same bonus as a junior clerk. However, there is a strong feeling amongst the employees that the company will act generously and will rectify this anomaly.

Lucky Port Said.

Happily, although the rest of Egypt has been suffering from a species of Bolshevism, Port Said has been free from all disturbances, possibly, as one soldier who had been studying Arabic expressed it, because the Port Saidians know which side their "*aish* is *zibdaed*."

A committee has been appointed to deal with profiteering. It is to be hoped that its attention will be called to the recent purchase of a large block of flats, the rents of which have been put up 50 per cent. Great indignation is aroused if anyone profiteers in doll's-eyes or rat-traps, but when it came to rents—well, that is another matter, and if people don't want to pay the rents they can live the "simple life" on the beach!

The Coming of Winter.

The winter weather has apparently set in, and for the last three days there has been a certain amount of dust, approaching at times to a *khamseen*; rain has also fallen once or twice.

Shipping has been extraordinarily busy for the last month; in fact, it has been quite like pre-war times in the busy season, when large numbers of ships were going out East with empty holds.

Miss MacInnes, the sister of the Bishop of Jerusalem,

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and President of the Y.W.C.A. in Egypt, has been to Port Said, and has formed a local committee to carry on the Y.W.C.A. work in the town; and it is hoped that with the help of friends in the place to make it of real assistance for those for whom it is intended.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, November 30.

The Peace Treaty Hitches.

On Friday, in an obscure paragraph in the *Pravda*, there appeared a precise message from Paris that M. Pashitch and Dr. Trumbitch had signed the peace with Austria, that the representatives of England, France, America, Italy, and Japan had done likewise, and that there were also concluded three *aranjmans*, which is now a recognised Serbian word, with reference to Italy's indemnity. The news had scarcely been read by the public, producing apparently little sensation, in spite of the momentous consequences involved, when the *Politika*, which is an afternoon paper, announced "New Difficulties." So the suspense is not over after all, for the signature has been postponed to admit the discussion of certain financial proposals, put forward only at the last minute. Then the delegates naturally felt they could not sign without express instructions from their Government, which raises no objection to the principle of charging the new provinces formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy with a proportion of the debt and costs of liberation, but objects to the manner of its incidence, which would bear very heavily on the old kingdom of Serbia. As the difference is merely one of detail and method, and not of principle, it is probable that a formula will be quickly found and the peace signed. Public opinion in Western Europe is often prone to consider that the case of Yugoslavia is on all fours with that of the other new States, Czecho-Slovakia and Poland, created entirely from extinct empires, forgetting that it is really the expansion of Serbia. If one party here had had its way, and the new State had been christened "Greater Serbia," it would probably have had a more sympathetic reception in the West, for even to-day the man in the street has very vague ideas as to the identity of the "S.H.S."

It is stated that the new States that have arisen out of the Dual Monarchy shall contribute a milliard and a-half francs in gold to the Great Powers as the cost of their liberation, and the debt shall run from January 1, 1914, and be proportioned among the new States on the basis of the average revenue for three years of the former Empire, Bosnia and Herzegovina receiving, however, special treatment. Czecho-Slovakia cannot pay more than 750 millions, and 200 millions fall upon Yugoslavia, to be deducted at once from the indemnity, while the Poles and Czechs, who receive no indemnity, will pay their contribution in bonds at 5½ per cent.; until January 1, 1926, only interest shall be payable, after which the capital shall be paid by instalments, so that the debt will be wiped out by 1956. Consequently, if no discrimination is made in favour of Serbia, her indemnity will be debited with a share of this debt, which is not considered fair here. It is stated that the Delegates have claimed in Paris the sum of seventeen milliard francs, with an absolutely irreducible minimum of nine milliards, but the Allies have not yet fixed the amount to be granted. If this claim is considered excessive, it must be remembered that in this war, over and above material losses, Serbia has lost, from battle and sickness, no less than 1,300,000 of her population, which barely exceeded 3,000,000 in 1912. In addition to this "Liberation Tax," Yugoslavia is called upon to pay for the State Domains acquired in her new territories. Finally, Serbia is to receive no cash on account of indemnity until all the Great Powers have received their share.

As a result of a Council meeting held immediately on the receipt of this news, the Government has sent M. Kosta Stovanovitch back to Paris at once, and even the Crown Prince Regent himself has gone to Paris to plead his country's cause, thus following the Royal example so successfully set by Roumania.

The General Election.

Dr. Davidovitch has definitely decided to postpone the meeting of the Skupshtina another two months, and to proceed to the general elections. The latter have been postponed pending demobilisation; for, as the President of Council remarks, who has greater right to vote than the veterans who have fought so long and so well? Unfortunately, the provocative attitude of Italy has made demobilisation impossible so far. The present Parliament has shown its incapacity; besides, the Serbian members were elected twelve years ago, and so can hardly claim to represent the present population. Many a grown Serb has never had an opportunity of exercising his vote, and of those who elected the present Parliament, how many are alive to-day? It is proposed that the general election be held on April 1, 1920.

The Adriatic Danger.

Less anxiety is now felt on the Italian question, but the situation is becoming intolerable. Even her worst enemies cannot accuse Yugoslavia of anything but perfectly correct behaviour during this trying and long-drawn crisis; while Italy, who is old enough and big enough to know better, must bear the entire responsibility for the consequences of her Chauvinistic policy, as well as for the dangerous escapade of the egregious poet. Meanwhile, the people in Dalmatia are undergoing great hardship; at Shebenik (Sebenico), the local command has taken fourteen hostages, and arrests and various brutalities are of daily occurrence. On November 20, the name-day of the King of Italy, a general holiday was proclaimed, including the schools. The Director of Schools in Zlosela, who is not, and never has been, an Italian subject, but a Slav, ignored this order, and gave the usual lessons; he and his wife were promptly arrested, and are still in prison, although they have left a six months' infant alone at home. The local commandant, Major Gracco Golini, sent for Dr. Smolchitch, President of the National Council, and threatened him in vigorous language that the slightest action on the part of the Yugoslavs would provoke a terrible reaction on the part of d'Annunzio's *arditi*, in which the lives of neither women nor children would be spared. M. Buksheg, the Socialist Minister of Food and Reconstruction, recently stated to a journalist from Trieste that Yugoslavia would have demobilised before Christmas, but, in view of d'Annunzio's doings, it was impossible. He added that Yugoslavia would have consented to Fiume being a free town, but under the control of Yugoslavia. He added, too, that d'Annunzio would meet with armed resistance if he crossed the demarcation line.

Miscellaneous.

An official denial has been issued to the statement of the Athens *Radikal* that three Serbian army corps are stationed at Nikshitch, Cattaro, and in Herzegovina respectively to prevent a revolution in Montenegro.

It is well known that the Austrians cleared the country of church bells during the occupation, but they were not able to get them all away, and a store has recently been found which was left waiting removal. Those which can be identified will be returned to their homes, and the remainder distributed among the poorest foundations.

Several arrests of Bolshevists have been made at Novi Sad recently; a plot to overthrow the authorities and establish a communistic system was recently discovered, the conspirators being well provided with arms and seditious literature. Five were condemned to six years' hard labour, and the others released.

To meet the shortage of small change, a half-dinar note has been issued.

Dr. Jovan Tsvijitch (Cvijitch), the eminent ethnologist and geographer, has been unanimously elected Rector of the Universite of Belgrade.

An amusing incident occurred the other day at the Ministry of Commerce. A gentleman presented himself as a Serb who had lived twenty years at Plovdiv (Philippipel), in Southern Bulgaria. The object of his visit was to complain to the head of a certain section that on the brass plate on his door he was described as *nachelnik*—that is to say, chief, and he complained that this is not the Serbian, but the Bulgarian form of the word, which should properly be spelt *nachalnik*. A lively discussion ensued, which resulted in the individual in question being flung out into the street. Of course, the former is correct, the latter being the Bulgarian and Russian orthography.

Dr. Tamljenovitch, formerly Deputy Governor or *Podban* of Croatia, has been nominated *Ban* or Governor, in place of Dr. Tolichek, former *Ban*, who has entered the Cabinet.

It is reported in the *Jedinstvo*, a paper in Novi Sad, that

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a British officer, Lieut.-Colonel Charles Beatty Moore, in the name of the Allied Supreme Council, invited the Serbian military authorities to evacuate Pechuj and the whole of the Barania. The commandant replied that he was unable to do so without orders from Belgrade.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, November 22.

Anxieties of the Porte.

The request which the Sublime Porte has addressed to the Peace Conference, that negotiations should be commenced as soon as possible, may perhaps be taken as an indication of the embarrassment caused by the prolongation of the Armistice. But there is possibly another reason behind the anxiety of the Turks to know their fate. The Cabinet is to a very great extent obliged to submit to the dictates of the Nationalist Committee at Sivas, and the official request for a speedy settlement has most probably been formulated either at the suggestion or with the concurrence of Mustapha Kemal and his associates, who have very good reasons for desiring to bring matters to a climax as soon as possible. In the first place, the so-called Nationalist movement is clearly less popular than it was in the spring; for the peasantry have had more than enough of military service, and the prospect of serving as "bandolero" soldiers throughout the winter has probably damped the spirits that were galvanized into life by the Nationalist Committee's propaganda.

There is abundant evidence that in various parts of Anatolia, especially in the Konia and Panderma districts, and even in the Sivas district itself, the Nationalist forces are being resisted, not unsuccessfully, by armed bodies of the population; and this counter-movement is decidedly more extensive and stronger than it was a short time ago. Thus the indications are that the longer the crisis is delayed the more difficult will it be for Mustapha Kemal to keep his "forces" together, and the more powerful will the anti-Nationalist movement become. The latter is certainly being actively assisted by the Entente Liberale Party, the Military Union that goes by the name of "Neghiban," and other sworn foes of the Unionists, with whom, rightly or wrongly, the Nationalists are popularly identified. The whole object of the Nationalist movement is to resist the anticipated conditions of peace; and the Sivas Committee is well aware of the fact that the Allied Powers are most unlikely to undertake a winter campaign of guerrilla warfare in the wilds of Anatolia. In the spring, not only will the peasants be unwilling to leave their fields, but conditions will be more favourable for Allied operations.

There seem to be other indications also that the moment is ripe for the *dénouement* of the Nationalist plot. As was pointed out in my last letter, Mustapha Kemal and his associates rely not so much upon their own strength as upon the advantages to be obtained from a general Islamic upheaval. The renewed unrest in Egypt and Afghanistan, combined with Koltchak's defeat, allowing the Bolshevists easy access to Turkestan, are circumstances which, combined, render the present moment most auspicious for taking up the gauntlet, if only the Allies can be persuaded to throw it down.

While in Turkish circles there has been no little elation over the finding of the Smyrna Commission, which emphasised the provisional nature of the Hellenic occupation, Mr. Lloyd George's recent speech had the effect of a cold douche; and a Cabinet Council was specially convened to discuss the situation. The general result seems to have been to divert Turkish hopes of support from the British to the French, and certain French circles in Constantinople are by no means discouraging the growth of that opinion: although the action of the French army which has recently occupied districts in Eastern Anatolia evacuated by the British is scarcely an indication of tenderness for Turkish aspirations.

The Elections.

As the elections proceed it becomes evident that the prophecies of a heavy Unionist majority will be verified. Complaints of all kinds of illegalities continue, and there is no doubt that the Unionists are successfully following their old policy of intimidation and bribery. Interrogated on the subject by an Italian journalist, the Minister of the Interior, Sherif Pasha, scored what seemed to be a palpable hit. "Since you mention the Unionists," said his Excellency, "allow me in my turn to put a question to you: How do you account for the fact that one of the most deeply implicated Unionists, Azmi Bey, the former Chief of Police, has proceeded to Adalia on an Italian ship, and for the further fact that he should be allowed to land unmolested? How do you explain the fact that this offender against the common law should be permitted to ride in the Italian Commander's motor-car and, accompanied by representatives of the Italian authorities, should travel in this way to Burdur?" As the Minister insisted upon the accuracy of his information, there was nothing to do but change the subject.

Turkish Socialists.

The bank strike, which occurred in the summer, was an indication that times have changed in Constantinople, and now we have Turkish Socialists holding meetings at which the speakers are known as "comrades," in the regulation Socialist style. It is rather queer to hear of a "Comrade" Osman Effendi, but it is queerer still to hear him calling upon Turkish "workers" to arise and smash the capitalists! While the Turkish Socialist Party seems to have little political influence, there are indications of the working of syndicalist ideas which may have somewhat disturbing developments. Behind the whole movement there seem to be occult influences at work, not wholly unconnected with political movements outside Turkey. But it is too early yet to make definite statements on the subject.

SMYRNA.

SMYRNA (undated).

The result of the conference held by General Milne in Constantinople, at which both General Bates and Commodore Fitz-Maurice, from Smyrna, attended, has resulted in a decision not to employ Anglo-French troops in the Aidin Valley. It appears that M. Venizelos has succeeded once more in keeping Entente troops, other than Greeks, out of this province, and in arranging that the settlement shall be left entirely to Greek troops. This changeof policy after the Turks had been led to believe that Anglo-French troops would take the place of Greek troops at the front will probably exasperate the Turks still further, and add to the difficulties of the Greeks in making headway in the Aidin Valley. Extreme pessimism prevails in Smyrna business circles, as there appears to be no hope that anv sowing will be done this winter, and hence the export trade will remain paralysed for still another year.

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Telegrams, Alexandria, Cairo and Port Said: "LOISIDIS."

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MALTA.

November 28.

Self-Government.

The inhabitants still rejoice, and telegrams are being exchanged conveying congratulations from far and wide, on the grant of self-government, which it is assumed will prove a panacea to cure all ills. It is to be hoped that it will do so. Suggestions as to how the first session of the Legislature should be celebrated (although as distant a date as 1921 has been laid down as being the earliest) are already to the fore. One of the most popular proposals is that the new form of Government should be inaugurated by the Prince of Wales. If this be possible it would be admirable, for, whatever may be said to the contrary, the masses in Malta are devoted to the Royal Family, and such a Royal proceeding would give the Maltese people the opportunity of expressing their devoted loyalty with the same enthusiasm as they did to the late King Edward when he visited the Island as the Prince of Wales. It should be mentioned that the Governor, Lord Plumer, is credited with having done a very great deal in drawing the attention of the Home Authorities to the depleted state of the local Exchequer, and in obtaining a promise of Imperial financial help.

CYPRUS.

The Cost of Living.

There are growing complaints owing to the pressure of high prices. In one district the whole body of Government officials have waited on the Commissioner to represent the impossibility of meeting the demands on present salaries. In some cases, it was stated, officials of the lower ranks could often eat only dry bread, and were obliged to dispose of articles of jewellery, etc., belonging to their wives. "What these officials state," says the *Voice of Cyprus*, "might be urged by all Government officials in Cyprus. All have the same grievous account to give, since all experience similarly deplorable conditions and deprivations." It urges that relief should be given by increase of salaries and bonuses, according to the circumstances of the individuals.

The Cyprus Deputation.

According to the last letters, several members of the Mission, whose programme has been influenced by advice given by M. Venizelos, are returning at once to Cyprus. The others, including the Archbishop, may also return shortly, but may perhaps again visit London. It is expected that the "solution" of the island question should be effected in February or March. The Auxiliary Committee and the supporters appear to be well satisfied with the zeal and activity with which the delegation has carried out its work. It would, however, seem that it might have been quite as efficiently performed by half the number, or less, of the members under the Archbishop. The expenses of the deputation have amounted to about £6.000. So far Church funds have sufficed for the greater part; but the time has apparently come when a further call will be made upon the Greek community. The Greek Dodecanese Committee had, it is said, about £140.000 at its disposal, of which over £60,000 has probably been spent.

The Acting High Commissioner has summoned the Legislative Council for an extraordinary meeting on November 17, chiefly in order to consider a bill to amend regulations as to motor vehicles.

INDIAN CHURCH AID ASSOCIATION.

The Official Organ of the Indian Episcopate.

IN the present critical condition of India and under the shadow of changes which will materially lessen the proportion of Englishmen in the Indian Services, it is imperatively necessary to strengthen the loyal Anglo-Indian elements, upon whom will now devolve the task of maintaining the White Man's reputation for integrity. Ladies and gentlemen, therefore, who have served or resided in India in any capacity are invited to join this Association, the primary ob ect of which is to help the India Bishops to carry on religious and educational work among these classes, upon whom so much depends.

For further particulars apply to
H. P. K. SKIPTON, Secretary, I.C.A.A.
Church House, Westminster, S.W.1.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Greeks and Smyrna.

December 3.

Mr. MONTAGU, replying to Lieutenant-Colonel Aubrey Herbert, said: The Greek occupation of Smyrna has certainly led to grave apprehensions lest the Entente contemplated a division or partition of Turkish Turkey—a policy which Indians, both Mussulman and Hindu, and the Government of India, and we who represented them in Paris, have always opposed.

Moslems and Turkey.

Mr. MONTAGU, answering Lieutenant-Colonel Aubrey Herbert, who asked whether the Prime Minister's pledge of January 5, 1918, with regard to the future Peace settlement with Turkey was known in India; and whether unrest in India was due to the fact that the Moslems were not certain if British policy adhered to or repudiated the pledge of the Prime Minister, said: Yes, sir, and I have continually urged upon the Peace Conference the importance to India of a peace consistent with the policy contained in the speech to which my hon. and gallant friend refers.

Georgia.

December 4.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE, asked by Lt.-Cmdr. Kenworthy if he was aware that the activity of the agents of General Denikin's volunteer army in the Batoum district was causing apprehension among the inhabitants of the Georgian Republic; and if he could state whether the Peace Conference had as yet come to any decision regarding the future of this district, which forms, historically, a part of Georgia, and was of strategical importance to the British Empire, said: His Majesty's Government are aware that in the province and town of Batoum and elsewhere in Trans-Caucasia there is considerable agitation both for and against maintenance of the Russian connection. The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative. It is obviously impracticable to decide the future of Batoum apart from that of Trans-Caucasia as a whole.

Roumania.

December 8.

Mr. BONAR LAW, replying to Lord R. Cecil, said his attention had been called to the memorial addressed by the Roman Catholic, Unitarian, and Calvinistic Bishops of Koloczvar to the Peace Conference, who were taking such steps as might be possible for the protection of religious and racial minorities in Transylvania.

Lord R. CECIL: Is my right hon. friend able to lay before the House any information on this and kindred subjects, so that the House may be given an opportunity really to form an opinion on these very grave incidents which are occurring all over Europe?

Mr. BONAR LAW: It would not be possible to make any statement at present about negotiations with Roumania. My noble friend knows, I think, the exact position in which they stand.

Lord R. CECIL: I did not ask for information as to negotiations, but as to the conditions prevailing in these various countries. I have reason to know that the Government has a great deal of information.

Mr. BONAR LAW: I will consider what my noble friend has said.

Albania.

Lieut.-Commander KENWORTHY asked the Prime Minister when a decision is expected as to the future of Albania; whether it is intended to guarantee the independence of that country as agreed to in the Treaty of London, 1913; and whether there is any British military force, British military mission, or British political mission in Albania?

Mr. BONAR LAW: I am unable to state when a decision will be taken with regard to Albania. This must depend upon the decisions of the Peace Conference. It is not correct to say that the independence of Albania was agreed to in the Treaty of London of May 30, 1913. There is at present a small British Mission at Scutari.

Captain ORMSBY-GORE: If Albania is not recognised as independent, what is it? Is it part of the ex-Austrian Empire, or the ex-Ottoman Empire, or part of Serbia, or part of Greece?

Mr. BONAR LAW: I should not like to answer that, but it is one of the subjects which the Peace Conference is considering.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

ROUMANIA (BLOCKADE). DEMOBILISATION: Troops in Mesopotamia. ROYAL INDIAN MARINE (BRITISH OFFICERS' PAY). EGYPT (PASSPORT FACILITIES). (December 1).

EGYPT: Casualties among Population. RUSSIA: Serbian Volunteers. DEMOBILISATION: Soldiers at Busreh, Mesopotamia. BRITISH ARMY: Young Soldiers (Egypt and India). TROOPS IN MESOPOTAMIA (PAY). (December 2).

INDIA: Frontier Operations (Bombing Warnings).—Army Officers (Pensions).—Government of India Bill (Currency Questions). MESOPOTAMIA (SERVICE MEN'S LEAVE). INDIAN TROOPS EMPLOYMENT). (December 3.)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BILL. (December 5.)

TURKEY: Peace Terms. ROUMANIA AND BESSARABIA. D'ANNUNZIO'S FORCES. EGYPTIAN CIVIL SERVICE (MILNER COMMISSION), TRIESTE, FIUME, BULGARIA (PEACE TREATY). AUSTRIA (PEACE TREATY). BRITISH ARMY: Officers' Pay (Mesopotamia). AERIAL ROUTE, EGYPT AND THE EAST. GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BILL. (December 4.)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BILL. EGYPT. DEMOBILISATION: Troops in Mesopotamia. ARMENIAN REFUGEES. (December 8.)

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CONDUCT OF GREECE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Your Sofia Correspondent, in your last issue, wrote that King Boris and the Bulgarian Premier have urged the Xanthi refugees to return to their homes without any fear, because the French and the local authorities would protect them against the "excesses" of the Greeks.

The word "excesses" rather amused me. Since the Balkans are the Balkans, this wrathful expression is in great favour amongst Balkanic peoples, and it is applied generally and from time to time to both "wicked and righteous."

I have just read in the London weekly, *Hesperia*, the following telegraphic information received from Salonika, dated November 17:—"The Bulgarian Deputy-Mayor of Xanthi, M. Perlinkoff, wrote a letter to the General Commanding-in-Chief of the Greek Army of Occupation in Thrace, in which he is not only praising the conduct of the Greek troops, but also testifies that since the arrival of the Greek Army a perfect order reigns in the occupied districts."—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONAS.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester.
November 26.

AN APPEAL TO GREAT BRITAIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It might be said without any exaggeration that no nation has suffered more than the unworthy and unfortunate Turk, who represents the pathetic relics of the mighty Osmanli empire of bygone days. Country after country has been snatched away from him, and now it is indeed an irony of fate that for the sins of Enver and other German hirelings his very existence should be threatened. No one dare deny that the Turk is not quite innocent in the affair, but that is no reason why he should be treated with deliberate injustice.

The exclusion of the Persian delegates from the Peace Conference, the occupation of Asia Minor by Greeks and Italian troops after Turkey signed the Armistice, the denial of equality to Japan, the Shantung dispute, and the South African scandal, all these prove that invidious distinctions are made in the administration of law and justice. Is it any wonder therefore that the "unspeakable Turk" is now threatened with unbearable injustice? It is a pity indeed that eminent statesmen like President Wilson and others, who are struggling hard for the preservation of the peace of the world, seem to ignore that so long as injustice and inequality are permitted to exist in this materialistic world, war will be inevitable.

That the future settlement of Turkey is complicated no one denies. Hence it is all the more imperative that those who labour hard to solve this problem should be free from all bias. If the politicians of Europe and America are actuated by a conciliatory spirit, and work with sincerity of purpose, where lies any difficulty? If the Sick Man of Europe is now found incapable of governing his subject races, where is the necessity to strangle him to death? If he is guilty of maltreating his loyal Armenian subjects, is it fair to drive him away from his own capital? What London is to Great Britain and what New York is to America, Constantinople is to the Turk. If the Dardanelles, the threshold to Constantinople, were permanently occupied by either Great Britain or France, where would be the necessity to internationalise the only remnants of the Sick Man's heritage in Europe on the pretext that he might give further trouble? When Armenia is given complete autonomy so far as its internal affairs are concerned, and the suzerainty of the Sick Man is confined to its foreign policy and the protection of its frontiers, Great Britain and America can well be spared the trouble of becoming Mandatory Powers. The grievances of the Armenians can be fully redressed if the Turkish and German officers responsible for the massacres committed in that unhappy country are not only given exemplary punishment, but if provision is also made for payment of ample compensation by the aggressors. The chance of the Sick Man doing further mischief will be very remote indeed if he is given to understand that in the event of a recurrence of massacres or any sort of malpractice in Armenia or any part of his territory he will not only forfeit the sympathy of the League of Nations and succour when he is in danger, but also that the place where such cruelties are perpetrated will be declared quite independent of his control.

That Great Britain by right of conquest is entitled to annex Mesopotamia and Palestine no sane person can deny. The wonderful transformation wrought in the fertile valley of the Euphrates proves beyond a doubt that the Englishman is far better qualified for the future government of Mesopotamia than the Turk. To ask Great Britain to restore Mesopotamia to the Turk, where the lives of so many English and Indian soldiers were sacrificed, where millions of pounds have been spent for the progress of a dilapidated country, would be nothing but hypocrisy. And what about the solemn pledges given to the people of Mesopotamia and Palestine by Great Britain?

The solutions for a perennial and honourable peace, honourable to Christendom and the Moslem world alike, can be briefly summed up as follows:—1. Maintenance of Turkish independence and integrity in Thrace, Asia Minor, and the territory occupied by the Turk in the Caucasus, which was forcibly snatched away from him by Russia not many years ago. 2. Withdrawal of Greek and Italian troops from Asia Minor. 3. Payment of a reasonable indemnity to the Allies as penalty for the breach of neutrality by Turkey. 4. Internationalisation or annexation of the Dardanelles by Great Britain. 5. Punishment of officers concerned in the Armenian massacre and payment of ample compensation to the sufferers. 6. Grant of autonomy to Armenia under the suzerainty of the Sultan of Turkey. 7. Grant of autonomy to the people of Mesopotamia and Syria under the protection of Great Britain and France respectively. 8. Grant of autonomy to Albania under the protection of Great Britain or America. 9. Admission of Turkey into the League of Nations, provided she gives satisfactory guarantees for the maintenance of peace and justice throughout her dominions in future and undertakes not to make any sort of alliance with either Germany or Austria. 10. Recognition of the kingdom of the Hejaz as an independent Islamic country free from any sort of mandatory system or Turkish suzerainty.

In the name of fairplay, I appeal to the people and politicians of Great Britain to give their impartial consideration to the subject under discussion. Now is the time for Great Britain to prove that she does not entertain any inveterate hatred towards the whole Turkish nation for the sins of a handful of German hirelings. If Great Britain, which is fortunately the greatest Moslem Empire in the world, will not listen to the pleadings of millions of her Moslem subjects, if she will not heal their wounded pride so far as is consistent with justice and equity, who else is there but the Almighty, in Whom alone they repose their implicit faith? Who can deny that the Moslem subjects of the King-Emperor have been as loyal as any others during the war? Loyal they are to their King and country and loyal they shall be for ever, whether the Sick Man of Europe lives or not.—I am, etc.,

M. A. HAMUD.

Calicut, India, October 22, 1919.

ARMENIA AND GEORGIA.

From an Armenian official source Reuter's Agency learns that an agreement has been signed between the representatives of the Republics of Armenia and Georgia in which it has been arranged either to settle between themselves all political and economic questions arising, or, in the event of their being unable to reach an understanding, to ask the Allied representatives in the Caucasus to arbitrate in the matter. The agreement remains in force for a period of three years. The British and American representatives in the Caucasus have congratulated the Armenian and Georgian Governments on the conclusion of this agreement.

At a largely attended meeting of the executive committee of the National Free Church Council a resolution was passed, and forwarded to the Prime Minister and Lord Curzon of Kedleston, conveying the deep conviction of the Free Churches of this country that a special obligation rests upon Great Britain to secure the safety and freedom of the Armenian people. In order that this end may be secured, it is strongly urged that the terms of the Peace Treaty with Turkey should fix such boundaries of the Turkish Empire as will effectively prevent the possibility of future massacres of the Armenians and secure their freedom and safety.

NEW ROUMANIAN CABINET.

Reuter's Bucharest correspondent, writing on December 8, states:—The new Ministry is composed as follows: Premier and Foreign Minister, M. Alexander Vaida-Voevod; Minister of the Interior, General Averescu; Minister of War, General Rascanu; Minister of Finance and Interim Minister of Commerce, M. Aurel Vlad; Minister of Agriculture, M. Victor Bontescu; Minister of Education, M. Octavian Goga; Minister of Public Works, M. Micael Popovici; Minister of Justice, M. Johann Jelivan. Ministers without portfolios: M. Ralipa, M. St. Pop, and Professor Cantacuzene. The last-named will also be a delegate to the Peace Conference.

TURK AND GREEK.

Sir A. H. Crosfield took the chair at King's College on November 28, when M. René Puaux, one of the editors of the *Temps*, delivered a lecture on "L'Asie Mineure et la Question d'Orient." The lecturer deplored the fact that the Peace Conference had not consulted M. Venizelos as to the settlement of the Eastern Question, since the famous Greek Premier, whose impartiality was above suspicion, had conceived a solution by settling the Eastern Question according to history, geography, and the aspirations of the several peoples.

Although five years have passed since the accession of King Ferdinand of Roumania, his portrait has not yet replaced that of the late King Carol on the national postage stamps. The cause of the delay is the advent of the Bolshevist rule in Russia and the consequent inability of the Roumanian Government to obtain from Petrograd the stamps prepared to its order by the Russian State Paper Printing Office during Kerensky's *régime*. A contract for postage, postage due, parcels post, and charity stamps was placed there by the Roumanian Commission in 1917, the designs being prepared by the celebrated Russian artist Zarin. Postage stamps in large format bearing the head of King Ferdinand were actually printed before the establishment of the Soviet Government, and specimens are in existence, but the stocks have never been delivered to Roumania, and it is believed that the bulk has been destroyed.

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

The other night I happened to be at a meeting in which Mr. Bernard Shaw was the chief speaker. Now, admirer (long since disillusioned) of Mr. Shaw as I used to be, it is not every subject upon which I can listen with patience to him talking. For most intents and purposes he is dead to me. But he happened to be speaking of foreign relations; and, as all my readers know, the present state of these troublesome things is a splendid subject for ridicule. Mr. Shaw, therefore, was at his best; he always revels in the discomfiture of others. Well, his subject was Great Britain, France, and Syria. His argument ran like this:—England and France were very jealous of each other, this being due to the divergence of English and French views upon Syria. France looked upon Palestine as an essential part of Syria: England said the two countries were distinct. Palestine should belong to Britain; it was mentioned in the Bible; the Bible was a British document; what further argument was necessary? A most ingenious and typical line of reasoning, is it not? I could not stop to listen to Mr. Shaw's moral; but I have no doubt that it was superfluous.

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More than once in this disrespectful column I have exposed the absurdities of War Office red-tape. Usually these cases concern individuals, but I have just heard one that might have made a whole army tear its hair at British efficiency. Our army at Salonika had earned the recognition of the Serbians, who quite naturally wished publicly to reward the well-doers. So the Serbian Government prepared in a nice box two hundred of their better-class decorations, and sent it off to our Salonika force. Now that force technically was still in Egypt; to Egypt, therefore, the box duly was posted. There it wandered disconsolately for many months, finding no one to take it for his own. I forget the scheduled number of months which it took our inelastic officials to admit that the Salonika force was no longer the E.E.F.; but, in any case, when the box arrived at Salonika the recipients of the medals could not remember any reasons that could provoke such generosity! They say that Russian war methods were the most inexplicable, but to a foreigner our own methods were scarcely obvious. However, one can laugh at most of these things now; and— who knows—they may have puzzled the Boche even more than they did our Allies and ourselves!

***

Shall we ever be told that we must place the blame for the great war on Armenia or the Armenians? The question is not quite so ridiculous as it doubtless looks at the first blush; for I observe that one of the ex-Kaiser's flunkeys has been telling a newspaper man about an Armenian who exercised some baleful influence over Wilhelm II. The account I read was not very illuminating, but, as far as I could make out, the Armenian in question—whose name is given as "Karamandjan"—was employed by Ludendorff, or his supporters to gain the Royal One's favour for that general; and this he did, or is represented to have done, by hypnotising the Kaiser. The story strikes me as distinctly strange, and if one wished one could very easily pick it to bits. But the interesting thing about it, to my mind, is to find the Germans trying—apparently—to cast opprobrium upon the Armenians. I should have thought that they had done sufficient injury to that unhappy people and that they would blush at the mere mention of "Armenia" or "Armenian." But no! they have their own ideas, and their own ways of putting them into practice. Nevertheless, it is hard luck on any Armenian to be described—and in a headline, too—as "The Kaiser's Evil Spirit."

***

Apropos of the Armenians, it seems to me that they, too, have highly original ways of looking at things. Not very long ago a correspondent of THE NEAR EAST told us what sort of dramatic fare the Armenians of Aleppo provided for the entertainment of their little ones, and of its disastrous if very natural results. More recently we have learned of the private exhibition of a film ("Auction of Souls") designed to bring home to the world the horrors through which the Armenians have passed; and in reporting the exhibition *The Times* remarked:—"Never, probably, has a film left so little to the imagination. To say that horror is heaped on horror is not to exaggerate," etc. I imagine the film will never be approved by English audiences, and, although it doubtless presents a perfectly true picture of what has happened, I very much doubt whether it will not hinder rather than help the Armenian cause.

And now we are told that the Armenians intend to present M. Clemenceau with a silver inkpot for the signature of the Turkish Treaty; and that "it will bear a small funeral urn commemorating the massacres." M. Clemenceau may like to have such a thing on his writing table. I should not!

***

The question of rents—to say nothing of rates, taxes, and "necessities of life"—is vexing the Near East as much as it vexes this country. From Egypt wails are loud and frequent; and I learn that Khartoum, too, is wrath with the profiteering landlord. Referring to the matter a little while back, the *Sudan Times* remarked that "the tenants find no other alternative . . . . but to stop payment of these high rents." How beautifully simple life must be in Khartoum. *Here* the solution is not so easy. As the gentleman said after reading the advertisement heading, "Why pay rent?" "It is just a question of that or having the brokers in!"

***

An evening paper reports that "Mr. Brace, M.P., replying to the Manchester Reform Club speech of the Premier, objected to Labour being regarded as 'howling dervishes.'" A friend of mine suggests that the objection of Labour to the comparison will be as nothing to the objection of the dervishes. Really, Mr. Lloyd George should be more careful, or he will be stirring up fresh trouble for us in the East.

CORSAIR.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Egypt.

The *Nation* of November 29 discusses what *The Times* has called "The Egyptian Peril." It says:—

In the crude sense of the word there is not, and cannot be, a "peril" to the British Empire in Egypt. The Egyptians are not a fighting race: their flat country does not lend itself to guerilla warfare: any violent movement in these days of machine guns, poison gas, and aeroplanes would end only in the massacre of the natives who attempted it. The "peril" is rather of the kind that confronts us in Ireland. A whole people stands solidly opposed to us. The very Ministers who took office and salary from our hands are so worked upon by public opinion that they range themselves against us. The masses of the towns and even the stolid *fellahin* of the villages are to-day, as they never were before, ranged behind the students and the intellectuals who always were against us. The rioting is recurrent, and when the crowds of men have been broken up processions of women confront us with a new problem. In Lord Cromer's day nationalism was a middle-class agitation. To-day organised trade unions use the weapon of the strike against us. The "peril" means simply that by no resource of policy or coercion do we seem able to restore the normal pacific life of a well-governed British dependency. We fail in our self-imposed task, and a failure in the metropolis of Arabic and Islamic culture, at a moment when we are busy in spreading our rule or our influence over Palestine, Arabia, Mesopotamia, and Persia, is certainly a "peril," for it involves a serious blow to our prestige. If we mean to go on, we have to prove over again that we can govern.

It concludes by suggesting a solution of the problem:—

In the first place, we would retrace the error committed when the Egyptian Delegation was excluded from the Paris Conference. The problem of Egypt is an international problem; our solution of it by proclaiming a protectorate by our sole authority was the first mistake. It would be an easy and graceful thing to say that since 1914 the League of Nations has come into being. Let us give reality to the League by referring Egypt to it. That means that Saad Pasha Zaghlul must be heard by its Council. The Protectorate may then be converted into "mandate." If we wish the Egyptians to acquiesce in that we must make terms with them. The "mandate" must be defined and limited. If we must "protect" Egypt, let the word mean what it ought to mean. We insure it against external aggression. If we must watch over our investments, that, again, is a limited task. We must, however, be prepared to make over the civil administration to a fully self-governing Egypt. If European experts are still employed, let it be as the salaried servants, and not as the dictators, of an Egyptian State. As for our garrison, let it be confined to Suez and the Soudan. That would be a compromise very far from the sheer independence which Egyptians demand. A "mandate," however, should have a time limit, and it should be subject to review. From our knowledge of the older nationalism of twelve years ago, we should expect that Saad Pasha would welcome a solution on these lines. No solution which a man so essentially sane and moderate rejects would be worth a trial. We must retrace our violent war-time policy; we must confer with leaders whom the whole Egyptian nation has chosen. The question is largely one of procedure. The procedure which will fail, and deserve to fail, is the dictation of concessions from Downing Street. The real question for us to decide is whether we accept or reject the League of Nations and the ideas for which it stands. Lord Curzon contrived to discuss Egypt without once mentioning the League. If we treat Egypt as a purely British question we have made our own "reservations" to the Covenant with all the egoism but without the frankness of the American Senate.

Mulai Hafid Again.

In the Christmas number of the *Strand Magazine*, Mr. Walter B. Harris gives some excellent stories of the Sultan at Home. Here is one finished pleasantry:—

The Sultan was completely content. He realised that at last, after the sombre pomp of the palace at Fez, he had settled down to modern life and refinement, and had attained "taste." It was his custom to arrive early in the morning and spend his days there, riding down from the Kasbah on a fat saddle-mule caparisoned in purple or pale blue or yellow, accompanied by men on horseback, and with his black slaves running beside him. Two old women—one a negress, the other a white Berber woman—nearly always accompanied him, poised upon fine saddle-mules, and closely veiled. The negress was his old nurse; the Berber woman a soothsayer. Arrived in the garden, the usual series of mishaps began. One of his old ladies would fall off her frisky mule, or the key of the empty house was lost, and an entry had to be made by forcing a window after everyone had fussed about pretending to look for the key for half an hour or so. Then a carpenter would be sent for to mend the broken window, and a slave would suddenly remember that for fear of losing the key he had tied it round his neck on a string, where it still hung, heavily on his chest. Then breakfast would arrive, carried down from the Kasbah on the heads of black slaves—great trays of fresh bread, bowls of milk, sodden, half-warm cakes smothered in butter and honey, excellent native crumpets, and a host of dishes of fruits and pastry and sweets, and tea and coffee on immense silver trays. It was a sort of promiscuous meal, partaken of first of all by the Sultan and his particular friends, then passed on to the "courtiers," and finally handed out of the windows to the slaves, gardeners, and retainers, who completely finished what was left, however great the quantity. By this time the workmen had begun building operations on the great palace a hundred yards or so away, and the ex-Sultan would visit the site, taking a very intelligent interest in every detail. Then back to the villa, where native visitors would be received and literary and religious questions discussed. Mulai Hafid himself is no mean author, and his Arabic verses would, if published at that time, have gained him much praise and many enemies. To-day there is no reason to remain silent. Circumstances have changed. Was it not he who wrote of Tangier:—"In the last day the people of Tangier came to the judgment-seat of God, and the Supreme Judge said, 'Surely you are the least and worst of all people. Under what circumstances did you live?' And they replied, 'We have sinned, we have sinned; but our Government was international—we were ruled by the representatives of Europe.' And the Supreme Judge said, 'Surely you have been sufficiently punished. Enter into Paradise.'"

By anyone who knew and experienced the international government of Tangier these verses cannot fail to be appreciated. Did he not also write the following in his days of contention with the French Government?—"Is not the wisdom of God manifest? Has He not given intelligence even to the dog?—a little less, it is true, than to the elephant, but a little more than he bestowed upon the French Administration."

And here you have him at auction and cricket:—

The ex-Sultan's bridge was peculiar. It would not for a moment be hinted that the irregularities that occurred in the game were due to anything but accident, but these little accidents were very frequent. The ex-Sultan, who all his life had been accustomed to sit cross-legged on a divan, soon tired of sitting upright on a chair. He would become restless and tuck his legs underneath him. Now, ordinary chairs are not intended to be sat in cross-legged, especially by bulky people, and as generally an armchair had been placed for His Majesty to sit in, he would constantly be changing his position and wriggling to make himself more comfortable and to find more room for his capacious legs. These wriggles occasioned at times a decided movement to right or left, and if the players did not hold up their cards—well, it was their own fault. Sometimes he would drop his own cards, and his long sleeve at the same time would sweep the tricks already won on to the floor, and there was confusion in sorting them. Once or twice an ace unexpectedly appeared for the second time in the game, picked up by accident from the floor, no doubt; and as to revokes—but with a plaintive voice the Sultan would say, "I am only a beginner." When he won he was in the highest spirits; when he lost he sulked—but he didn't very often lose. It is a characteristic of the Moors that they hate to lose a game, no matter what they are playing. I have seen the most exciting games of chess, skilfully but quickly played, where the loser has insisted on going on playing game after game, till sometimes in pure desperation his adversary allowed him to win. Mulai Abdul Aziz, Mulai Hafid's predecessor on the throne, had a unique manner of scoring at cricket. When he was Sultan he used to play cricket in the palace at Fez, generally four on each side. The score was carefully kept, but no names were entered. When the game was finished the Sultan himself placed the names against the scores—always, of course, putting his own in front of the largest. Then the name of the player he liked best on that particular afternoon had the second best score, and so on, the lowest being reserved for the person most out of favour. The score-book was religiously kept, and often referred to by the Sultan, who would say, "That was a great afternoon. I made sixty-one runs and Harris made forty-eight. X played abominably, and only made two"; while, as a matter of fact, His Majesty himself had made two and Harris perhaps none, while the unfortunate man who was down in the book as having scored two was probably the excellent batsman who had made the sixty-one that the Sultan claimed. If one is an autocrat monarch one can do anything—even poach your neighbour's cricketing score.

And lastly is a picture of the two ex-Sultan's reconciliation, and of sin finding Mulai Hafid out.

It was always my great desire to bring about a reconciliation between the two ex-Sultans, Mulai Abdul Aziz and Mulai Hafid, but I never succeeded. Mulai Hafid had driven his brother, Mulai Abdul Aziz, from the throne, and naturally his brother had no reason to be grateful to him. At the same time, Mulai Hafid always blamed Mulai Abdul Aziz for having ruined Morocco, and of having sown the seed of the loss of Moroccan independence. There was also the question of etiquette—they naturally could not meet at all, owing to the question of precedence. Mulai Abdul Aziz had been Sultan *first*, and claimed the first place. Mulai Hafid equally claimed it because he had been Sultan *last*. After many unsuccessful endeavours, I persuaded both to agree that if they met by chance on the road they would salute each other and embrace. For months they did not meet, but one day, turning a sudden corner, their riding-mules collided. So taken aback were their two Majesties that they entirely forgot their agreement, and rode away in opposite directions as fast as their mules could carry them. Immediately after the reconciliation—if such it could be called—between Mulai Hafid and the French authorities the ex-Sultan gave a dinner-party to the members of the French Legation and a number of other French officials in a charming villa he had meanwhile taken on the Marshan, at Tangier. Not sure of whom he ought to invite to this solemn repast, Mulai Hafid had left the choice of his guests to the French Chargé d'Affaires, who had sent in a list. The hour of dinner arrived, and so did the guests, among whom was the very capable and excellent Commissaire of the French local police, whom His Majesty had not yet met. The presentations took place, and the Sultan called me aside—I was in attendance—and

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asked who certain of the guests whom he did not know by sight were. When I informed him that one of them was the French *Commissaire de Police*, he became a little uneasy, and a shadow passed over his face. "What do you think he has come for?" asked the ex-Sultan, nervously. Seeing an opportunity for a joke at His Majesty's expense, I hesitated a moment, and then, with many apologies, informed the Sultan that there had been stories current about his manner of playing bridge. No one, I said, believed them, but naturally the French authorities were most desirous that there should be an end to this false rumour, and had therefore decided, very privately, of course, to bring the *Commissaire de Police* to watch his play on that particular evening. As soon as they were assured that His Majesty's play was above all supicion, an official *démenti* could be given to these disturbing rumours. Mulai Hafid's face wore a look of unusual gravity during the long and sumptuous dinner.

After the guests had adjourned to the drawing-room we sat down to bridge. The *Commissaire*, who was not a player, was purposely invited, without the Sultan's knowledge, to seat himself at Mulai Hafid's side. The game began. His Majesty was terribly nervous. Every time he wriggled in his chair and leant either to right or left he would pull himself together and fix his eyes upon his own cards. Not once did he left his "hand" fall on the floor. Not once did his long sleeves sweep the tricks off the table. Not once did he revoke. He lost game after game, and his distress became painfully manifest.

Between two deals a guest approached and politely asked, "Is your Majesty winning?" "Winning!" cried the now thoroughly upset monarch. "Winning! How can I possibly win with this horror of a policeman watching every card I play?" and the writer had to explain to the assembled company the whole plot.

Mesopotamia.

In *Blackwood's Magazine* of November Major-General Sir George Macmunn, K.C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., has written an excellent sketch called "By the Waters of Babylon." Here, for instance, is a picture of the British Army by the Tigris. It is drawn with much charm.

The great flat-bottomed boats of the Euphrates, pitched inside and out with bitumen, are the dead spit in their lines of the Ark of Regent Street toyshops, a quaint side glimpse on authenticity of tradition, while the boats that once were Noah's are built by sappers, to whom nothing is sacred, into bridges to take the "forty-pounder" train across the Tigris. Lest anything should be wanting to connect ancient history with modern practice, we note how the water of the Kherka, which flows into the marshes east of the Tigris, famous to this day for its purity, was carried on mules for the use of Darius, in silver flagon "ready boiled for use," as the cuneiform has it.

While the Army lay on the Tigris listening happily to the chunk of the passing steamers up the bends behind that meant to them and their cannon the morrow's meal, the outpost line of the cavalry, lying in front of the echeloned Division, kept watch lest the Turk attempt some night attack. Cavalry days are weary ones. Boot and saddle early when the water is too cold for horses to drink, long halts in the desert, while formations mass in rear or pack wireless sets are erected and dismantled, and patrols hunt mounted Arabs away into the mirage. Disappointing days, too, when the enemy would be out of reach or else lie installed in a network of dry canals, ready to bite if attacked, but to slip away in the night after the manner of rearguards. That day three squadrons had charged home in the wild disorder that canal grids can create, and though losing heavily had ridden back with the glory of action on their sword points, and the surge and thunder of the afternoon had died down to the peace of the tired bivouac. The day was over, and it had but remained to "Battez le tambour à petits coups bas" and

> "Plantez un croix sur son tombeau,
> Gravez son nom son numéro,"

save that among desert Arabs the grave must be camouflaged lest it be desecrated. The long horse lines stretch back to the waggons, and the crunch of corn tells of the satisfaction of rest. In the gun-parks of the horse artillery limber gunners give soothing dollops of petroleum jelly to tired gun-springs, and hot tea to tired muscles.

The sketch ends with a vivid incident:—

A cry and an oath came down the breeze, and two figures came across to the officers' post. A duffidar of Indian cavalry followed by a trooper, came up and reported a prisoner. Some one trying to creep through the line. They had caught him—shot him, apparently. Seemed to be a *badu* (an Arab). "Better bring him along here," said the Intelligencer. "May get something out of him. Don't let them hurt him."

The unfortunate wretch was brought over on a stretcher, and a flashlight turned on him. It was a queer bundle of rags, and the Intelligencer peered over it to find a clean-cut Arab face, with the knit brows of a man who has long stood the glare of the noonday sun. "Why, it is Muhammad Hussein of the Beni Lam!' The bundle moved, and tried to speak.

"This is one of the G.H.Q. agents. He used to be with me."

The stretcher was placed on the ground, and Fearon sent the men off save two, who stood apart leaning on their rifles. Esto, the Intelligencer, talked to him in Arabic, and the Arab tried to raise himself.

"Call one of the men to support him." A Sikh came and raised him slightly.

"Why, look at the man's knees!" They were worn to the bone from crawling on them, torn and bleeding. The Arab commenced to pick at rags round his legs and to speak slowly. The medical officer of the regiment came up, thinking from the shots that someone might need him. As the Arab picked at the rags the medical officer helped. The man's legs were a mass of raw, red sores.

"Baghdad boils?" asked Fearon. The medical officer shook his head. "Burns, man—burns! Burnt with a red-hot iron."

The Arab broke in—

"The Turks caught me. They burnt me all over with a red-hot rifle-barrel, and told me to go back and tell my English friends. I have been crawling for ten days."

And Esto thought of the carvings from Nineveh up the river—of captives held steady with a ring through their lips and a tight cord, while an arrow-point was jabbed in their eyes, and the red-hot irons got ready in the braziers hard by. For has not the Preacher said—

> "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done; and there is no new thing under the sun"?

Articles to Note.

"Allenby's Victories: and Britain's Opportunities," by Major Lindsay Bashford; "The Last of the Amirs," by Robert Giles, C.I.E.; "Djemal Pasha: A Portrait," by Frederick J. Bliss; and "Serbia to-day and to-morrow," by Anthony W. Dell, in the *Nineteenth Century* (December).

"Moslems and the Tangle in the Middle East," by Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen, D.S.O., in the *National Review* (December).

"In Jugo-Slavia," by Gustave-Louis Tautain, in the *New World* (December).

"Moslem Shrines of Irak," in *The Times* (December 6).

"The Outlook in the Middle East," and "India: (Criticism of the late Hostilities—Border Politics, etc.)," in the *Round Table* (December).

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

INDIAN FINANCE AND BANKING.*

This book appears at an opportune moment, when Indian finance is engaging the attention of the foremost experts on the subject. The position of the author establishes a claim to express an opinion upon the currency and exchange problems with which the India Government have had to contend during the war; but quite apart from that, the views expressed will command the attention and support of all advocates of sound money. In the chapters on Indian currency a complete history of the system is given in a style which cannot fail to arouse the interest of every student of this absorbing topic. In the preface it is stated that the book has no official character whatever, and after perusal we can congratulate the author on its freedom from official jargon and the lucidity with which his arguments are expressed. The volume is one which should be widely read by merchants and bankers, and it is full of particulars which entitle it to become a stand-by for ready reference on Indian currency and the banking system.

The admirable tables of statistics with which the book is supplied are not the least valuable feature, and in this connection special interest attaches to the table on page 33 describing the disposition of Treasury Balances. A footnote is added intimating that the balances for this year and last year are "in addition to the Special Reserve of £20,000,000 in 1918 and £7,000,000 in 1919." In the absence of any information to the contrary, it is to be assumed that these amounts are "Hidden Reserves."

Although it is recorded to the credit of the India Government that they were never forced to proclaim a moratorium, it may not be generally known how near India came to that point towards the end of August, 1914, when several of the banks in Calcutta and Bombay were very heavily drawn upon chiefly by native depositors. A timely return of confidence, however, removed the necessity for approaching Government to act in this direction.

The suggestions for the extension of banking facilities will be endorsed by every business man, because therein lies the remedy for the enormous waste of money for which the hoarding habit is responsible. There can be no doubt that the Indian bank failures in 1913 shook the confidence of depositors to such an extent that it is taking years for the lost ground to be recovered; and the simplest and surest way to restore that confidence lies in familiarising the community with the advantages to be derived from industrial banking on safe lines.

SIDE SHOWS.†

Captain Benn took part in his first side-show, the Gallipoli campaign, not as a flier, but with the Middlesex Yeomanry. His account of the landing of the battalion at Suvla, and of the fighting that followed, is characterised by that grey hopelessness which comes over so many who write of this campaign. He describes the gallant spirit of the men whose high hopes were doomed to disappointment after the weary months which followed the first grim fighting, and during which so many of the troops fell a prey to sickness. He was invalided to Egypt before the final evacuation of the Peninsula, and was here able to gratify his wish to join the Air Service. He became military observer attached to the R.N.A.S., East Indies and Egypt Seaplane Squadron, which was under Commander Sampson, and which, apparently relying entirely on this gallant officer's initiative, carried out many successful raids in the Aden Hinterland, and in Syria. His account of these raids, during which he usually acted as observer to Commander Sampson, is most interesting. Sometimes they worked with the French, and they were doing so when the "flagship" of their squadron H.M. Seaplane carrier Ben-my-Chree, was shelled and sunk in the harbour of the island of Castelorizo by a Turkish battery hidden on the opposite coast. The description of this episode is followed by the best chapters in the book. We read of the panic that ensued amongst the inhabitants of the island, and of the time spent by the author in command of a small force—composed of the crew of the Ben-my-Chree, and of French soldiers—which was stationed in a Greek church near the shore to oppose the expected Turkish landing. Captain Benn's style of writing, which although simple and direct, is as a rule quite uninspired, here seems to take on a different tone, and he makes us see very clearly the stage-like island scenery, and the little whitewashed church with its strange mixed garrison. We share in the spirit of adventure and joy in authority felt by him and his Admirable Crichton of a batman, Stickell.

The whole of this piece of narrative, from the bursting of the first shell to the farewell of the English to their French comrades, is illuminated by the glow of romance. Captain Benn's pride in his little command is almost ingenuous. Here, certainly, he was unhampered by that military system, which he is so very anxious to have his readers believe is fatal to all individuality, and altogether ineffectual.

On his return to England the author trained as a pilot, and, having got his wings, set out under Commodore Sueter to take part in the Adriatic barrage. In October, 1917, however, he came home, and afterwards joined the 51st Wing, which worked with General Plumer's forces, and with the Italian Army in N. Italy. He tells of many exciting adventures during this period culminating in the successful landing of a Secret Service Agent in the Austrian lines by means of a parachute.

Colonel Barker, V.C., was the pilot on this occasion, and the account of this achievement, supplemented by the subsequent adventures of the Italian agent, Tandura, is very enthralling. Captain Benn was surely most exceptionally lucky in the opportunities which he found for exploring the countries in which he was stationed. A good many chapters are taken up with his impressions of Egypt, Cyprus, and Italy, and in his "whole-souled quest of knowledge," the way in which he seizes every chance of conversation with the natives, and his eagerness to impart his not very important discoveries to the world, he reminds us of Stevenson's immortal, Joseph Finsbury.

This book, especially the part of it which deals with the Red Sea and Eastern Mediterranean, and with the author's impressions of Egypt and its Government, should appeal very much to all those who are interested in the Near East.

OTTOMAN LAND LAWS.*

A most useful addition to the library of works on Ottoman Law has just been made by Mr. Stanley Fisher, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, and at present acting Chief Justice in Cyprus. It brings into one volume the original Ottoman Land Code (supplemented by later legislation affecting land) and the Cyprus Laws and Rules promulgated since the British Administration was established in 1878. The latter form an Appendix which occupies almost as many pages as the Code.

Mr. Fisher's version is mainly based on Mr. George Young's "Corps de Droit Ottoman" (Oxford Clarendon Press, 1906) and the Greek translation of the "Ottomanikoi Kodices" (1890). He has checked the text with the Turkish original in collaboration with Mustafa Effendi Midhat, of the Idádi School, Nicosia. The Appendix terminates with the important Corporate Bodies' Law of 1908, which enables immovable property to be acquired and registered in the names of corporate bodies in Cyprus. Visitors to the island who desired to ascertain the legal status of companies in what was still Ottoman territory were not infrequently puzzled, and sometimes probably deterred from projected enterprise by the unsatisfactory nature of the existing regulations.

In present circumstances one cannot but feel a melancholy regret that the course of Turkish history, so often re-paved with good intentions, and aiming at the removal of abuses "under a firm law," should not have led to happier results. Take, *e.g.*, the measure which gave foreigners the right to acquire immovable property in the Empire, dated 1284 A.H. (1864 A.D.). Foreign subjects were thereby allowed, "with the same title as Ottoman subjects, to possess such property, urban or rural, anywhere except in the province of Hedjaz." This law was enacted "in order to secure the extension of wealth and prosperity in the Ottoman Empire." The work should be useful in Palestine, where the Land Registry is to be reconstituted. The volume is printed by Mr. W. J. Archer, of the Government Printing Office, Nicosia.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Syren and Shipping International Mercantile Diary and Year-Book, 1920." (London: Syren and Shipping, Ltd.)

"Mother Roundabout's Daughter." By G. W. Dasent. (Oxford Story Readers for Serbians. Clarendon Press. 1s. net).

"The Pilgrimage Plays." No. I., "Virginel" (10s. 6d.); No. V., "Mahmud the Sultan" (2s. 6d.); No. VI., "Feramorz" (5s.); No. VII., "The Ruby in the Vine" (5s.). Adapted by Sivori Levey. (The Fountain Publishing Company, 6, Roehampton Lane, Roehampton, S.W.15.)

"Fetters." By C. S. Goldingham. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 7s. net.)

"Songs of War and Patriotism." By K. Knight Hallowes. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Navy Everywhere." By Conrad Cato. (London: Constable and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Tales of a Cruel Country." By Gerald Cumberland. (London: Grant Richards, Ltd. 7s. net.)

* "Indian Finance and Banking." By G. Findlay Shirras. (London: Macmillan and Co. Price 18s. net.)

† "In the Side Shows. Observations by a Flier on Five Fronts." By Captain Wedgwood Benn, M.P., D.S.O., D.F.C. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 12s. net.)

* "Ottoman Land Laws." By Stanley Fisher, M.A., Puisne Judge, Cyprus. Humphrey Milford. Oxford University Press, 1919. 12s. 6d. net.)

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THE SEASON IN EGYPT.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 23.

Successful Dances.

The past week has been strangely reminiscent of old times, when one danced five nights out of seven; for during the period we have had no less than four dances, Shepheard's Hotel being the scene of three of them.

Armistice Anniversary was fittingly celebrated by a subscription ball in aid of the Anglo-American Hospital, which had had to be put off from the 11th owing to the delay in the arrival of the High Commissioner. It was in every sense of the word a "Social" event, made doubly so by the fact that it was the first public appearance this year of the new High Commissioner and Lady Allenby. Their Excellencies arrived while dancing was in full swing, and it was quite an impressive sight to see the sudden cessation of all movement, when, as the dance music ceased and the National Anthem was struck up, everyone stood to attention wherever they happened to be. Lord and Lady Allenby remained some time receiving their friends, with many of whom they chatted, and his lordship, who looked in the best of health, seemed to forget his many responsibilities for the moment, and was seen amongst the dancers.

Both ball-rooms were thrown open for the occasion, and they proved none too big. The music was provided by the band of the 11th Hussars, and a very fine buffet was laid out in the Restaurant. The ladies who were responsible for the organisation are to be highly congratulated, not only on the social success, but also on the financial result of their efforts, which must have been very substantial. Where practically all Cairo was present it is difficult to mention names, but during the evening we noticed the Countess of Stradbroke, Sir Foster and Lady Newlands, Major-General Louis and Lady Bols, Brig.-General and Mrs. Wavell, Brig.-General and Mrs. Morris, Sir Reginald and Lady Oakes, Sir Milne Cheetham, Colonel Symes, Lady Willcocks, General Gorringe, Brig.-General Sir Gilbert and Lady Clayton, Mr. Hope Vere, Mrs. Alec Tweedie, Mr and Mrs. Bird, and Lady Palmer.

R.A.F.'s "At Home."

The R.A.F.'s, who are making quite a speciality of this mode of entertaining their friends, were again "At Home" at Shepheard's on Thursday evening, when a most successful dance was the order of the evening. The band of the 11th Hussars were again to the fore, and dancing was kept up until a very late hour, an obliging officer stepping into the breach and providing the music when the band retired and sought supper and a well-earned rest. Amongst the many guests were the Hon. Hampson Gary, Mrs. Tweedie, Gen. and Mrs Wavell, Gen. and Mrs. Burnett, Mr. and Mrs. Peckitt, Major and Mrs. Wethered.

Sir Louis Bols' Farewell.

On Friday evening Major-General Sir Louis and Lady Bols gave a most delightful dance at their charming residence in Ghezireh. It was, alas! a farewell to their host of friends, some of whom they entertained at dinner previously; for it was given on the eve of their departure for Palestine, where Sir Louis takes up his new post as Governor-General. They will be very much missed, and in offering their congratulations to Lord Allenby's able and popular Chief of Staff, every one looks forward to seeing him and his charming wife again.

The week fittingly finished with Shepheard's Saturday "small" dance, which was as well attended as ever. I hear great things promised for Christmas week and the early part of the New Year at this historic caravanserai, which in all probability will soon have to throw open its third story, which has been closed ever since the war. There is a good deal of grumbling at the Government action in retaining the Semiramis and Savoy Hotels, and thus aggravating the local housing question. The former hotel has been reserved for the Milner Mission and the Ministry of Communications. It is contended that accommodation for the Mission could easily have been provided at the Savoy Hotel, where, with a little goodwill and re-arrangement, plenty of room could be found, and where the Ministry of Communications also could at a push have been accommodated until new premises had been constructed. The authorities out here seem, after the conclusion of peace, to be adopting the much criticised procedure followed by the Home Government during the war.

Opera and Races.

Every one is looking forward to the opening of the opera season, which is expected to start towards the middle of next month. After five years of operatic silence, we are evidently going to have a double dose this year—not that anyone will object—for it is announced that a Second Italian Opera Company is shortly coming over, and will take the boards at the Kursaal, whence the Bandman Musical Comedy Company will transfer to the Printania Theatre, which has in the past offered hospitality to many similarly successful ventures.

The third race meeting this week at Ghezireh proved another great success. Several luncheon parties were given beforehand, and, as the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby were expected there was an unusually large attendance. Their Excellencies spent a long time in the Members' Enclosure, and seemed thoroughly to enjoy the racing, which was certainly very good, there being some exceedingly close finishes.

MUSICAL NOTES.

On December 3 at the Æolian Hall, a concert of music of the Russian Orient was held, under the direction of M. Lazare Saminsky, of the Tiflis (Caucasus) People's *Conservatoire de musique*. This concert was of great importance, not because of the mere performance of Oriental Russian music, but because it was a sign of the progressive cultural fusion of East and West. The music of the East is not yet explicable to us all, but it is no longer unknown.

Now the chief link between East and West is, of course, Russia. Since that country has begun to develop musically, its progress has travelled in two main streams, the national and the occidental. In other words, there has been one school which has looked to Russia, and especially to Russian folk-song, and another school which has looked to Western countries, older in musical expression, for the source of their respective inspirations. M. Saminsky's concert was devoted almost wholly to the exposition of the national or local music of the Caucasus.

In his lecture, points of which were exemplified vocally by Miss Zoia Rosowsky and M. Chelminsky, and on the violin by M. Lasserson, M. Saminsky placed great hopes in the growing interchange of culture between East and West. Only recently (he said) has the music of the older nations, like the Armenian, Jewish, and Arab, which hitherto had been absolutely exclusive, been made public. But ignorance of this music is far from being dispelled yet, and this fact must have been felt keenly by most of the English listeners at M. Saminsky's concert.

The music of the Russian Orient was divided into Tatar, Georgian, Hebrew, and Jewish songs. Of these four peoples the Tatars (said the lecturer) are weakest in musical creation. The Tatars of the Crimea are the most gifted, but that is apparently due to the Genoese and Venetian influence which is obvious in many of their folk-songs. Georgia and Armenia have a much richer music, due to their very old culture, which had survived in spite of material vicissitudes. The Hebrews are known the world over for their musical abilities, and their folk-songs are instinct with the deep spirituality of the race.

The prevailing note of the songs of all these peoples is sadness. The reason for this is patent, being easily found in their histories. These nations were often invaded, sometimes overrun, and in part dispersed. Sadness, therefore, is at the beginning and the end of their experience. But their songs are curious in that they have no lilt, no sense of direct rhythm; they meander plaintively, purposelessly in and out of the minor keys, wailing over the rocks of despair and sinking to depths of passionate woe. There is no touch of that exhilaration, no hint even of that occasional jollity, which are such common features of the folk-songs of most countries. One of the Armenian songs, by Komitas (and sung by Miss Zoia Rosowsky), had indeed the rare knowledge and the lightsome gladness of the mountain shepherd; it was an extremely beautiful song, but it had none of that light-hearted joy in which Serbian or Italian mountain songs are written. M. Lasserson played a Hebrew melody by Achron—an exquisite piece well played—but the piercing sorrow of its repetitions was too prolonged. The overwhelming grief of all these peoples is a thing with which we cannot for ever sympathise; we can for a time feel with them, we can always admire them, but we cannot say that indefinitely we will let our hearts be torn by their plaints. Sympathy, like elastic, perishes if too freely stretched.

The second half of M. Saminsky's concert consisted of compositions by himself. Of these, two especially were pleasing, being songs from Pushkin and Sologub. He appears to have assimilated many influences, and his work shows far more vigour than do the folk-songs, of which earlier in the evening he had given an exposition. He is obviously interested in modern work, though his own shows no trace of the unintelligibility of some of his countrymen. It is straightforward, with no meanless subtlety; but as this is the first performance of his work in England, it is too soon yet to judge of it. That apart, it is work of a very great value that M. Saminsky is doing in showing us the music of these oppressed but extremely cultured peoples. The war has made possible the fusion of many cultures, and if the Western peoples cannot so easily as the Russians assimilate the culture of the Oriental peoples, the path will be made much clearer by the work of exposition which M. Saminsky is in England to perform.

Andante.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. December	1919. November		1338. Rabia I.	5680. Kislev.
12	29	Friday	19	20
13	30 December.	Saturday.....	20	21
14	1	Sunday	21	22
15	2	Monday	22	23
16	3	Tuesday.....	23	24
17	4	Wednesday	24	25
18	5	Thursday	25	26

Lady Inchcape has left London for Paris.

Captain and Mrs. Sidney Andrews have returned to Malta by s.s. Mandala.

Sir Charles Des Graz has returned to The Firs, Wimbledon, from Ireland.

Lord Oranmore and Browne left London on Monday for Castle Macgarrett, Co. Mayo.

Colonel and Mrs. Cecil Maddock left London for India on December 5, in the s.s. Morvada.

Lord Plumer, the Governor, has received the degree of LL.D. from the University of Malta.

The offices of the Roumanian Military Mission have been removed to 3, Marble Arch, Hyde Park.

M. Alexandre Cretziano, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, returned to London on December 8 from Paris.

M. Yovanovitch, formerly Serbian Minister in London, and Madame Yovanovitch will leave London next week for Belgrade.

M. Constantinesco, who has been appointed Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, has arrived in London and entered upon his duties.

Prince Firooz, Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is now in London, has formally notified the adhesion of Persia to the League of Nations.

Lord Milner received on December 3 members of the National Assembly at Malta, who expressed satisfaction with the new Constitution which had been granted to the Island.

With the approval of the Secretary of State for India, the Government of India have appointed Sir Krishna Gupta, K.C.S.I., to serve as a Member of the Army in India Committee.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania celebrated on December 6 the anniversary of his name day. Among his visitors at Eton were M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, and Colonel N. Arion.

The Aga Khan gave a dinner at the Ritz Hotel, Paris, on December 6, in honour of the Shah of Persia. The Earl and Countess of Derby and representatives of all the Allied and Associated Powers were present.

On December 16, at the Æolian Hall, a concert is to be given on behalf of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund. The concert begins at 8 p.m., and tickets may be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Miss Emily Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, W.14.

The Bishop of Khartoum, in consequence of the decision arrived at by the Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop MacInnes as to the necessity of dividing the Jerusalem diocese, has been asked to take charge of Egypt as well as the Sudan. He was agreed to do so, but will continue to make Khartoum his headquarters.

Mr. W. A. Lloyd, who formerly served with the A.I.F. in the Near East, and has since been studying developments in that region, is at present in London. He lectured on his experiences last night at the National Liberal Club.

The marriage of Captain Cuthbert G. Bellord, late of the R.A.F., eldest son of Mr. E. J. Bellord, and Margaret Isabel, elder daughter of Sir Alexander Cardew, K.C.S.I., and Lady Cardew, C.B.E., took place on December 3 at St. James's Church, Spanish Place.

Queen Alexandra has sent a telegram to the Council and members of the Serbian Red Cross Society in Great Britain, expressing her Majesty's sincere thanks for their kind congratulations upon the occasion of her birthday and also on the return of the Prince of Wales.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, on December 9 entertained at luncheon the Hon. William Cozens-Hardy, the head of the British Trade Mission to Roumania, Colonel Rosetti, Military Attaché, and M. Constantinesco, the well-known Roumanian engineer.

His Majesty the King of Montenegro, with the Queen, has just left Paris for Cap Martin. At the station, in addition to the President of Council and the Ministers of Montenegro, the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Court of Montenegro was represented by M. Delaroche Vernet, the French Minister; the Marquis di Montagliari, representing Italy; Sir George Grahame, representing Great Britain; General Gvosdenovitch, Minister Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to Washington, and other officials.

To bid adieu to Yovan Yovanovitch, until recently Serbian Minister in London, and Madame Yovanovitch, who are about to return to their own country, a reception was held on December 6 at the headquarters of the Serbian Red Cross Society, Ennismore Gardens. Princess Christian sent a letter regretting her inability to take part in the reception and expressing appreciation of the work of the Society. Among those present were Lady Kent, Colonel J. T. J. Morrison, Miss Olga Nethersole, Professor Georgicvitch, Dr. Djouritch, Dr. M. Curcin, and many other members of the Council and of the Serbian community.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Our Malta Correspondent writes:—Colonel R. T. Edwards, C.M.G., has been appointed Chief Engineer.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clare Ruxton Uvedale Savile, D.S.O., O.B.E. (Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General, Malta Command) has been appointed an official member of the Executive Council of the island of Malta.

The King has been pleased to approve of the duties of the Secretary of State for the Colonies being discharged by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Lieutenant-Colonel L. S. Amery, M.P., during the absence of Viscount Milner in Egypt.

The King has given orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) for services rendered in Egypt and the Sudan:—

EGYPT.

K.B.E.—Mr. F. T. Rowlatt, Governor of the National Bank of Egypt.

C.B.E.—Mr. P. M. Tottenham, Headquarters Inspector-General and Acting Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Public Works, Chairman of Fuel Committee; Mr. B. Hornsby, Sub-Governor National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria, Public Custodian and Deputy Chairman of Cotton Control Commission; Mr. S. R. P. Carver, Member of Cotton Control Commission; Lieut.-Col. H. G. A. Garsia, D.S.O. (R. of O.), Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army.

O.B.E.—Mr. R. V. Wild, Inspector, Ministry of Finance; Mr. A. W. Keown-Boyd, Secretary to the Residency; Mr. T. W. Russell, Commandant of Cairo Police; Mr. J. McM. Marshall, Inspector of Ministry of Finance and a Member of the Cotton Control Commission; Mr. A. G. Ingram, 1st class Inspector of Police, Alexandria; Mr. A. Wise, Chief Inspector of Nizam, Ministry of Interior; Mr. K. Dowson, Director, Coastguards Service.

THE SUDAN.

K.B.E.—Col. H. W. Jackson, C.B., Acting Governor-General of the Sudan.

C.B.E.—Dr. J. B. Christopherson, Director, Khartum and Omdurman Civil General Hospitals; Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, Director of Education Department and additional member of Governor-General's Council.

O.B.E.—Mr. H. S. Job, Honorary Treasurer of Prince of

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Wales's and Red Cross Funds in the Sudan; Mr. K. C. P. Struvé, Sudan Civil Service; Mr. C. E. Lyall, Sudan Civil Service; Mr. R. E. More, Sudan Civil Service; Mr. C. P. Browne, Sudan Civil Service; Mr. J. D. Craig, Sudan Civil Service; Capt. F. Burges, Police Magistrate, Khartoum; Major S. K. Flint, Legal Department, Sudan Government.

OBITUARY.

The death took place on December 6 at Bournemouth of Major W. P. M. Dalzell McLaughlin, of the 107th Pioneers, Indian Army.

Colonel H. M. Sloggett has died at Bournemouth. He took part in the Miranzai Expedition in 1891, receiving the medal with clasp.

The death has occurred of Captain G. R. Bethell, R.N. He saw service in the Egyptian War of 1882, thereby gaining the Egyptian Medal and Khedive's Star.

The death occurred on December 4 at Lambridge Lodge, Bath, of Wyndham Frank Baker, aged sixty-three, late of Tellisford, Ceylon, only son of the late Lt.-Col. Wyndham Baker, R.A., of 9, Marlborough Buildings, Bath.

The death occurred on December 4 of Miss Mary Hall, who was famous as the first woman explorer to make the journey from the Cape to Cairo. She was familiar equally with Australia, the Balkans, and the Near East generally.

The Rev. Frederick C. Hill, formerly rector of Shere, Surrey, died at College Road, Eastbourne, on December 5. He was chaplain with the Burmah Field Force, 1885-7, chaplain at Mercara, Coorg, and Mysore, 1887-8, and chaplain at Bolarum 1888-93.

The death occurred on November 29, at Dardoni, N.W.F.P., of Richard Henry Hedges, Major 106th Pioneers, Brigade Major 47th (Jubbulpore) Brigade, elder son of the late Col. R. A. Manners, Royal Scots, and of Mrs. Manners, and husband of Margery Manners (*née* Thornton), Fairlawn, Eltham, Kent.

The second son, Shivaji Rao, of the Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda and the Maharani, has died in India from pneumonia. He was a familiar figure at Oxford University in 1911, and afterwards as the Gaekwar of Baroda. Before going up to Oxford he passed the first Arts examination of Bombay University, and followed the B.A. course in the Baroda College. The Gaekwar at Oxford came very near to getting his cricket "Blue."

The Hon. Mrs. S. K. Sinha, daughter-in-law of Lord Sinha, died at Lord Sinha's residence at Ealing on December 9, at the early age of twenty. She was the elder of the two daughters of Mr. A. C. Chaterjee, I.C.S., who has been representing the Government of India at the Washington Labour Conference, and was previously acting as Chief Secretary to the United Provinces Government. Mrs. Sinha was educated chiefly in this country.

The death occurred at Malta on November 27 of Sir Edwin Pears. He was returning to England from Constantinople; but, having an accident at sea, was landed at Malta, and died there. He was born in 1835. About 1874 he went to Constantinople as correspondent for the *Daily News*, and created a great sensation by his account of the Bulgarian massacres of 1876. He settled in Constantinople, and for forty years it was his home. To the history of that city he contributed many notable volumes. As an archæologist, it is said that he knew more than any living man about Byzantine Constantinople. As an author, his chief work was "Turkey and Her Peoples," but he was a frequent contributor to the leading reviews.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Spain and Bulgaria have recognised the Austrian Republic.

The Egyptian Government has decided to grant a war bonus to the smaller pensioners.

It is reported that a pack of man-eating wolves has appeared on the border of Hyderabad. Seven people are said to have been killed, and their bodies were eaten.

A delayed message from Athens says that the signature of the Peace Treaty was celebrated with great enthusiasm there, huge crowds cheering for M. Venizelos and the Allies.

The Postmaster-General announces that the Indian mail which left Bombay on November 15 has been delayed, and is not expected to reach London before December 16.

Talaat Pasha, the fugitive ex-Grand Vizier of Turkey, is stated to have been in Berlin for some time, and to have been in touch with Radek. Talaat is going on to Moscow.

The Pope has created a new diocese at Patna (India), having its seat at Bankipur. The new see is a suffragan Bishopric to Calcutta, and is entrusted to Jesuit missionaries.

Part of the mail sent from Paris to Balkan countries and Turkey on November 21 by the Simplon-Orient express has been destroyed by a fire which broke out on the train between Belgrade and Nish.

Azerbaijan troops, who had surrounded the Armenian district of Zangezour, have been completely beaten after four days' violent fighting, and retreated, leaving many prisoners, 14 machine-guns, and other supplies.

Circassian bands are in the field against the Turkish Nationalists (Mustapha Kemal's party) in Western Anatolia, and one of them is reported to have inflicted a severe defeat on the Nationalists in the Balikessri district.

Our Malta Correspondent writes (November 28):—Four hundred and fifty German prisoners have just left for the Fatherland. They cheered vociferously, but the non-response on the part of the local population was eloquence itself.

Sixty dismissed officers of the Greek Army, including a few from Görlitz (who surrendered Fort Rupel), have been arrested as accomplices in the plot to murder M. Venizelos. Resolutions from all parts of Greece demand that the guilty be promptly dealt with.

M. Stamboulinski, the Prime Minister of Bulgaria, speaking to a representative of the Paris *Temps*, explained the politics in his country put before everything else the realisation of an *entente* between the Balkan States under the patronage of the great Allies.

An aerial mail service is to be inaugurated between Bombay and Karachi on January 1, by means of which residents of Karachi will be enabled to post home letters at least twenty-four hours after the despatch of the mail steamer from Karachi and yet catch the steamer at Bombay.

A strike against the embarkation of Turkish prisoners of war and internees at Malta for repatriation was recently declared by the crew of the British hospital ship Gloucester Castle. A settlement was effected by the Governor, only sick and non-Turkish—i.e., Jews, Greeks, etc.—prisoners being allowed on board.

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Editorial and Publishing Offices:

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1919.

ROUMANIA.

From Paris comes the satisfactory news that Roumania has now signed the Treaty of St. Germain and the Bulgarian Treaty, as well as the separate agreement protecting minorities in Roumanian territory. There could be no other termination to the uncomfortable *impasse* which has disturbed the relations between Roumania and her Allies; but the latter will do well not to interpret the happy ending as proof of the wisdom of the Supreme Council's attitude towards the Roumanians. It would probably be more accurate to describe the handling of the Roumanian problem as mainly responsible for the temporary breach between Paris and Bucharest. Certainly it has helped to prolong a situation which ought never to have arisen. Until fuller reports arrive from Roumania it is not possible to know the real inwardness of the more recent happenings. The elections of a few weeks ago failed to provide M. Bratianu with the support that could be regarded as a national endorsement of his policy of passive resistance towards the Allies. At the same time, owing to the abstention of one or more parties, they did not represent the considered judgment of the people as a whole. They were, however, evidence of the growing impatience with a condition of things which, whatever the rights or wrongs might be, threatened to leave Roumania the Ishmael of Europe. The new Cabinet contains many surprises, but it has yet to be learned whether it is more than a temporary expedient or whether its composition is intended to satisfy the wide demand for a radical reform of Roumanian politics and administrative methods. Various references in our Roumanian correspondence had anticipated the possibility of King Ferdinand passing over M. Maniu and selecting another representative of Transylvania as head of the Government. The choice has fallen on M. Alexander Vaida-Voevod, who has associated with him as his Minister of the Interior General Averescu. The inclusion of the President of the People's League is undoubtedly meant to be a bid for the support of the peasantry of the Old Kingdom. Hitherto General Averescu's name has been coupled with that of M. Také Jonescu as the most determined opponent of M. Bratianu; and his presence in the Cabinet ought to be regarded as a guarantee that the policy of nominating a Ministry which is Bratianist in everything but name has not been adopted on this occasion.

With the Paris treaties out of the way Roumania will be in a position to turn her attention to much-needed domestic reform. During the war the national conscience was profoundly disturbed; but with the signing of the Armistice the consideration of internal affairs was relegated to the background, and, taking their cue from their neighbours, the Roumanians became engrossed in claims for territorial expansion. Latterly the Hungarian complication has overshadowed all other questions, and we have seen how difficult it has been for the country's sound common sense to prevail against the natural instinct of self-defence in the face of the mistakes of the Supreme Council. With the return to more normal conditions the spirit of reform evoked by the war will be revived. In the first place the purely material work of extending the machinery of government so as to incorporate the new territories and the Old Kingdom in one administrative unit—if such be the national will—will have to be carried out. Up to the present the Provisional Government of Transylvania has discountenanced all action in this direction, preferring to keep the territory under its jurisdiction free from any possible taint of lax administration. Its willingness now to merge its own individuality in that of the Central Government will depend on the measure of confidence inspired by M. Vaida-Voevod's Ministry. It was at one time M. Maniu's intention to maintain the dual arrangement until a Constituent Assembly representative of the whole of Greater Roumania had framed a constitution for the new kingdom. To meet this requirement, further elections will have to be held, and, therefore, the present Cabinet may have been appointed primarily with this end in view, the Cabinet composed largely of military officers under General Vaitoianu having failed to command the confidence necessary to bring all parties into the last general election. Modifications of the Roumanian Constitution are hedged about with elaborate safeguards, and it is certain that the important work of framing a new constitution for an enlarged Roumania will be no less carefully performed. In the absence of information to the contrary, therefore, we may expect to find that the new Government's first charge has been to get the Paris difficulty out of the way, and then to proceed with the formalities required to give a formal existence to Greater Roumania. When the time comes for the detailed elaboration of domestic reforms it may be possible to entrust the work to a Cabinet more strictly representative of "all the talents."

But if the need for political reform in Roumania is pressing, the urgency for the introduction of economic stability is, perhaps, even greater. In the opinion of Professor I. N. Angelescu, who contributes an article to the official organ of the Roumanian Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the financial situation of the country might well be worse; but owing to the lack of any steps on the part of the State appropriate to the circumstances of the moment, each day sees difficulties created of such gravity that, unless care is taken, Roumania will be heading for "certain disaster." Political conditions have been responsible for the policy of *laissez faire* in the economic sphere, and it is to be hoped that there will now be an opportunity of devoting careful attention to this question and the remedial measures necessary. Greater Roumania is in a most favourable position for laying the foundations of a really great future. The productivity of the old kingdom is an accepted fact, but it is not generally recognised how much this stands to be enhanced by the accession of new territory. Out of a total of more than 25,000,000 hectares of cultivable land, Old Roumania possesses some 10,000,000; but whereas the mean production of crops in it can be reckoned at 820 kilograms per hectare, that of the Banat, with over 2,000,000 hectares of cultivable land, is estimated at 1,370 kilograms; and that of Transylvania, with 5,500,000 hectares, at 1,229 kilograms per hectare. Moreover, while the former kingdom had a comparatively restricted outlook industrially before it, the situation has been entirely changed in regard to Greater Roumania. The conditions necessary for a considerable industrial movement are there, with the presence of raw materials and abundant sources of power. But prosperity will not fall into Roumania's lap without an effort on her part, and between her and the desired goal stands the ugly prospect of Dr. Angelescu's "certain disaster" if the Government of the day does not bestir itself betimes to grapple with the monetary situation. Greater Roumania finds herself confronted with the kronen and rouble superimposed upon her own *leu* currency; all three are seriously depreciated, and each day's delay to deal with the problem serves to aggravate it. The country, however, has come to appreciate its position, and the politicians can be confident that a serious attempt to improve the monetary system will have the whole support of the nation.

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ASSYRIANS DURING THE GREAT WAR.

By the Rev. W. A. WIGRAM.

The various Christian "millets" of the Ottoman empire have so unhappy a knack of manifesting just those qualities which every Englishman most dislikes and despises, that it is a pleasure to be able to note one which has played a more manly rôle. This one is the "Assyrian" nation-church (sometimes called "Nestorian" or "Chaldean"), a body which before the war was in a state of turbulent and very precarious semi-independence in the mountains of Kurdistan.

At the beginning of the war this little "millet" (which was insignificant in numbers but important from position) deliberately threw in its lot with the Entente and elected to fight on its side against the Mussulmans, who had just proclaimed the "Jehad." They made this choice in the face of attractive offers from the Turks, who were willing at least to promise anything to these Christian mountaineers, whose home lay on the flank of any possible Russian advance on Erzeroum, if only they would be loyal to the Sultan. The political advantage, at a time when it had proved impossible to hide the facts of the Armenian massacres from European criticism, of being able to point to another Christian "millet" which had thrown in its lot with the Ottoman, no doubt had its weight also. Hence, one may fairly feel admiration for the chivalry of a race of mountaineers, who knew their own danger well enough, and stood by the Entente in spite of it.

Russia had promised support to these allies of hers and ours, but the promise was never kept; in consequence, the Assyrians (after three months of hard fighting and the repulse of at least one great attack by regular troops) were driven by the combination of Turk and Kurd from their mountains, and had to seek refuge in Persia. They accomplished this migration under the leadership of their Prince-patriarch, Mar Shimun (for the temporal power of the Church still survived in Hakkiari, and, like the men of the Black Mountain in Europe, these mountaineers were ruled by an hereditary Bishop), a young man who had already shown himself a devoted leader of his clansmen.

When the position in the mountains threatened to become untenable, the Bishop left his people, to make his way with two guides only through the leaguer of Kurds, to make one last appeal to the Russians for the help they had promised and had never given. When the Russian general could only advise the Prelate to remain in the safety he had won, and not throw away a valuable life by returning to the mountains whither no help could be sent, Mar Shimun refused to remain even one night in security, and went back to live or die with his people.

Now, by a daring flank march, he or his military advisers contrived to evacuate an impossible position and effect a safe retirement (with women, flocks, and herds) to Persian territory. One episode of the march must be recounted. The line of the march ran past the head of a gorge leading down to the Patriarch's old home, the village of Kochanes. Pausing at the crest, he was heard to utter words like those of David in like case, "When shall I drink Kochanes water again?" Four young men of his bodyguard heard the words, and, though innocent of any knowledge of the Book of Samuel, they did exactly what the "mighty men" did in David's day; they turned and fought their way back through the pursuing Kurds, to fill a pitcher with "water of Kochanes" and bring it to their chief, that he might drink.

In the Urmi district of Persia the migrating clans found kinsfolk and partial safety for the moment. When the war followed them there, as it did ere long, and they had to face a combination of Turks, Kurds, and Persians, they were given at least the promise of help from Britain. General Offley Shore, then head of the British Military Mission to the Caucasus, was glad to find helpers where he had least expected any, and recognised them as allies of England, intending to make use of them as a link in the defensive chain he hoped to form from the Black Sea to Baghdad. The utter collapse of Russia frustrated this promising plan, however, and the nation found itself flung on its own resources once more: also they lost their Patriarch, who was murdered, with every aggravation of treachery conceivable, by Simco, Agha of the Shekak Kurds. Nevertheless, they continued to fight, as men do who have their backs to the wall, and, finding another leader in the person of Agha Petros of Baz, they continued their defence for another fifteen months, being victorious in as many as fifteen actions. In these "battles" they showed singular chivalry to any Turk who fell into their hands, and on one occasion released as many as 350 at once, after giving their prisoners a good dinner. It must be admitted, however, that (to quote the words of one mountain warrior), "after the death of Mar Shimun, we took no Kurdish prisoners."

England had not forgotten those whom she once called ally, and in July, 1918, a message of hope was brought to them by an airman (Lieut. Pennington), after a flight daring even in the records of the R.A.F. It had been intended that the nation should continue their defence, and that Britain should send munitions to them from the south, but this plan went awry, and the whole nation started on a second "trek" to the south to fling themselves on British protection. Their sufferings were hideous, for the mob of nearly seventy thousand human beings were almost without discipline, and it was a case of "each tribe for itself." Some, of course, did better than others. The Tiari tribe (wildest of mountaineers even in times of relative peace) not only brought their own flocks through, but even added to them en route! One small sept was kept in order by an Amazonian chieftainess who admonished any erring clansman with a heavy dogwhip. With most, however, it was a case of *saure qui peut*, and nearly twenty thousand out of the seventy perished by the way. Ultimately, however safety was attained and a refuge which, if temporary, was at least secure, was given the tormented nation in the great camp at Bakubah.

II.

The bulk of the Assyrian nation remain, as is well known, in camp at Bakubah at this moment, and the question of their future is part of the whole problem of Mesopotamia. Readers of THE NEAR EAST have already been informed of the fact of their requesting permission to send representatives to state their case in England and Paris, and of their election of a woman, the Lady Surma d'Mar Shimun, as their "vekil" or delegate.

Meantime, these Christian clansmen have not been content to be merely idlers, eating the "bread of King George" without return. A contingent was raised among them for military service, and a double battalion of mountaineers was thus collected, composed of men who declared their readiness to go anywhere and serve against any enemy provided that they were given the British officers whom they knew.

Quite recently this force has done good service in Kurdistan. When the late troubles commenced, the double battalion was attached (at its own urgent request) to the 18th division, for service against the Kurds to the north of Zakho and of Amadia, and they have received high praise both from their divisional commander and from the general to whose brigade of Indian troops they were attached.

These mountaineers have proved themselves throughout of sterling worth, both for actual fighting and for protective work. They have absolutely no fear of the Kurd, and in the few engagements in which they did take part displayed the greatest keenness to come to grips with these ancient enemies of theirs. They also showed a most noteworthy cheeriness of disposition under all the difficult conditions of mountain warfare. In fact, in these their native hills they were admitted to be "extraordinarily good stuff" by competent judges; and as each man had taken the precaution to provide himself with a pair of the rope or woollen-soled sandals they are accustomed to use ("rushikki," is their native name), they were able to move about under far better conditions than the leather-shod Indian troops. Generally, they showed much natural knowledge of the guerilla fighting necessary in that very mountainous country. The discipline which they had acquired in camp at Bakubah proved quite sufficient to allow their British officers to exercise control easily, and crime in the battalion whilst on service has been a negligible quantity.

These Assyrians are now employed on garrison duty in Amadia and in other important places north of Mosul, where they are earning the high appreciation of the military

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HEART TONIC.
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By Appointment to

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authorities, and are contributing in no small measure to the maintenance of order and security in those disturbed regions.

If we assume, as now seems probable, that the responsibility for those districts will fall on Great Britain, then it would seem that we have in this little nation an instrument that might be most useful to us in that work, and whose loyalty to us is beyond question—an assertion that can hardly be made of other types in the land.

There may be importance also in the fact that not only are these Christian tribesmen accustomed to bearing arms, but Kurds and other Mussulmans are accustomed to seeing them do so, and, indeed, to the carrying on of feuds with them, feuds which did not always follow the line of religious cleavage, and in which the fighting, though often pretty severe, left little sting behind. "Grass soons grows over blood shed in fair fight," says the local proverb common to both nationalities, and the Assyrians can quite contemplate the possibility of future friendliness with their Kurdish neighbours, provided always that the Turk is not allowed to whoop the one on against the other, for there lies a danger that must be guarded against.

In any case, it has become morally impossible for Great Britain to assume the position that she has no further interest in the lot of a "millet" which she has admitted as an ally, and of whose services she has availed herself against an enemy common to both.

THE SALONIKA LABORATORY.

Mr. F. W. Twort, Superintendent of the Brown Institution, University of London, last week, in the theatre of the Royal College of Surgeons, delivered the first of a series of five lectures on "The Work of the Base Laboratory, Salonika, in 1916." Dysentery, he said, had proved to be a serious problem with our Eastern armies. As early as November, 1914, he was asked by a military authority his opinion on the possibility of an outbreak of the malady among our troops, and the opinion he gave was that outbreaks were practically certain to occur, and that investigations should be carried out so that the condition could be better dealt with when it arose. Accordingly, a scheme of research was drawn up, and submitted to the War Office for approval. Unfortunately the scheme was rejected by the War Office on the ground of expense.

In November, 1915, he was informed that it was proposed to send to Salonika a base laboratory, with several mobile laboratories attached thereto, and he was asked to take charge and to make all necessary arrangements as soon as possible. He was glad to have had a good staff, but he regretted that the War Office did not accept his advice and include a zoologist, as it was obvious that diseases due to animal parasites would occur in considerable number in the Salonika area. He had also reason to believe that a bad error had been made in Gallipoli in diagnosing the dysentery cases in this area as carried by the *amœba* parasite. He complained that the most important recommendations which he made before leaving England and when in Salonika were not adopted.

In conclusion, Mr. Twort stated that the adverse secret report on the work at Salonika, issued from Egypt, under which Salonika was placed, was made, he had no doubt, in order to try to cover the errors that were committed by certain superior officers. He would deal at length with these matters in his next lecture.

A telegram from Budapest says that the French Admiral Fatou has informed the Hungarian Premier that the Inter-Allied Conference in Belgrade has decided to establish the General Secretariat of the International Danube Commission at Budapest, with Commander Escaille, of the French Navy, as Director.

In the House of Commons on December 9 Mr. Churchill stated, in reply to Mr. Forrest, that of the pre-war Turkish Empire, Mesopotamia, Hodeida, and part of Palestine are in the occupation of British troops, and Thrace, Constantinople, and the Straits, and the Anatolian Railway, are in joint occupation of British and Allied troops.

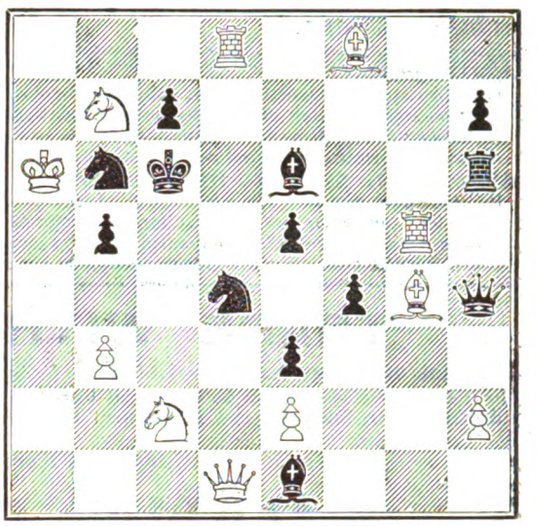
One thousand two hundred and twenty men of various ranks landed at Plymouth on December 9 from the transport "Friedrichsruhe." Included were cadres of the 1/25th London Regiment, 2/6th Sussex Regiment, 2/4th Border Regiment, and 1st Kents, formerly cyclists, but now infantry. All have taken part in the Afghanistan campaign. A contingent of Royal Marines, who have been serving at Constantinople, also returned to Plymouth on December 9.

The Zionist Organisation Central Office states that David Trietsch, the well-known Jewish statistician, estimates the Jewish population of the world at 15,430,000. In the Near East this is distributed as follows:—Roumania, 650,000; Hungary, 450,000; British Isles, 300,000; Yugoslavia, 200,000; Algeria and Tunis, 150,000; Arabia, 130,000; Greece, 120,000; Morocco, 110,000; Turkey, 100,000; Palestine, 100,000; European countries (not separately enumerated), 200,000; Asiatic countries (not separately enumerated), 100,000.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 6.

Black.



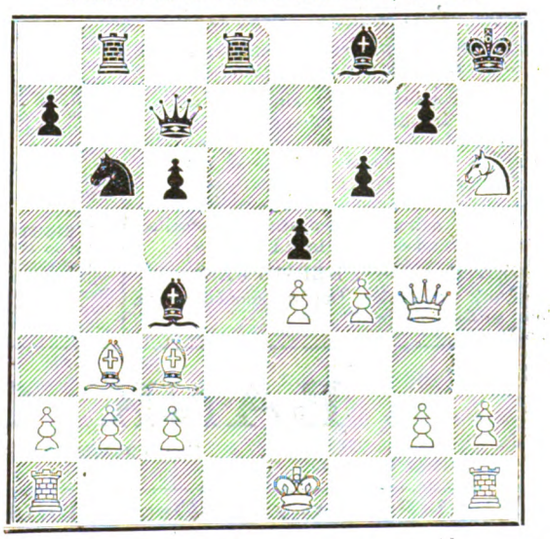
White.

White to mate in two.

Solution to Problem No. 5: 1, R—Kt5, if QxKt (ch); 2, B—B5 mate; if any other move, B—Q4 mate.

The following game was played in the first-class tournament at Hastings between M. Segal, of Roumania, and Mr. G. W. Moses, the former having the move. The opening is the Two Knights' Defence: 1, P—K4, P—K4; 2, Kt—KB3, Kt—QB3; 3, B—B4, Kt—B3; 4, Kt—Kt5, P—Q4; 5, PxP, Kt—QR4; 6, P—Q3, P—KR3; 7, Kt—KB3, B—Q3; 8, B—Kt5(ch), P—B3; 9, PxP, PxP; 10, B—R4, Q—B2; 11, Kt—B3, O—O(1); 12, Kt—K4, KtxKt; 13, PxKt, B—R3(2); 14, KT—R4, KR—Q; 15, Q—Kt4(3), K—R; 16, Kt—B5, B—KB; 17, B—Kt3, QR—Kt(4); 18, B—Q2, Kt—B5; 19, B—B3, Kt—Kt3; 20, P—B4(5), P—B3; 21, KtxRP, B—B5.

Position after Black's 21st move, B—B5.



22, Kt—B5, PxP; 23, BxB, KtxB; 24, O—O, B—B4(ch); 25, K—R, Kt—K6; 26, KtxKt, BxKt; 27, R—B3, Q—Q2; 28, R—R3 (ch), K—Kt; 29, Q—R5, R—Kt4; 30, Q—K2, Q—K3; 31, P—R4, R—Kt4; 32, RxB, PxR; 33, QxP, Q—Kt5; 34, Q—B3, Q—Q2; 35, R—KB, Q—K3; 36, P—R3, R—K; 37, R—K, K—R2; 38, P—KKt4, K—Kt; 39, P—R5, K—R; 40, K—Kt2, P—R3; 41, K—Kt3, Q—Q3(ch); 42, Q—B4, QxQ(ch); 43, KxQ, R—Kt4; 44, P—R4, K—Kt; 45, P—Kt5, PxP(ch); 46, PxP, R—B(ch); 47, K—Kt4, R—B7; 48, P—K5, P—Kt3; 49, R—KR, RxBP; 50, R—R6(6), K—Kt2; 51, R—R3, RxB; 52, RxR, RxKP; 53, RxP, RxRP; and the game was eventually drawn.

(1) Black's development is compensation for the pawn.

(2) A cramping move.

(3) Bold tactics, but justified, as it would be difficult for Black to work up an attack quickly.

(4) Better would have been Kt—B5, then if 18, BxKt, BxB, followed by QR—Kt and Q—Q2.

(5) An excellent move; obviously the pawn cannot be captured.

(6) P—K6 only leads to a draw. RxB is Black's best reply, followed by R—K4.

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Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,000 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The MINERALS of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Sir Charles Greenway announced at the annual meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company that, while he was unable to state the definite result, it was evident that the new issue of preference shares would be largely over-subscribed, but that the subscriptions for the debenture stock had been somewhat disappointing. He explained that the programme of further developments for which this capital was required included additional pipe-lines and pumping stations to enable the company to transport a largely increased output of crude oil, further extensions to the refineries in Persia, the establishment of a large number of additional fuel-oil bunkering installations in the United Kingdom and abroad, large additions to the distributing facilities of the British Petroleum Company and the Homelight Oil Company, the acquisition of additional tank steamers, the exploration and testing of new territories in various parts of the world, and the provision of £1,000,000 new capital which the company had undertaken to subscribe to Scottish Oils, Limited, which has been formed to put the Scottish shale-oil industry on a more satisfactory basis.

***

Reviewing the year's operations, Sir Charles stated that the amount due from the Persian Government in respect of the claim for losses sustained by the cutting of the pipe line in 1915 had been reduced by the credit of further royalty. During the year they had had to contend against two adverse factors. The company's fleet was under requisition for practically the whole of the year, and the earnings from this source were, therefore, very small, and the profits of the distributing companies were also on a much reduced scale owing to their businesses having been carried on by them on account of the Government on a basis which only gave them a small commission on sales. The excellent results achieved were mainly due to a larger throughput, and to the better prices realised abroad for some of the company's products. In the current year Sir Charles stated that there will be a further increase in throughput, and increased earnings from the fleet, and he thought that they might confidently look forward to a profit of not less than £2,500,000 in the next accounts.

***

It goes without saying that Lord Inchcape's address at the annual meeting of the P. and O. Company is an event eagerly looked forward to by the whole business community. This year he covered a number of matters of great importance to commerce—notably, of course, the question of individual as against Government management of business, in which connection he suggested the prospect that British shipowners might be faced by the competition of the American Shipping Board, which meant the resources of the American Government. "I am not afraid," he said, "but if the Government on the other side of the Atlantic are out to tax the people to build up a mercantile marine at all costs, the outlook for the shipping industry of these islands is anything but rosy." He was hopeful, however, that the United States would leave the shipping industry of the world to look after itself. There was another competitor, he pointed out, in the Australian Government, and he expressed the opinion that if British shipowners had against them the resources of Australia, "it may end in their selling their ships to the Australian Government." Lord Inchcape is convinced that Mr. Hughes's conception of what is good for Australia is wrong, and he believes that Mr. Hughes would be "infinitely better advised if he left the business of the country to those who are in commerce, and allowed his own people to work out their own salvation."

***

On the whole, Lord Inchcape takes a hopeful view of the prospects before British shipping, and he is optimistic enough to believe that the dangers ahead will not materialise. As regards the position of the P. and O., Lord Inchcape mentioned that it now controls 427 steamers with a gross tonnage exceeding two and a-quarter million tons. "The ships are operating," he added, "all over the world. Our wings are well spread." He did not wish to commit himself, but he thought he might venture to say that for the company's year, which commenced in October last, he saw nothing at the moment to prevent their laying a fairly acceptable statement before them a year hence. "The next few years," he said, in conclusion, "have great uncertainties for British shipping, but this I will say for ourselves, unless the whole fabric of society and national security goes to pieces, and unless the people send as their representatives to Westminster men pledged to syndicalism and the confiscation of private property, which I cannot for a moment believe, the position of the P and O. Company, for the time being at any rate, may be regarded as not altogether insolvent."

***

It scarcely needs to be emphasised that the principal need of Morocco at the present time is the development of communications; in particular, of course, the railways. Considerable progress has been made under France in the construction of railways; but, as a writer points out in a contemporary, the lines at present in operation were originally constructed for military purposes, and are of narrow gauge, and as such they are naturally unequal to meeting the needs of a country with a rapidly growing commerce. A broad-gauge line was being constructed from Fez to Tangier when the war broke out, and numerous other concessions for broad-gauge lines have been granted. It is not hoped to finish the Fez-Tangier line until 1924, and I am afraid that the prospects are that for the next few years commercial development in Morocco is likely to be considerably hampered by the lack of adequate railway facilities.

***

The announcement is made of the acquisition by the Algerian Oilfields of a property in Trinidad. The estate, which is about 300 acres in extent, is about two miles from the Talaquite field of the Trinidad Central. Details of this acquisition will be found in another column.

***

The marked improvement in the traffic returns of the Suez Canal Company is reflected in the announcement that from March 1 next there will be a reduction of 2 francs 50 centimes to 6 francs per ton in the dues for ships in ballast. For loaded ships the dues will continue to be 8 francs 50 centimes per ton. From 1884 up to last year there was a concession for ships in ballast of 2 francs 50 centimes per ton, but the continuous decrease in the receipts during the war made it necessary to suspend this concession. Thus from 131,000,000 francs the receipts fell to 90,000,000 in 1915, 76,120,000 francs in 1916, and 61,076,000. The result of changes in the dues was that for 1918 the receipts amounted to 81,000,000 francs. With the ending of the war there has been a considerable increase in the receipts, and it has now been found possible, despite the rise in working expenses, to revert to the former practice.

***

A very satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Burma Railways for the year ended March 31. The gross earnings amounted to the record total of Rs. 40,54,533, while the net receipts show an increase of about 18 per cent. at Rs. 18,36,638. The share of the surplus profits falling to the company was transferred home for the most part at an exchange of 1s. 8d., but a small portion was remitted at a fraction over 2s. The dividend and bonus for the year amount to 8 per cent., as against 7½ per cent. for 1917-18, and 7 per cent. for 1916-17.

***

There was an increase of no less than £463,500 in the revenue of the Eastern Telegraph Company in the past year, but extra expenditure in the maintenance of cables, exchange differences, etc., absorbed £118,900, and the available balance, after provision is made for excess profits duty, Debenture interest, and the Preference dividend is £29,500 lower at £800,200. The dividend is maintained at 8 per cent. free of tax, and £500,000 is again added to the general reserve fund.

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Ceylon in 1918.

Effect of War Conditions.

The report on the Ceylon Blue Book for 1918, which has recently been issued, shows that the position of the island during that period was much the same as in the previous twelve months. It was essentially a "war" year for Ceylon, and the factors which operated in 1917 were naturally still more in evidence. As in every other country, prices continued their upward path, while the financial stringency, shortage of freight, and exchange difficulties continued in a greater or lesser degree. There was a marked decline in the volume of trade as compared with 1917, while certain industries suffered great depression, notably the plumbago and rubber industries. The tea industry suffered least, and, it is pointed out, has regained its position as the chief export, while the position of the coconut industries was fairly satisfactory.

The importance of increasing the production of foodstuffs in Ceylon was referred to in the previous report. In the year under review the measures taken for that purpose were continued. These included the circulation of leaflets in the vernacular, and the distribution of seeds. In addition, local committees were formed in each district to further the growth of foodstuffs, and plans were under consideration for the utilisation of irrigable Crown lands, while the Agricultural Department conducted experiments with a view to the introduction of new varieties of grain and new methods in order that the returns from the seed might be increased.

Finances and Trade.

The revenue for the twelve months ended September, 1918, amounted to Rs. 63,933,629, Rs. 130,371 below the estimate, and a decrease of Rs. 3,048,249 on the figures for the previous year. The chief reason for the decline was the falling-off in customs and railway revenue. The expenditure at Rs. 64,944,549 was also below the estimate, but was Rs. 608,878 more than the expenditure for 1916-17, this being chiefly due to payment on account of the second war contribution of £1,000,000 to the Imperial Government. The assets of the island on September 30, 1918, amounted to Rs. 56,189,623, and the liabilities to Rs. 19,069,052.

The value of Ceylon's trade, excluding specie and the value of coal supplied to steamers, amounted to Rs. 389,042,097, as against Rs. 488,284,443 for 1917. Of this total the value of the exports was Rs. 211,325,334, as against Rs. 304,160,457, and of the imports Rs. 177,716,763, as against Rs.184,123,986. Of the total exports Rs. 197,633,194 represents the value of Ceylon produce. The principal exports were: Tea (Rs. 832 lakhs, as against Rs. 957 lakhs), rubber (622 lakhs, as against 1,310 lakhs), coconut oil (157 lakhs, as against 101 lakhs), and copra (127 lakhs, as against 132 lakhs).

There were decreases as regards many of the principal imports. The imports of cement were about one-third the quantity imported in 1917, the amount being 89,299 cwt., as against 244,336 cwt. Confectionery was imported to the extent of only 107,536 lb., as against 353,001 lb. for 1917, and 1,017,441 lb. for 1916. The value of imports of cotton, manufactured and raw, rose by Rs. 3,589,580 to Rs. 18,651,604, and here the effect of rising prices has to be taken into account. On account of the duty imposed as a war measure imports of motor-cars fell to 15. Decreases were recorded in the imports of metals and metal ware, which were valued at Rs. 8,185,440, a fall of Rs. 74,630, and also of spirits and sugar. Finally, it may be mentioned that the imports of rice decreased from 7,754,121 cwt. to 6,472,152 cwt.

A very satisfactory feature of the trade statistics is the high proportion of trade within the Empire. India, as usual, heads the list of Ceylon's chief sources of supply with 38.08 per cent. of the total imports, as against 35.89 per cent. Burma is second with 19.51 per cent., and the United Kingdom third with 16.11 per cent. Japan has risen from the fifth place to the fourth with, however, the slightly smaller figures of 5.14 per cent., while the United States remains sixth with 3.17 per cent. The United Kingdom supplied goods valued at $28\frac{3}{4}$ million rupees, as against the $9\frac{1}{4}$ million rupees of Japan and the $5\frac{3}{4}$ million rupees of the United States. The list of exporting countries is headed, of course, by the United Kingdom with 44.72 per cent., as against 41.07 per cent. in 1917, and 45.89 per cent. in 1916. The United States is second with 17.78 per cent., as against 33.32 per cent., the great drop being due to large decreases in the value of rubber, plumbago, and tea. Next come India, Canada, New South Wales, Victoria, and Egypt, with percentages of 10, 5.85, 4.87, 3.62, and 2.41 respectively. Of the total trade of Ceylon in 1918 79.75 per cent. was with the British Empire, as against 67.74 per cent. in 1917 and 67.47 per cent. in 1916.

Agriculture.

While conditions in the early part of 1918 were unfavourable for tea, seasonable rains fell later in the year, and good crops were realised. The area under rubber continued to expand, and approximately 255,000 acres were under cultivation. New areas were opened, and citronella lands in the Southern Province were being extensively planted with rubber, while the tendency of small owners to plant rubber on lands which were formerly used for growing food products continued, particularly in the Kalutara and Ratnapura districts.

As regards coconuts and coconut products the year opened with low prices and freight difficulties, but the position was improved by the demand for copra for India. Prices ruled high by the end of the year, and after the Armistice there was a further improvement. The crops were, on the whole, satisfactory. There has been little extension in the area planted, and for reasons of economy the application of commercial fertilisers was stopped on the majority of estates.

The area under cacao remained stationary, and the yield was about the average. The cultivation of cinnamon has again become profitable, and the tendency to cut out cinnamon in favour of rubber was not so marked. Increased interest has been taken in the cultivation of the Robusta types of coffee, while the possibilities of vanilla cultivation on a small scale have been investigated, and attention has also been given to the prospects for the cultivation of sisal and other fibres. As regards tobacco, which is the most remunerative crop of the Northern Province, experiments have been conducted by the Agricultural Department with the object of turning out a tobacco acceptable to the European market. Finally, there was a marked extension of the area under food products.

SERIOUS FIRE AT SMYRNA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Smyrna (undated).

A very disastrous fire occurred in the principal street in Smyrna on November 25. The Orosdi Back drapery store, the Credit Lyonnais banking establishment, with adjoining store-houses, as well as the paper store belonging to Athanasoula Frères, were completely destroyed. The Fire Brigade, although ably seconded by Greek troops, and British, French, and Greek naval contingents, was quite unable to stop the conflagration. The total damage is estimated at £100,000, of which not more than half is covered by insurance companies, principally the Austro-German, Ottoman, and Swiss companies. The British companies, who have only lately resumed business in Smyrna, are only interested for about £5,000.

ALGERIAN OILFIELDS.

Acquisition in Trinidad.

In a circular to the shareholders of Algerian Oilfields, Limited, the secretary states that the directors have acquired a considerable interest in a freehold property in Trinidad. The estate, which has been reported on by Mr. J. R. Falconer, is about two miles from the Tabaquite field of the Trinidad Central. A number of natural outcrops occur, it is stated, and a number of geological test pits disclose similar indications of oil, all of which are of the same high grade quality and composition as the Tabaquite. Moreover, the cap rock or cover clay is the same, forming an excellent impervious cover for the oil-bearing formations below. The report in the possession of the directors recommends this estate for immediate drilling operations. The report further states that this should be comparatively easy, as there are excellent motor roads running right up to the property, partly traversing it, while the railway station of Williamsville is within easy reach, and a small river—carrying water all the year round—runs through the property, and therefore economic conditions for oilfield development are very favourable. The estate itself consists of approximately 300 acres, and is a highly-developed cocoa plantation, well equipped with all the necessary agricultural buildings, live stock, etc. The revenue from this alone in normal times is well over £1,000 per annum, while at the present time, on account of the high prices for the products, the revenue is nearly double this amount. A private company, under the title of the Trinidad Esmeralda Estate, Limited, has been formed, in which a 40 per cent. interest has been allocated to the company. The working capital asked for by Mr. Falconer has been provided, and, under his personal supervision, work will be started so soon as the necessary machinery is obtained.

OIL DISCOVERY IN MOROCCO.

Reuter's Paris correspondent reports that it was announced by M. Henri Berenger at a meeting of the General Petroleum Committee on December 6 that petroleum in sufficient quantities to be of commercial use had been discovered at Djebel Tolfat, near St. Jean, in Morocco. There is an abundant gush of oil, which has been collected by makeshift means up to an amount of 3 tons per diem. M. Berenger added that it is intended to sink twelve new shafts in 1920.

It is announced by the London office of the Italian State Railways that the chief normal gauge railways on the island of Sardinia, which have hitherto been worked by a private company, will be absorbed in the system of the Italian State Railways on January 1. The services will be thoroughly reorganised, rolling stock overhauled, and various other improvements effected, and these arrangements will be advanced by the time the tourist traffic commences next spring.

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The South Russian Market.

Opportunities for British Traders.

The current issue of the *Board of Trade Journal* contains a survey of the economic situation in South Russia compiled from notes supplied by the British Economic Mission and the British Vice-Consul at Rostov-on-Don, from which we give the following extracts:—

The situation calls for the utmost energy and enterprise if the United Kingdom is to play the rôle that devolves on her in the field of Russian trade and industry. There is at the present time a distinct and unmistakable pro-British tendency. British firms are to some extent competing with each other by offering goods of similar description but at different rates of profit. It is necessary that some supervision should take place in London of outward shipments to Russia in order that no undue competition should occur. It is particularly harmful when, as in the case of the trade hitherto done with the Trade and Industry Department, the same description of goods are brought in on the basis of varying rates of commission from a low 6 per cent. to the high 25 and 30 per cent. Americans, Italians, Czecho-Slovaks, Poles and others have all had Economic Missions or representatives in South Russia.

The transport difficulty lies on the surface, and is recognised by all, affecting the military and economic situation alike. Movements of goods on a big scale will be exceedingly difficult unless locomotives are brought into the country, and determined efforts are made to put workshops in a position to carry out light repairs to the rolling stock—both wagons and locomotives requiring them. In view of the urgency of the problem, investigations are being made to ascertain what industrial concerns are able to assist in effecting light repairs. Some of the collieries in the Donetz Basin and a few other works can undoubtedly render assistance. British locomotive works should turn their attention to Russia in common with the merchants, as Russia will be able to absorb a considerable number of locomotives for some time to come.

Crops.

All reports concur in the excellence of this year's crops. The estimated quantity likely to be available for export after the crops have been safely gathered in is variously stated as follows:—Food Department, 20,000,000 poods; Trade and Industry Department, 60,000,000 poods; semi-official sources, 90,000,000 poods. The Food Department is always careful and understates its stocks. The quantity that should be available for export is almost certain to be 900,000 to 1,000,000 tons of wheat, which is the consensus of opinion on the part of independent and practical men. Economists, financiers and agriculturists are all fully alive to the importance of agriculture to Russia, and that it is the most likely means to contribute to the restoration of the currency. The question has the attention of the soundest men, and many schemes are propounded for the development and extension of agriculture.

The foregoing considerations emphasise the necessity for an adequate supply of up-to-date agricultural machinery. Not only is it essential to renew the stock of implements depleted during the past five years, but the supply of agricultural implements will largely contribute towards inducing the farming population to part with their huge stocks of grain so long withheld and so urgently needed, not only abroad, but in many parts of Russia. Agricultural implements should form a fair share of Britain's exports to Russia, and spare parts should always be available in depot at suitable points in Russia.

There is no general call for relief from outside. Many districts suffer a shortage of food owing to the difficulty in obtaining it from the peasants. While supplies of tea and colonial goods are short, there is enough food for the whole population if properly distributed. In some towns and stannitzas (Cossack settlements) there is an absolute plethora of foodstuffs. The harvest in the Kieff district is good, but inaccessible to the town owing to the presence of the Bolsheviks and of Petlura's troops.

Currency Situation.

The following paper currencies are in use in the Area under the Volunteer Army in South Russia:—1. Romanoff. 2. Kerensky. 3. Don. 4. Ukraine (so-called Karbovantzi). 5. Terek (Bolshevik). 6. Odessa Town Currency.

In Rostoff (1), (2) and (3) are alone accepted. There is no bank rate of exchange, only speculative rates of from 400-500 for cheques, and from 500-600 for banknotes. Only small amounts are offered. In Kharkoff (1), (2), (3), (4) are all at par. In Kislovodsk (3) and (5) are accepted at par, but the latter does not pass anywhere outside Terek Krug. In Novorossisk (1), (2) and (3) are on an equal basis. Speculative rates of exchange are much higher than at Rostoff, but very little actually changes hands. In Ekaterinodar the situation is the same as at Rostoff. In Odessa (1), (2), (3), (4) and (6) are all accepted at par, except in foreign speculative exchange, when the local money is not taken and (4) is 100 above (2) and (3), which are about 50 points above Rostoff rates. On the whole very little of (1) is now met with, and, broadly speaking, only (2) and (1) hold the field at the average rates mentioned for Rostoff.

The following are taken from a Bulletin of Market Prices issued at Rostov-on-Don on September 1 by the Trade and Industry Department of the Don Government. The prices quoted are in Don roubles, for which the rate of exchange on September 1 was approximately 650 per £1:—Serge, ladies', 1 arsh (.77 yard), 800; muslin, 1 arsh, 60-90; stockings (foreign), 1 doz., 600-960; handkerchiefs, 1 doz., 18; tea (substitute), 1 pood, from 800; matches, per case, to 2,100; rice, cleaned, 1 pood, 560; soap, fancy, 1 doz. cakes, from 60; quinine, 1 kilo, to 4,500; morphine, 1 kilo, to 20,000; glycerine, purified, 1 pood, to 700; boots (imitation leather), gent.'s or ladies', 1 pair, 500-600; writing paper, 1 pood, to 40; tin, 1 pood, 4,800; enamel pans (40 litre), each, 650; pitch, 1 pood, 1,500; paint (white lead), 1 pood, 1,200; jute cable, 1 pood, 1,000-1,600.

Market Requirements.

That there is a great shortage of certain goods is evidenced by the statement that none of the following are on the market:—Russian tea, coarse salt, pressed yeast, turpentine, assorted steel, pig iron, electric lamps, window glass, wood and timber.

Subsequent information has been received that part of the needs of the population of 8 millions referred to above have been supplied by imports from abroad; on the other hand, the area to be supplied has now been substantially increased, and in the territory now occupied by the Volunteer Army it may be estimated that a population of at least 18 millions has to be catered for.

The following list of goods required in South Russia was issued in July by the Department of Trade and Commerce of the Government of the Armed Forces in South Russia. It is based exclusively on the needs of the civil population for the six months subsequent to March, 1919, for the area then occupied by the Volunteer Army. Reaping machines, ploughs, harrows, threshing machines, mowing machines, horse-drawn rakes, sowing machines, winnowing machines, spades, scythes, pitchforks, stickles, axes, rakes, hammers, string, various existing varieties. If possible all the above-named machines and implements should be delivered with spare parts. Cotton stuffs, woollen stuffs, cloth, stuffs for lining, tarpaulin, socks and stockings, sacks, thread on reels, thread of other kinds, needles and pins, gentlemen's boots and shoes, ladies' boots and shoes, children's boots and shoes, goloshes, soles, thread for shoe-making, eyelets for laced shoes, boot and shoe laces, steel, iron, lead, tin, zinc, copper, wire, files, leather belts, tubes, paper, pencils, penholders, pens, ink, typewriters, typewriting ribbon, electric lamps (various), electric wire, vitriol, carbolic acid, sulphur and flowers of sulphur, chili, saltpetre, basic slag, superphosphate, colophony (for soap), borax, tea, coffee, cocoa, rice, matches, quebracho extract, and tanning materials.

CYPRUS TRADE NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

It is noteworthy that there is some awakening of a spirit of co-operation in the island, and in several directions the people are beginning to move towards joint action in enterprise, without which it is hopeless to expect much advance in the development of local industries.

Asbestos Mining.

The Governor has sanctioned the incorporation of the Cyprus Anonyme Asbestos Company, the articles of association having been submitted under the provisions of the Ottoman Commercial Code. The company will take up work at Kakopétria, in the Nicosia district, north of Mt. Troodos, near the Monastery of St. Nicholas. It also proposes to operate at Apsiou, in the Limasol District, in the hills, about ten miles, as the crow flies, from the port of Limasol. In both places the prospects are held to be promising. The mining works should be of great benefit to the island.

New Currency.

A Proclamation of the Governor empowers the Currency Commissioner to issue further notes for the value of one shilling. The notes so issued are redeemable on June 30, 1920, or before, if the Government so desires.

Notice is given to exporters in the Government *Gazette* regarding preferential duties of Customs in Great Britain and Ireland on goods consigned from, grown, produced, or manufactured in the British Empire. A schedule of preferential rates for all the articles affected is appended to the notice.

Sir Hugh S. Barnes has been appointed a director of the National Mining Corporation.

It is reported that under arrangement with the Commonwealth the Anglo-Persian Company is sending experts to conduct extensive exploration for oil in Papua and German Guinea.

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Engineering.

Motor Show Reflections.—IV.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

It does not seem that springing, on conventional lines, can be greatly improved; but here again at least one firm has made a marked departure from orthodox methods, and has introduced a type of body suspension which employs coil springs, and which eliminates all tendency to roll, and results in wonderfully steady and smooth running. Lubricating systems have also been considerably improved, and it is unlikely that much further progress can be made in this direction. The same remark applies to valve construction and arrangement, and whilst it is almost certain that the magneto will give place to another form of ignition, at present there seems little or no room for improvement in connection with either magnetos or sparking plugs. The modern carburetter is also practically as perfect as can be devised, and it would seem that the next line for development in this connection will be in the adoption of some form of forced induction by which the required amount of explosive mixture can be forced into the cylinders at any time to meet any conditions of roads or gradients.

Coming to a description of the actual exhibits, after lengthy consideration I feel that pride of place must be given to a 40-50 h.p. model shown for the first time (Messrs. D. Napier and Son, Ltd., Acton, London, W.). This was a 3-cylindered model of entirely new design. During a test run which the writer had recently on this model it was noticeable that the engine ran without the slightest noise or vibration, and appeared at all times to possess a large reserve of power, although some of the gradients were as stiff as any that can be found in the district of the Upper Weald. The noiselessness was, of course, due to the perfect silencing of all moving parts, as well as to the correct design of the exhaust, and the absence of vibration was due not only to the perfect balance of the engine, but also to the stiffness of its construction and the shortness of the engine.

Driving tests carried out demonstrated that the car was as flexible as could be desired in town work, and when negotiating heavy traffic, and the car could be instantly slowed down and accelerated when desired without any changing of gears or fuss. On the level and from a standing start it was perfectly possible to set this car in motion on top gear; this is, of course, a practice to be deprecated, and is one which no experienced motorist would ever adopt, but the fact is mentioned merely to show the amazing flexibility and power of the engine. The gears were remarkably silent; in fact, they were absolutely noiseless, and could be changed without any effort, and when running along quiet country roads the most intent listener could only have detected a faint purr from the exhaust and the suck of the wheels on the road surface.

Every possible road test that the writer could devise was tried in this fine car, and the manner in which corners were swung at high speed to prove stability, and the way in which steep narrow lanes were taken on top gear to prove climbing power would be a revelation to the man who has not previously driven or ridden in one of these latest products of a British engineering shop. It may be mentioned here that an anti-rolling device is fitted to these cars to prevent any swing of the bodywork and consequent strain on attachments when going round corners at speed, and exhaustive tests showed that the device answered as well in practice as in theory, and throughout the tests it was evident that the makers have done the right thing in incorporating everything possible that leads to efficiency and comfort in their car.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

Piræus Harbour Works.

Engineers and other business men who visited the recent exhibition at Athens were very much surprised to find that the question of town-planning should be discussed in connection with such a beautiful town as Athens. But what they did not mind pointing out and criticising openly was the backward state of the harbour of Piræus, the seaport of Athens. It is not improbable that the responsible authorities of the harbour have heard quite sufficient on this point, at least during the exhibition, and realised the bad effect that such impressions will have in the present circumstances. The Harbour Board, as is known, has been studying the practical means of enlarging the port of Piræus, but probably owing to the war and other troubles nothing has yet been done, although funds are not lacking. At present vessels discharge in the stream, and passengers have to land in boats, with their baggage. It is proposed to build a new Custom House, moles and jetty heads, and erect special appliances of a modern type for discharging cargoes at quays. The submerged rock, which has been a source of danger to vessels in the harbour, has been removed; the quantity of rock removed amounted to 3,000 cubic metres, at a cost of £4,240. The depth of water there is now 8.5 metres (27 ft. 10 in.). British contractors will doubtless be interested in the proposals indicated; and, since the Greeks are gifted with a nice discrimination in the way of choosing the best men to carry out works of this kind, we may reasonably expect that one or other of our leading firms that have had so much experience in this direction will be employed for the work.

Indian Notes.

It is reported that the electrification of the suburban railways within twenty-five miles of Calcutta has been recommended. It will cost £1,000,000.

Whilst several Indian railway systems require additional rolling-stock, about 692 passenger vehicles, and 12,836 goods wagons. Indian shops can only supply 2,500 wagons during the current year. In the meantime, to improve Indian railway workshops, Rs.8,100,000 has been allotted.

The superintendent of stores, South Indian Railway, Negapatam, invites tenders for twelve months, commencing April 1, 1920, for 1,400,000 lb. mineral axle-oil, 358,000 lb. mineral cylinder oil, 40,000 lb. mineral superheated cylinder oil.

INDIA'S COAL INDUSTRY.

The Chief Inspector of Mines in India in his report on the inspection of mines in British India for the calendar year 1918, states with regard to the coal industry:—

In the last report it was stated that the seventeenth million had been reached for the first time. It has to be recorded that in 1918 an output of 19,847,039 tons was reached. This is an unprecedented increase of 2,520,655 tons, or 14.55 per cent. over the output in 1917. Of the total output 18,977,911 tons, or 95.62 per cent., were raised in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, the percentage of the previous five years being 95.87. In the last report attention was drawn to the appointment, late in the year, of a Coal Controller, and it was stated that his methods of regulating matters did not affect the period under report. In 1918, however, practically the whole of the trade was under his control. One of the first steps taken was to restrict the output of collieries working the poorer class coals. Whether as a result of this or not, the twenty-five largest concerns, the great majority of whom in 1917 showed decreases, as compared with the previous year, showed in the year under report increases in eighteen cases. The general opinion is that the result of the restrictions above-mentioned was to induce labour to these larger collieries, although other causes contributed to a general increase of labour to supply.

All coal, except that of markedly inferior quality, was requisitioned, at prices fixed by the Controller on the basis of cost of production plus a certain profit, the result being that practically every consumer in India received his coal from that officer. There was a certain and very limited amount of free coal of an inferior character, which naturally, under the circumstances, fetched abnormally higher prices, but, as stated, the amount was very limited. The output per person employed during the year was (a) below ground 181 tons and (b) above and below ground 113 tons. The figures for the five preceding years were (a) 178 and (b) 114. Taking each group of coalfields separately, the figures were as follows:—Bengal and Bihar (a) 185 and 182, (b) 115 and 116; Assam (a) 150 and 159, (b) 96 and 106; Baluchistan (a) 76 and 70, (b) 43 and 45; the Central Provinces (a) 122 and 122, (b) 79 and 82; and the Punjab and North-West Frontier Provinces (a) 58 and 72, (b) 37 and 18.

NEW COMPANIES.

Anglo-Yugoslav.

The Anglo-Yugoslav Co., Limited, was registered on December 4 with a capital of £25,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To seek and secure openings for the employment of capital in Yugoslavia and elsewhere, etc. The first directors are:—Lieut.-Col. C. l'Estrange Malone, M.P., Park Lodge, Park Place, Knightsbridge, W.; Major A. R. Row, 22, Avondale Road, Croydon; A. Z. Yovitchich, 116, Gloucester Road, S.W., formerly Serbian Chargé d'Affaires in London. Registered office: 38, Piccadilly, W.

De Sefi, Ltd.

De Sefi, Limited, was registered as a private company on December 3 with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in tobacco, tobacco leaf, cigars, cigarettes, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—B. Sefimio, 10, Berkeley Street, W., tobacco merchant; E. de Castro, Dashwood House, E.C., merchant. First directors: B. Sefimio and E. de Castro. Qualification, £500. Solicitor: T. Trimnell, 71, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

Bengal Iron.

The Bengal Iron Company, Ltd., was registered on December 5 with a capital of £2,500,000 in £1 shares. Agreement with Bengal Iron and Steel Company (incorporated in 1889) and its liquidator, and to carry on the business of iron and steel makers and founders, mechanical, electrical, and general engineers, etc. First directors:—W. T. McLellan, C.B.E., Mayford, near Woking, engineer; Sir Edwin Grant Burls, C.S.I., Shortlands, Kent (director of Vulcan Foundry Company and John I. Thornycroft and Company); A. Izatt, C.I.E., Balliliesk, Muckhart, Dollar, Scotland (director of Bengal and North-Western Railway, Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway, Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway, Bengal Dooars Railway and Lungla Sylhet Tea Co.; T. Jowett, 51, Savoy Court, W.C., steel manufacturer; H. Steel, Skellow Grange, Doncaster, steel manufacturer; H. Guedalla, C.A., 123, Bedford Court Mansions, W.C., banker and C.A. Registered office: 17, Victoria Street, S.W.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants and Sultanas.

Distribution for the Christmas trade is being seriously hampered by the dock and railway congestion. Otherwise there is nothing of interest to report.

Coffee.

A quiet tendency has been noticeable, and transactions have been limited, owing to the different views held by buyers and sellers. Costa Rica has been in fair demand at about 150s., though special qualities have been dealt in as high as 162s. Indian has come to business at from 145s. to 158s., with Mysore round about 152s., while Columbia has been done at from 120s. to 156s., according to qualities. 6,214 packages were offered at auction this week, but there was only a moderate demand. The futures market has been steady. Quotations are: December, 120s. 9d.; March, 118s. 9d. May, 118s. 9d.; July, 110s. 3d.; September, 108s. 9d.

Sugar.

The position is very uncertain. Business has been steady for raw sugar, with Trinidad at from 93s. to 100s., Santa Lucia at from 93s. to 98s., and Manila at from 72s. to 76s. Refined has been in good demand at the fixed prices.

Oilseeds.

The market has continued firm. Indian linseed has been done at 52s., and at 54s. for the best quality, while quotations for La Plata are about 39s. Rapeseed is firm, but there has been little doing, while cottonseed has been easy. Egyptian is 25s. spot, 26s. December, and 27s. January. Indian cottonseed is 17s., at which rate it must be regarded as cheap.

Oilcakes, etc.

The demand for oilcakes has been much below the normal. Linseed cake has been done at from 24s. to 25s., and soya bean cake and decorticated arachis cake are about the same level. Coconut and cottonseed cake are quoted round about 20s., and rapeseed cake is 18s.

Offerings of olive oil are very small, and the price is very high. Linseed oil is firm at 106s. spot. Coconut oil has been done at 100s., and soya bean oil at 98s.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended November 22:—The sales this week on our market amount to 53 cases at slightly easier prices. To-day we quote:—Slightly selected druggists at 17s. per lb. c.i.f., manufacturing material at 16s. 6d. per lb. c.i.f. 11 per cent., soft shipping qualities at 21s. per lb. c.i.f. The exchange on London and dollars is more favourable. Cheque Ps.345 on London and 1.22 dollars per Turkish paper pound. The arrivals are 1,032 cases, against 67 at same date last year.

Messrs. Barker Bros. report as follows for the week ended November 29:—We have to advise a very active market again this week, with a brisk demand for all manufacturing descriptions. The sales in all amount to 105 cases at 15s. to 21s. per lb., as to quality. The exchange has advanced to 350 piastres per pound sterling for cheque, and dollars are now $1.16 per Turkish paper pound of Ps.100. The arrivals to date are 1,060 cases, against 76 at same date last year.

The Balkan Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, petitioned in the Chancery Division, on December 9, for the restoration of its name to the register, it having been struck off, owing to the war. Mr. Austen Cartmell, for the Board of Trade, offered no objection, and Mr. Justice Astbury granted the petition.

SUDAN CROPS.

The following particulars are given in the C.E.B. report for September:—

Dura and Dukhn.

Kordofan Province.—Seven ardebs of dukhn of 420 rottles (189 kilos) and 57 similar ardebs of dura were sold in El Obeid market during the month at average prices respectively of £4.420 and £3.951 m/ms. per ardeb. Adequate supplies of Government dura were received during the month, and have not been exhausted up to date.

Berber Province.—Prices rose early in the month, the idea being that Government stocks of dura were insufficient, but a fall in Khartoum quickly followed, owing presumably to the production of old stocks in the Gezira, which fall slowly spread to this province.

Halfa Province.—There are fair stocks of grain at Halfa. The maximum price of grain was increased from 10 piastres to 12 piastres per ruba (24 ruba equals one ardeb), and removed on the 13th inst. The price fell to 10-11 piastres per ruba at the end of the month.

White Nile Province.—The towns have remained entirely dependent on Government issues of dura, but some early dura of the new crop is expected to find its way into the market in the course of October.

Blue Nile Province.—Government dura was sold in small ardeb quantities at £3 per ardeb to the poor, and arrangements were made for further issue if necessary. The immediate effect of removing the maximum price was to bring to light the hidden store of dura previously known to exist. For the first fifteen days of the month only 404 ardebs (of 500 rottles) were brought into Wad Medani murada, whereas during the last fifteen days no less than 4,073 ardebs were put on the market.

Khartoum Province.—During the early part of the month the shortage of dura was very acute. After the merchants had been induced to place grain on the market and the restrictions on the movement of such were removed, the acute crisis was passed. The price did not fall for some days, but by the end of the month dura was plentiful, and could be bought at the same price as Government dura.

Sesame.

Kordofan Province.—175 ardebs of 330 rottles (148 kilos) were sold in El Obeid market during the month at an average price of £5,410 m/ms. per ardeb.

Livestock, Hides and Skins.

Berber Province.—The following animals were sold in Damer market during the month:—37 head of cattle, 2,623 sheep and goats. Activity in the sheep market began at the last market of the month.

Red Sea Province.—65 head of cattle and 307 sheep were exported via Port Sudan during the month.

Sennar Province.—No cattle were imported from Abyssinia during the month. Exports by rail: Skins, two tons.

Dates.

Dongola Province.—The date crops have been harvested, and are excellent. The average price of Parakawi dates was about 12 piastres per koila at Argo, Dongola, and Khandak, and about 20 piastres at Kareima.

Halfa Province.—Most of the dates are harvested, but there are few buyers. Merchants are offering 160 piastres per sack. The average of the dates is not so good as last year in most villages.

Rubber.

Mongalla Province, August.—2,259 sheets of rubber were collected during the month, making a total for the year of 7,520 sheets.

Tobacco.

Darfur Province, August.—158 kantars (100 rottles) passed through Fasher market during the month. Trade has otherwise been quiescent.

The Amir of Afghanistan has decided on a large issue of currency notes.

YUGOSLAV TRANSPORT PROBLEM.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, Nov. 30.

Transport is suffering so severely from shortage of locomotives that goods traffic, except for coal, has been suspended on the lines from Belgrade to Novi Sad and to Skoplie. This will undoubtedly cause a further rise in prices. It is due to the congestion of loaded trucks in various sidings and stations, which cannot be cleared for want of shunting engines.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Rising Prices.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The tone of the market continues very strong. In most quarters prices are distinctly dearer on the week. The market is undoubtedly a very difficult one for buyers to operate in. All sellers are in a very independent position. The outlook for the Egyptian crop shows very little change. Rather wide fluctuations have occurred in prices in Alexandria and Liverpool. Users have been rather less disposed to purchase. In yarns made from Egyptian cotton quotations have been somewhat irregular and the attitude of sellers depends a good deal upon how the raw material has been bought. All the mills are exceedingly busy. Many salesmen have again refused to quote. It seems quite impossible to satisfy the demand from the United States in fine yarns. In cloth for Egypt there has been a persistent demand from day to day. Manufacturers who can deliver early have no need to seek buyers. Fair lines have been put through in sized shirtings and quite a healthy turnover has transpired in printed and dyed goods. The several outlets of the Levant have also done well. India has provided plenty of inquiry, but Bombay, Madras and Karachi have done better than Calcutta. Rather less activity has been mentioned for China. Home trade fabrics have moved off freely. In American yarns for home consumption a steady trade has been put through from day to day at hardening rates. Export bundles remain active for Eastern and Continental outlets and demand continues to be met with for the Levant.

EGYPTIAN COTTON "BOOM."

There has been great excitement in Alexandria, where cotton has now reached the abnormal figure of 100 dollars, says the Cairo correspondent of *The Times*, in a message dated December 4. At present prices this year's crop represents about £130,000,000, compared with £30,000,000 before the war. Very little cotton remains unsold in the interior, and while some crops have already been disposed of at above 100 dollars, the average, of course, is under that figure. The net return for the Egyptian 1919 crop is estimated at between £90,000,000 and £100,000,000, which, it may be noted, represents over £7 per head of the population.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL PROFITS.

In the House of Commons, on December 8, Mr. Swan asked whether any limitation of profits was imposed on the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in consideration of the financial assistance given to that company by His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain: No, sir, excepting that the price ruling under the Admiralty contract for fuel oil is subject to reduction in proportion to the profits realised above a certain limit. There is every reason to hope that a substantial saving will be secured by the Admiralty under this head during the ensuing year.

Reuter's Paris correspondent reports that the Supreme Council has decided that Turkish gold reserves in Berlin shall be transferred to Paris.

The Indian mail which left Bombay on November 15 has been delayed, and is not expected in London before the 16th inst.

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Company Meetings.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

The New Capital.

Extension of Company's Operations

The tenth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Limited) was held on December 8 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Charles Greenway, Bt., chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. Macindoe) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—We again have the satisfaction of laying before you a most satisfactory statement of the company's position, and with the large extensions of the company's operations which are now in progress or under contemplation, and the growing demand all over the world for petroleum products of all kinds, I think we may look forward with absolute confidence to further largely increased prosperity from year to year as the business of the company becomes developed to an extent corresponding more to its great potentialities.

Balance Sheet.

In dealing with the company's accounts I will follow the usual procedure of first commenting upon the balance-sheet. Taking the first two items you will see that on the debit side there was no fresh issue of either share capital or debenture stock during the year covered by the accounts, but as you are aware we are now making a large issue of capital regarding which I shall later on have a few remarks to make. The next item calling for remark is the amount of £45,266 10s. 3d. standing to the credit of our employees' provident, pension and insurance fund. This was made up of a 5 per cent. contribution on the amount of their salaries by the employees, and of a like percentage by the company, to the employees' provident fund, and of a contribution by the company of £21,030 12s. 2d., the equivalent of 10 per cent. on the salaries, to the pension and insurance fund. You will, I am sure, all be pleased to see that this substantial start has been made in the scheme of which I outlined the details at the last annual meeting, and it will no doubt be gratifying to the employees to know that it is the intention of the board to augment the company's contributions to the pension and insurance fund from year to year as profits increase so that employees may share liberally in the prosperity of the company.

The item of £1,200,000 which has been placed to reserve is an estimate of our liability for excess profits duty for the whole of the periods since the excess profits duty first came into operation. The next item calling for remark is that of "Reserves." These you will see have been augmented by £530,000, and I have no doubt that you will all approve of the prudence which has prompted us to conserve as large a portion of our profits as possible in the form of reserves, instead of disposing of the bulk of them in payment of dividends, particularly in view of the large amount of capital expenditure we have ahead of us.

Coming now to the assets side of the balance-sheet, there is very little, I think, requiring explanation. One item which shows a very large increase is "stocks of stores and materials at field and refinery." This increase is due partly to the growth of our business necessitating the retention of larger stocks, but chiefly to the large increase in cost of all materials, particularly tin-plates, shooks, and chemicals, of which these stocks largely consist. The amount due to us by the Persian Government in respect of the claim for losses sustained by the cutting of our pipeline in 1915 has been reduced by the credit of further royalty. In connection with this item I am glad to say that negotiations of a friendly character are now proceeding with the Persian Foreign Minister, Prince Nasrut-ed-Dowleh, who is now in this country, with a view to arriving at a settlement with the Persian Government of this and all other outstanding questions.

Profit and Loss Account.

Turning now to the profit and loss account you will see that the net profit for the year under review, after making ample allowances for depreciation, and paying Debenture interest and royalty, was £2,010,805 7s. 7d., as compared with £1,308,558 6s. 1d. in the previous year, or an increase of more than £700,000. This is a very satisfactory result indeed, particularly in view of the fact that we had to contend against two adverse factors—viz.: (1) that our fleet was under requisition for practically the whole of the year and that the earnings from this source were, therefore very small, and (2) that the profits of our distributing companies were also on a much reduced scale owing to their businesses having been carried on by them on account of the Government on a basis which only gave them a small commission on sales. The increased profits were due mainly to a larger throughput, and to the better prices realised abroad for some of our products. In the current year there will be a further increase in throughput and increased earnings from our fleet, and I think we may confidently look forward to a profit of not less than £2,500,000 in our next accounts.

The balance remaining at the credit of profit and loss account, after making the various allocations to reserve which I have already referred to, is £527 19s. 8d. Of this sum £120,000 has already been paid away in respect of Preference share dividends, and it is now proposed to declare a further participating dividend on the Preference shares at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, and a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, on the Ordinary shares, leaving a balance of £275,527 19s. 8d. to be carried forward.

The Return on Government Capital

When addressing you at the last meeting I pointed out the return which his Majesty's Government were then getting on the capital they had invested in the company. The return to the Government for the year with which I am now dealing, taking into account their interest in the sums which have been placed to reserves, is a very handsome one, and well justifies them in their investment. In addition, as I have previously pointed out, they derive a great financial benefit from the favourable contracts which they have been able to make with the company for fuel oil and other products as a consideration for their investment.

As has been pointed out in the report, the further extensions for which fresh capital was raised two years ago are not yet in operation. When they are completed the throughput will be doubled, and there is every reason for anticipating that the profits will show a corresponding increase.

New Capital.

To provide for the further developments forecasted in my remarks at the last annual meeting, and for others which have since been resolved upon, we have, as you are all aware, just made an issue of £10,100,000 of new capital—£4,500,000 in the form of Ordinary shares, which have all been taken up at par by the Ordinary shareholders, namely, £3,000,000 by his Majesty's Government, and £1,500,000 by the other Ordinary shareholders; £3,000,000 in six per cent. Participating Preference shares, and £2,600,000 in five per cent. Debentures, which have been offered to the public. The two latter issues were offered on what I think may be regarded as extremely favourable terms. I am unable as yet to state the definite results of the issue owing to the enormous number of applications which have to be dealt with, but it is already evident that the Preference shares will be very largely over-subscribed, although the applications for the Debenture stock are, I am sorry to say, somewhat disappointing. To permit of this new capital being raised an extraordinary meeting of the company and meetings of the Debenture holders and Preference shareholders were held on the 1st inst., at which resolutions authorising the increase of the capital of the company to £20,000,000, and the issues I have referred to, were unanimously adopted.

The programme of further developments for which this additional capital is required includes (1) additional pipe lines and pumping stations to enable us to transport a largely-increased output of crude oil; (2) further extensions to the refineries in Persia; (3) the completion of the refinery now being constructed at Swansea; (4) the establishment of a large number of additional fuel oil bunkering installations in the United Kingdom and abroad; (5) large additions to the distributing facilities of the British Petroleum Company and the Homelight Oil Company; (6) the acquisition of a number of additional tank steamers; (7) the exploration and testing of new territories in various parts of the world; (8) £1,000,000 new capital which we have undertaken to subscribe to a company called "Scottish Oils (Limited)" which has been formed to put the Scottish shale oil industry on a more satisfactory basis, etc., etc. These developments are all of a more or less remunerative character, and when they have been brought into operation the profits of the company will be very materially enhanced.

Fields and Production.

The fields from which we are producing still maintain their extraordinary high rate of yield—the only limit to production being the extent of our transport and refining facilities. As you will have gathered, however, from the programme of extensions we have before us, every effort is being made to extend these facilities as quickly as possible to the full economic extent of the capacity of the fields. No fresh fields have been proved since I last addressed you, but the testing operations to which I then referred, and also others, are being carried on actively, and give promise of favourable results.

Refineries and Pipe Lines.

As I have already mentioned the extensions to our refinery and pipe lines in Persia, which have been in hand for some time past, and which, when I last addressed you, we hoped would be brought into operation during the present year, are not yet completed. This has been extremely disappointing to us, but at the same time this delay is scarcely a matter of surprise, since the amount of work involved is very great, and the difficulties in the way of obtaining delivery of plant, and also in the matter of labour, have been extreme. I can only say that our staff in Persia are striving their utmost to bring this work to an early conclusion. The work at the Swansea refinery is also making as satisfactory progress as can be expected under present labour conditions, and we hope to be able to begin operations there some time during the course of the coming year.

As you are all aware, we have recently acquired a controlling interest in the Scottish Shale Oil Companies, through the company to which I have just referred, and have thereby added considerably to our refining facilities in this country. The refineries of these companies have a combined capacity much in excess of the present output of shale oil, and our intention is to supply them with such additional quantities of natural crude oil from Persia or elsewhere as may be necessary to enable the refineries to be utilised to the full extent of their capacity. This will not only effect a substantial reduction in the present refining costs of shale oil, but also, by combining the management of these concerns under one company, largely reduce the costs of administration. By these combined economies we hope to be able to keep alive a home industry giving employment to many thousands of men, which otherwise was doomed to destruction, since shale oil, with present high costs for the labour and fuel required for mining and retorting the shale and the heavy administration expenses involved in working independently a number of companies, each having only a comparatively small production, cannot, even when shale oil is produced in this country, possibly compete with natural petroleum obtained in large quantities either from flowing wells or by pumping.

We have also under contemplation the erection of refineries in other parts of the world, it being a demonstrable fact that to such extent as the products can be disposed of in such countries, it is far more economical to refine the crude oil in the countries where the products are to be sold than in the countries where the crude is produced. This is a point regarding which there has been some difference of opinion in the past among oil producers, but which is now pretty generally accepted as an axiom. So much so,

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that I understand some of the other big oil producers are now proposing to follow the lead of this company in this respect.

The Company's Fleet.

When I last addressed you the total deadweight capacity of the fleet then afloat was 162,000 tons. To-day it is 250,000 tons, and we have contracted for tonnage to the extent of a further 270,000 tons, bringing our fleet *in esse* or *in posse* up to a total of 500,000 tons. The value of our fleet now afloat, at to-day's market values, is in the neighbourhood of £7,000,000, and when the boats now building or contracted for are delivered, it will amount to not less than £15,000,000. These doubtless seem somewhat large figures, but to provide for the eventual requirements of our business it will be necessary to make still further large additions to our fleet, and no opportunity will be lost of doing this whenever opportunities may occur. In some quarters fears have been expressed that the amount of tanker tonnage available will before long be in excess of the world's requirements, but personally I have no fears at all on this point, as the great expansion in the consumption of petroleum products of all kinds, particularly of fuel oil and of benzine, which is certain to come about within the next few years, and the consequent impetus that will be given to production all over the world, will, in my opinion, give ample employment to all the tanker tonnage that is likely to be produced for many years to come.

Distributing Organisations.

As I have already indicated, the profits of our distributing concerns—the British Petroleum Company and the Homelight Oil Company—were adversely affected during the year under review by the restrictions which necessarily had to be imposed during the war on the sale of petroleum products. Similarly, this year will be adversely affected, although to a smaller extent, but now that all restrictions have been removed we are making very extensive additions to both our coastal and inland depots throughout the United Kingdom with a view to establishing a selling organisation that will be second to none in this country, and thereby securing a position that will enable us to cater for a substantial share of the British trade in petroleum products of all kinds. In the carrying out of this object the old-established distributing organisations which had been created in Scotland by the shale companies recently taken over by us will, it is needless to say, be a very valuable adjunct.

We have been unable, owing to the restrictions I have referred to, to take any part at all in the petroleum trade of this country since the British Petroleum Company ceased to act as distributors of the "Shell" petrol at the end of 1917, but now that all restrictions have been removed, our distributing concerns are again entering the market for this product, our "B.P." brand of petrol—which, I venture to predict, will one day be the most favoured brand among all British motorists—is already on sale at many garages throughout the country, although until our benzine distributing arrangements are more complete supplies will necessarily be limited. These concerns will also act as our distributing organisations in this country for kerosene, white spirit, fuel oil, gas oil, lubricating oils, and all other petroleum products. For the bunkering trade in fuel oil we are registering a separate company, which will be in a position to meet the demands of shipowners for this form of fuel, both for burning under boilers and for internal combustion engines, in a very substantial way.

Political Situation.

The improved political situation between this country and Persia, to which I referred at the last meeting, has since, as you all know, been followed by the conclusion of an agreement between the two countries which will, I venture to think, cement the relations of the two countries for all time, since, on the one part, it ensures the absolute independence of Persia and a prosperous future for her, and, on the other, the permanent establishment of a friendly and independent Power in a part of the world in which this country has important interests. I stated at the last meeting that we then expected to learn of the result of the discussions which were at that time proceeding through our representative at Teheran in regard to the settlement of the various questions outstanding between us and the Persian Government. These discussions were, however, postponed for the arrival in this country of the Persian Foreign Minister, to which I have referred. These questions are now being taken up actively with this gentleman, and I hope that a satisfactory solution of them will be shortly arrived at. The Imperial Commissioner, his Excellency Farid-es-Sultaneh, has lent us valuable assistance during the past year, and I cannot speak too highly of the diplomacy and tact which has been displayed by him in his endeavours to promote not only the interests of his government, but at the same time avoid difficult positions with this company.

The Staff.

Before concluding my remarks, I would again like to express our great appreciation of the services which have been rendered to us by our staff in this country, in Persia, and elsewhere. For some years past our company has been undergoing a process of continuous and rapid expansion, and this has necessarily thrown upon the staff a great amount of additional work beyond that involved in a stationary or gradually expanding business. This additional work has been particularly onerous during the years of the war, when our staff was much depleted, but our employees have one and all responded loyally and ungrudgingly to these calls upon their services, and I am sure you will agree with me that they deserve our warmest thanks. During the past few months, I am pleased to say that we have been able largely to augment our staff, and I hope that this will help to lighten the burden of their labours with mutual advantage to both themselves and the company. I should also like to take this opportunity of expressing our great regret at the death of our old friend and adviser, Sir Boverton Redwood. As you all know, he always took a great interest in this company from its inception—in fact, the company owes its existence very largely to him—and in losing him we have lost a most valued and trusted friend and adviser. I now beg to move: "That the report of the directors, balance-sheet, and profit and loss account for the year ended March 30, 1919, be received, approved, and adopted," and I will ask Lord Inchcape kindly to second this motion

Lord Inchcape: I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

No questions were asked, and the Chairman put the resolution to the meeting and it was carried unanimously.

The Dividends.

The Chairman: The next business before the meeting is to declare dividends, and I now beg to move: (1) "That a participating dividend at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, less income tax, be paid on the preference shares in respect of the year ended March 31, 1919, and that such dividend be paid, together with the dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended on September 30 last, payable on January 31, 1920; and (2) that a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, be paid on the ordinary shares in respect of the year ended March 31, 1919, and that such dividend be also paid on January 31, 1920," and I will ask Mr. Cargill kindly to second this motion.

The resolution was agreed to unanimously.

The Chairman: The next business before the meeting is the election of directors. As you will have seen from the report, Sir Frederick Black, K.C.B., and Mr. J. B. Lloyd have been elected to the board since our last meeting. Under Article 82 of the Articles of Association they now retire and need to be re-elected. Sir Frederick Black is well-known to all of you, and I am sure that you will agree with me that this company has been very fortunate indeed in securing his services, and will heartily support his re-election. Mr. Lloyd is also a valuable acquisition to the board by virtue of his long acquaintance with the oil business, particularly on its financial and commercial sides, and I have no doubt that he will command your support. The directors retiring by rotation are Admiral Slade, Mr. R. I. Watson, and myself. As I am one of the number of retiring members I think it better that this resolution should be proposed by someone else, and perhaps Lord Southborough will kindly move it.

Lord Southborough—Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in proposing that the election to the board of Sir Frederick Black and of Mr. J. B. Lloyd be confirmed, and that Sir Charles Greenway, Admiral Slade, and Mr. R. I. Watson, who retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election, be and are hereby re-elected members of the board."

Sir Hugh S. Barnes.—I beg to second that resolution, gentlemen.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman.—The only other matter before the meeting is the election of auditors, and I shall be glad if two of the shareholders present will kindly propose and second the necessary resolution.

Mr. Prothero.—I beg to move: "That Messrs. Brown, Fleming, and Murray be re-elected as auditors for the financial year 1919-20, at such fee as may be determined by the board."

Mr. McCowan.—I shall be pleased to second the resolution.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman.—Gentlemen, that concludes the business of the meeting.

Vote of Thanks.

Sir J. D. Rees, M.P.—Gentlemen, I am sure that you would not like to separate without passing a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman. Sir Charles Greenway leads us through a maze of finance in such a fashion that we become at home with figures of unusual and almost unimaginable magnitude. When we see assets of £13,500,000 in the balance-sheet, the capital increased to £20,000,000, and a dividend involving the payment of £2,000,000, we can thoroughly appreciate how much we are indebted to the chairman for taking us through all these figures in such a simple and intelligible way. That, in my opinion, is the supreme merit in a chairman, just as it is the supreme merit in a shareholder to hold his tongue and pocket his dividends when he is fortunate enough to get them. I should like to say, moreover, that I think the shareholders on this side of the table have sufficient imagination to be proud of the wide scope, the ample and statesmanlike management of this vast concern, and I should like to express our gratitude, not only to the chairman and to the noble lords and gentlemen with him on the board, but also to our able agents of this vast concern, now in many parts of the world, for the manner in which they have conducted our affairs and have brought them to a successful financial, and even, perhaps, I might also say, to a politically successful end. A great company like this, of course, flies the British flag and upholds British interests in various parts of the world, and is contributing in no small measure to cement a friendship with Persia, to which in the highest political quarters great importance is attached. I am sure that nobody can fail to notice in the few remarks I have made that I have broken my own rule as to what is the proper conduct of a shareholder by indulging in some remarks myself, but I can retrieve my character by making those remarks as short as possible. I will now propose a vote of thanks to Sir Charles Greenway and the board, and to our agents abroad, for the successful year which now comes to a happy termination at this meeting, and I hope someone will second it, and, when that is done, I am sure the meeting will carry it. (Applause.)

Mr. A. Hurse: I have very much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The vote was unanimously passed.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, I have to thank Sir John Rees very heartily for the kind manner in which he has referred to the way in which I perform my duties and also to my colleagues on the board. It is needless for me to say that the position which I hold is one that I very much appreciate, and one that I regard as one of the highest honours in the country. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company, I have no doubt, in the course of time, will be one of the most powerful, even if not the most powerful, commercial undertakings in this country, and it will always give me the greatest satisfaction to know that the work which has been done by me and my colleagues has been duly appreciated. (Applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

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BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY.

Record Gross Earnings.

The sixty-first ordinary general meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Co., Ltd., was held on December 4 at the offices, 132, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., Mr. Robert Miller, the chairman, presiding.

Mr. R. C. Volkers having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' certificate,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, from the accounts you will see that expenditure on capital account was £99,270. The corresponding figure last year was £176,731, which, as you will remember, I remarked upon as being exceptionally low. The further marked decrease is accounted for as to £64,559 by the sale of narrow gauge engines and wagons which were requisitioned by the Government for the Bushire railways for military operations. Even after making allowance for this credit, the total capital expenditure in the year under review is less than that of the previous year by about £12,902. The total actual outlay on new rolling stock was £44,780, as compared with the £451,047 which we spent under that head in the year preceding the war, when our total capital outlay was £917,776, or nearly ten times the figure for the year we are considering. For several years in succession the capital expended on the line has been very much in inverse ratio to the needs of the railway. At the same time the traffic has increased so greatly as to strain our resources in rolling stock to the limit, and to demonstrate the pressing necessity for various works of improvement in the line, if we are successfully to cope with the existing and prospective traffic conditions. We were able at an opportune moment some few months back to place orders in this country for 1,300 broad gauge wagons. Of these 450 have already been delivered by the makers, and we hope to have despatched as many more to India by the end of March next. We have also on order forty broad gauge and five narrow gauge locomotives and forty narrow gauge wagons.

The gross earnings on the past year's workings have exceeded any previous figures. They amount to £4,139,118, and represent an increase of over 10 per cent. on last year's figures, and exceed those of the year 1914-15 by over 51 per cent. The large advance in the gross earnings of over 50 per cent. in a period of five years is partly attributable to war conditions and partly to development of passenger and goods traffic. The working expenses during the year under review amounted to £2,051,300, or an increase of £300,655, roughly 17 per cent., over the previous year's figures. The percentage of gross earnings absorbed by working expenses was 47.95, which is slightly higher than the percentage (46.35) for the previous year. It, however, compares favourably with the percentages of the remaining three of the five years for which details are given on page 5 of the report, which were 48.10 for 1916-17, 49.01 for 1915-16, and 50.32 for 1914-15. The greater bulk of traffic moved was primarily responsible for this increase, but an important item that deserves mention is an increase of £68,163 under the heads of hire and demurrage of foreign stock. Though India has not felt the effects of rise in prices to quite the same extent as we have in England, we must realise that we have now to face a higher rate of revenue expenditure than heretofore. For want of materials, repairs to and renewals of engines, rolling stock and running road have had perforce to be postponed during the war period, for beyond the bounds of economic working, and a very heavy programme of restoration has to be faced in the next few years, with stores and materials at risen and rising prices.

A heavy item of expenditure which has now to be taken in hand is the completion of the strengthening of our main line running road. Now that permanent way materials are again available, even at heavy prices, it has become imperative to push on with the relaying programme, and our present proposals are to relay with 90-lb. rails on steel sleepers sixty miles of the main line during the current year, and a further forty miles in each of the succeeding years. Although we must look for a heavy increase both in capital outlay and also working expenses for some years to come, I do not wish you to carry away the impression that there is necessarily a period of lean years before us. The figures of gross earnings for the first six months of the current year still show an upward tendency, and record an increase of £155,000 over the corresponding figures of last year, and with the additional traffic which we expect to attract from fresh sources, coupled with the rise in exchange, we may look to the future with reasonable confidence.

When I last addressed you I referred to the rich deposits of iron ore which had been proved to the south of the main line at Chakardharpur, in an area which can be reached most easily by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. Arrangements for the service of this area by a broad gauge line have been pushed rapidly forward. The project has received the sanction of Government, and construction of the line has actually commenced. We have also in hand the extension of the Gurumahisani branch for a distance of about twenty-two miles to Badampahar, to tap further extensive iron ore deposits which the Tata Iron and Steel Company are opening up in order to supplement their output from Gurumahisani. The project of the harbour at Vizagapatam, of which I made mention last year, and the details of the special Act of the Legislature and the supplementary contract between the Secretary of State and the railway, creating powers under which the railway will construct and manage the harbour, have been under consideration and discussion. A large part of the land which we propose to take up in connection with the harbour has been gazetted for acquisition. The early commencement and the rapid completion of this great work are of the utmost importance to the railway and to the proper development of the country which it serves. Concluding with a warm acknowledgment of the staff in India, the Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. A. Brereton, C.S.I., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The dividend and bonus recommended were approved, and the retiring directors and auditors were reappointed.

P. AND O.

The Shipping Industry.

Competition of American and Australian Governments.

The seventy-ninth ordinary general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company was held on December 10 at 122, Leadenhall Street, E.C., Lord Inchcape (the Chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, after a reference to the powers recently obtained by the Board to issue deferred stock in lieu of dividend or bonus and to the proposed distribution of deferred stock to the amount of £200,000, remarked that, although the deferred stock had during the year risen in the market, the only concern of the directors was to build up their resources against a possible period of bad trade, liberally to interpret their obligations in the carriage of mails, cargo, and passengers, to deal generously with their employees, ashore and afloat, and to give stockholders a reasonable return on their capital. Although the company now controlled 427 steamers whose tonnage exceeded two and a-quarter million tons gross, and whose operations were world-wide, the personnel of the associated companies had remained practically undisturbed, and the respective managements, by co-ordination, were endeavouring to reduce or, at least, to minimise working costs. While shipping was one of the most uncertain industries in the world, the P. and O. and associated companies had for years husbanded their resources, and, without committing himself, he saw nothing to prevent their laying a fairly acceptable statement before the stockholders a year hence.

Government requisition, partial from September, 1914, to March, 1917, complete after that date, was a war measure which could not possibly have gone on indefinitely; the working of the ships by owners for the profit of the Government had been a gigantic undertaking, involving, among other labours, extremely heavy accounting work and the payment over to the Government by the P. and O. and its associates of very large sums. If there had been any profiteering in freight rates and passenger fares, shipowners were not the culprits; under Government control these rates and fares had been advanced by from 19 to 85 per cent.; freed from control last spring, they came down materially. Twenty-six of the P. and O. or British India steamers were still in Government service, including ten of the best ships of the P. and O. fleet; to be deprived of those vessels was a great handicap, and they would be glad to have them again engaged in the work for which they were designed. Foreign competitors, free of requisition, war taxation or excess profits duty, had made enormous profits, but British shipowners, who had philosophically borne their share of the burden of the war, could remember with pride the words of the Prime Minister, that without the British Mercantile Marine we should, as a nation, have collapsed in February, 1915. The P. and O. and associated companies had lost by enemy action 94 ships of 543,530 tons gross, besides old ships sold and losses by marine risk, but by means of ships built, purchased, or building—169 vessels of 1,168,298 tons gross—these losses had been more than replaced. Two fine P. and O. mail steamers, the Naldera and Narkunda, contracted for before the war, but held up by Government requirements, would be delivered, the one in January, the other a few weeks later; four other large mail steamers were building or projected; the surviving steamers of the Morea class were being reconditioned, and he hoped in a short time to see the mail services to the East, the Far East, and Australia restored to their normal regularity.

In the early part of the year, Lord Inchcape continued, he had, with considerable trepidation, contracted with the Government to take over, entirely on his own account, 77 steamers then under construction for the Ministry of Shipping; a second contract involved a further 79 steamers, a third contract other 40 steamers. These 196 steamers totalled 1,400,609 tons gross, and their sale distribution among British owners involved about 33 millions sterling. These transactions, which went through in a most agreeable way, were undertaken, not in the interests of the British mercantile marine alone, but of the whole mercantile community, and so that the Government might be relieved of shipping business. They were concluded without loss to anybody and with no profit to himself or his companies, which got their fair share of the tonnage, but no more. If the Government had been obliged to run these ships on its own account, it would have spelt disaster all round.

When he said a year or two ago that the nationalisation of shipping would involve their retiring from business after selling their ships to others, he had in mind, not Germany, as had been ridiculously suggested, but America. If British shipowners had now to compete with the American Shipping Board, which meant the resources of the American Government, his companies might yet be forced into that position. He had, on Monday night, heard the American Ambassador, in a most eloquent speech, say that he hoped the present cordial relations between Great Britain and the United States would continue for ever. If the United States Government would turn its ships over to private owners and leave those owners to compete with private enterprise in this country, he would not be afraid; but if the American people were to be taxed to build up a mercantile marine at all costs, the outlook for the industry in these islands was anything but rosy. Another competitor had come on the scene. Encouraged by war-time profits, freedom from requisition, excess duty or any other taxation, the Commonwealth Government of Australia had now embarked on ship-owning as a competitor with private undertakings. The British Lines to Australia had built up a fine service of steamers and had maintained friendly relations with shippers for forty years. It was hard that the Australian Government should now step in, with the resources of the Australian people behind them. Merchants disliked the move; they realised that the Commonwealth Government might not stop at shipping; that they might enter other spheres of industrial activity, and by a direct attack on individualism, involve the whole commercial community in serious dislocation and loss. The Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, whom he believed to be actuated by the highest motives, would be well advised to leave the business of his country to those who were in commerce, and

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to allow his people to work out their own commercial salvation. (Hear, hear.) Sir Joseph Cook, one of Mr. Hughes's colleagues, had recently said that Governments must never get in front of the enterprise of the business man nor stifle his individuality and resource; that a Government's place was behind the business man as a buttress, a strength, a stay, a limitation and a support, and that only so could Australia as a nation hope to face the great tasks ahead. Mr. Hughes could now dispose of the Commonwealth ships at much more than he had paid for them; let him follow the example of the British Government; let him leave commerce and industry to individual initiative—and so adopt the course which had made the British Empire what it was. (Applause.)

He had read the Anti-Dumping Bill carefully and with growing consternation. If we wanted a short legislative cut to commercial suicide or an object lesson in the chaos in which the measure would involve the international trade of this country no more effective measure could be devised. The Government had heard what business men thought about it and had postponed its consideration, never, he hoped, to resume it. At Manchester, the other day, the Prime Minister had declined to say whether or not he liked the Bill, and there was only one inference to be drawn from this. Any measure which sought to rivet on British industry the abomination of Government control, with its paraphernalia of licenses, certificates, affidavits, appeals, argument with Government clerks, and all the worry and delay of justifying every transaction in which business men might be engaged, would be fought unitedly by the entire commercial community.

Although only interested in coal as a consumer, he could tell the stockholders that the cost of bunker coal in London before the war, when prices were governed by free competition, was 23s. a ton: under Government control it cost to-day 105s. He had read the pamphlet of the Mining Association on the proposal to limit the profit on coal to 1s. 2d. a ton, and he agreed with the association that the principle of Parliament arbitrarily limiting the profits of an industry was altogether economically unsound; that it would discourage enterprise and prevent inflow of the capital necessary to industry. If coal mining profits were to be limited, what of other individual profits? What of the farmer, the soap boiler, the cotton spinner, the brewer and distiller? What of the banking and financial houses, the stock and money brokers? What about the oil companies—the Anglo-Persian Company, which promised a profit of 100 per cent. for the present year, on the Board of which he had the honour to represent His Majesty's Government, which held two-thirds of the ordinary capital? What about the pitman on a pound a week, who, by his pushing personality, his brains and capacity, had become general secretary of his union, with a comfortable income? He, himself, had started life with a patrimony of £2,000; after fifty years of moderately hard work he found himself with what some people would call a fortune. If the incentive to work, thrift and development were to be removed, let them limit the profits not only of the legal industry, but of every other industry and profession.

They had acquired during the year an interest of something more than half its shares in the Orient Company, and while that company would continue to be worked as a separate organisation, the linking up of arrangements for repairs and other matters should prove of mutual advantage. After a visit which he paid to the Eastern Mediterranean in the spring they had acquired also the bulk of the shares of the Khedivial Mail Steamship Company. That company lost a number of ships by enemy action, but its large cash reserves were being used to bring the fleet up to date. The Khedivial Company owned valuable wharfage property, workshops, and a good dry dock in Egypt, and, with up-to-date management, possessed considerable potentialities in both cargo and passenger traffic, aided by transhipment facilities with the P. and O. and British India Companies at Port Said.

The company's investments stood well under market prices, and the value of the shares in their allied companies remained at the figure at which they were acquired. In this they were fairly safe, as the companies were perfectly sound and their distributions had been on a conservative basis. Their own ships had been all well written down.

In view of their conviction that adequate supplies of oil would in the near future be possible the world over, they had decided on its gradual substitution for coal. The difficulty of driving large ships at high speed by internal combustion engines had not been surmounted, but they would be able to raise steam for the reciprocating or turbine engine at a cost no greater than that of coal, and with less human labour. Stoking would be abolished, and the conditions of life below deck improve. Delays for refueling would be reduced, and the comfort on board ships to passengers as well as crews increased.

During the year they, with their associated companies, had, including steamers building, added to the united fleets 104 ships of a gross tonnage of 778,284 tons. They had met the obligations of the mail contract to the best of their ability. For five years before the war the company had had 260 mail sailings in each direction between London and Bombay; during the five years ending July 31, 1919, there had been 211 outward and 220 homeward Indian mail sailings, and throughout the war they had never sent an Indian mail, either outwards or homewards, round the Cape. In summarising the domestic events of the year, his lordship expressed the belief that the company and its associates would be able to meet their liabilities for new steamers without having to get deeply into debt. The companies had not made a fortune out of the war; they would, he was safe in saying, have been better off without the war. But unless the people sent as their representatives to Westminster men pledged to Syndicalism and the confiscation of private property, the position of the P. and O. Company need not, for the time being, be regarded as altogether solvent. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Peter Williams seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The dividends recommended were declared payable on or after December 17, and the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected.

A resolution was unanimously passed increasing the capital by the creation of £200,000 new deferred stock with a view to the distribution of such stock among deferred stockholders.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff concluded the proceedings.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

Extension of Activities.

The fifty-second general meeting of the Imperial Ottoman Bank was held on December 10 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., the Earl of Bessborough, K.P., C.V.O., C.B., presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. C. E. L. Corthorn) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the committee had considerable satisfaction in placing the situation to December 31, 1918, before the shareholders. They would notice the liquidity of the establishment, and that the items "Statutory advances to the Government" and "Participations in advances to the Government," which appeared in the last balance-sheet for a total of £1,700,000 odd, did not appear in this. The first half of the year 1914 found the bank in full activity, one of the most important items being the issue of the Ottoman Five per Cent. Loan of 1914 on the Paris market. This enabled the Turkish Government to discharge important liabilities, and the general prospects were most encouraging. The outbreak of war in August, 1914, however, brought business practically to a standstill, which became more pronounced when Turkey threw in her lot with the Central Powers in the following November. For four years the committee in London and Paris were cut off from communication with Constantinople and Turkey. The English and French members of the direction had to leave Constantinople after the bank's refusal to proceed with new issues of notes for the purpose of making advances to the Ottoman Government. The absence of communication with the major part of the Eastern branches caused a definite decrease in the activities of the agencies of London and Paris. These agencies had, nevertheless, been able to maintain a certain movement, owing to the favourable consideration shown, on account of the Anglo-French nature of the bank's capital and control, by the British and French Governments, in the measures of control which the state of war with Turkey made it obligatory for them to impose. The depreciation of paper currency and the rise in prices had brought about an increase in the general expenses of all undertakings which operated in Turkey. On the other hand, these conditions had made it possible for some traders to improve their credit by paying off their old debts in depreciated money. Agricultural production, thanks to favourable climatic conditions, had been maintained at a satisfactory level, notwithstanding the lack of labour. There was evidence of favourable symptoms in the development of Turkish resources.

These circumstances, which augured well for the future, had led the bank to consider an increase in the activity of its purely commercial side, and in view of this policy of commercial activity one branch was established in 1916 at Marseilles and another would shortly be opened at Tunis. During the war a new branch was opened at Paphos in Cyprus, and it had been decided also to open at Kirkuk in Mesopotamia. The extension of the bank's activity to other regions was also contemplated. The Director-General was taking active steps for the reopening of those branches in Turkey which had been closed owing to local conditions in the course of the war. At the beginning of 1919 the bank proceeded with the constitution of the Bank of Syria, which had just been granted the right to issue the new fiduciary money (the Syrian franc) which was to circulate in Syria. On this subject of development it was with great satisfaction that the committee had received compliments from the representative of one of the leading American banks on being the first bank in any belligerent country to offer them pre-war facilities. This they considered to be an acknowledgment of the activity and devotion of the staff of the bank. The committee had to record their great appreciation of the devotion of the members of the staff who had remained at their posts during these past years, in many cases in positions of great difficulty and occasionally personal danger. Pensions and benevolent funds were formed during the war, and he was sure the shareholders would fully approve the attitude of the committee in including under their terms the dependents of those who had fallen in the war. In conclusion, he could only assure the shareholders that the committee looked forward to the future with every hope of successful results being achieved. They would make every endeavour to retain all those privileges for the bank to which it was entitled under its concession, and to obtain reparation for such infringements as had taken place.

M. Charles de Cerjat seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The members of the General Committee were re-elected, the appointment of M. Jean Boissonnas was confirmed, and a hearty vote of thanks to the committee and the staff, both at home and abroad, concluded the proceedings.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS.

GOVERNESS desires Post (India preferred). Usual English subjects; music; French; good knowledge of health massage; fond of children. £70-£80.—H. W., The Ladies' League, 118, New Bond Street, W.

THE Ladies' League (under Royal Patronage), 118, New Bond Street, W., successfully recommends Secretaries, Lady Housekeepers, Companions, Governesses, Nursery Governesses, Lady Nurses, Nurse Companions, &c.

LADY Secretary desires Post. Shorthand, Typing, fluent French, moderate Russian. Accustomed to confidential and responsible work. £45.—A. L., The Ladies' League, 118, New Bond Street, W.

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Shipping Intelligence.

Forthcoming Sailings

The Papayanni Line s.s. Maronian, for Malta and Alexandria, taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Mersine, Cyprus, etc., will leave Liverpool on January 3.

The Moss Line s.s. Amasis, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria, transhipping for Morocco ports and to Syria and Cyprus, will leave Liverpool on December 13.

The Cunard s.s. Sea Serpent, for Piræus and Patras, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 13.

The Ellerman Line s.s. Malatian, for Alexandria, will leave Liverpool on December 20.

The Ellerman Line s.s. Barotse, for Gibraltar, Malta, Syria, Smyrna and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 30.

The Bibby liner Lancashire, which will shortly leave for Rangoon, is heavily booked for passengers, many of whom have been obliged to outstay their furlough in this country owing to difficulties in obtaining berth allotments.

The Anchor Line s.s. Olympia for Bombay will close for cargo at Glasgow on December 23, and at Liverpool on January 2.

The Bibby Line s.s. Lancashire, for Colombo and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on December 23.

The Henderson s.s. Burma, for Port Said and Rangoon, will close for cargo at Birkenhead on December 17.

The Power Line s.s. Petworth will leave London for Morocco ports about the end of the current month.

The Johnston s.s. Norton, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza will sail from Liverpool on December 23.

Shipping at Malta.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, November 24.

Seven mine-sweepers from Constantinople have reached port. The Aquarius has arrived from Constantinople, and the transport Isonzo has just left for Marseilles, and the trawler Alexander Hills for Taranto. Tenders are invited by the Admiralty for the sale of the battleship Hannibal (14,900 tons displacement), now lying at Malta.

The latest arrivals are H.M.S. Steadfast, from Alexandria; Silverfield, from Mudros; s.s. Norman Monarch, from New York; H.M.S. Orotava, from Marseilles; whilst the transport Himalaya and s.s. Pengreep have left for the East.

November 28.

There has been special activity during the last few days, and British, Italian, Spanish, Belgian, Japanese, Greek, and Russian craft have arrived and left. The arrivals here include the transport Uhlenhurst, from Constantinople; the paddlers Marchioness of Lorne, Duchess of Norfolk, and Queen IV., from the East; the trawlers James Denton, Gertrude Cappleman, and Danestone, from Mudros and Constantinople; and the Meteor, from Marseilles. Several drifters have just left for home waters, and the Honeysuckle, with M.29 in tow, has sailed for Plymouth.

Shipping Notes.

A trial recently took place at Sunderland of the s.s. Rokos Vergottis, a steel cargo steamer of 5,201 tons gross and 3,310 tons d.w. This vessel has been built by Messrs. Doxford and Sons, Sunderland, on account of Mr. G. Vergottis, Cephalonia, Greece, and is reported to be one of several such steamers ordered by him to be built on the Wear. The speed of the Rokos Vergottis was 12½ knots, the vessel being fitted with Howden's forced draught.

Sir Walter Runciman, chairman of the Moor Line, has authorised the statement that an offer for the thirteen steamships at present owned by the Moor Line from the Western Counties Shipping Co., Ltd., has been accepted, and a contract for the sale of the vessels has been signed. The Moor Line will continue the other branches of their business, and, having obligations which are not to be terminated, they will replace the vessels now sold by others more suitable for their purposes as and when opportunity offers.

Our Smyrna Correspondent writes:—Two lighters laden with British goods, ex Eden Hall and Amatonga, have sunk in Smyrna port.

THE WORLD'S WHEAT SUPPLIES.

The important question of the future of wheat production, with special reference to the Empire, is dealt with at length in the current number of the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute. The annual production of wheat in the world prior to the war amounted to about 110,000,000 tons, the largest producers being the Russian Empire, with an output of 22,000,000 tons, and the United States, which provided nearly 19,000,000 tons. During the war the production in Europe as a whole, and in Russia in particular, decreased considerably, but outside Europe there was a great expansion. The acreage under wheat in Canada, the United States, Argentina, India and Australia in 1918 was over 25 per cent. larger than the average acreage for the five years before the war, and it is considered that at the present time there is a sufficiency of wheat, even without the help of Russia, to meet the requirements of the world.

As regards the future also there is reason for optimism. There are vast areas of land suitable for wheat-growing yet to be opened up in Canada, Australia, South America, Siberia, and other countries, whilst the present low average yield of 13 bushels per acre is susceptible of great improvement. In recent years the increase in the world's production has been due, to a great extent, to an increased yield per acre, and there is every reason to believe that with the introduction of improved drought and rust resistant varieties the rise will be even more rapid in the future.

The Alliance Bank of Egypt is opening a branch in Haifa.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated November 26:—

Rain general in Burma, Central India, and in Southern India. Light in East Punjab and to the west of United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.

During the week ending November 15, sowing spring crops and harvesting autumn crops continued. Harvesting paddy continued North-eastern and Southern India; commenced Assam; sowings continued Madras. More rain required parts Bihar and Orissa. Plucking tea continued Assam. Tobacco sowings progressed Bengal and Punjab. Cotton picking continued Northern India, Southern India and parts Bombay. General crop conditions good, but rain urgently wanted Punjab.

Bombay cotton market weak. Fully good Broach April-May Rs.541. Piecegoods market firm. Calcutta jute gunny markets flat. Exchange firm but closes quiet.

No change in Bank Rates.

Mymensingh Bhairab Bazaar Railway extension surveys by Gillanders Arbuthnot Company, Calcutta, for detailed survey loop line metre gauge railway from Sararchar to Kishoreganj and reconnaissance survey for feeder lines metre gauge railway (s) 50 miles in Kishoreganj area sanctioned.

December 3.

Rain general Southern India. Light rain in North-Eastern India.

During the week ending November 22 sowing spring crops and harvesting autumn crops continued. Harvesting paddy continued Southern India. Sowings continued Madras. Plucking tea continued Assam. Tobacco sowings progressed Burma. Plucking cotton continued everywhere. General crop conditions good, but rain much needed in North Gwalior, parts Bihar and Orissa, North-Western Frontier Province, and unirrigated crops Punjab.

Bombay cotton market steady. Fully good Broach April-May Rs.544. Piece goods market active and firm. Calcutta jute gunny markets quiet.

No change in Bank Rate.

RELIEF WORKS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agricultural Department, dated December 5:—

Your telegram dated November 28. All relief works closed in Bundelkhand. Distress considerably decreased in Hyderabad, where relief works continue in one district only. Numbers relieved:—Burma: works, 2,775; gratuitous, 10. Bihar and Orissa: gratuitous, 13,736. Feudatory States of Orissa: works, 567; gratuitous, 33. Central India: gratuitous, 1,500. Hyderabad: works, 7,000; gratuitous, 5,000. Madras: works, 27,349; gratuitous, 54,546.

Mr. S. Webster, the managing director of S. Webster, Ltd., of Moorgate Station Chambers, London, is now on a business visit to the Near East. He will return during this month.

SWEDISH ORIENT LINE.

Direct regular steamship service with about weekly sailings outwards and homewards between

GOTHENBURG and ALGIERS, PIRÆUS, SMYRNA and SALONICA.
„ „ ALEXANDRIA, JAFFA and BEYROUTH.
„ „ CONSTANTINOPLE, ODESSA and other Black Sea Ports.

Also calling at other ports in Scandinavia, Levant and Black Sea (as inducement offers).

For further information apply to the following agents of the Line:

At LONDON: J. E. Hyde & Co., 1, Lime Street Square.
„ SMYRNA: „ PIRÆUS: „ ALEXANDRIA: W. F. van der Zee.
„ SALONICA: Cauchi Brothers.
„ CONSTANTINOPLE: Theo. Reppen.

Or to the Head Office:

SWEDISH ORIENT LINE, GOTHENBURG.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: LEVANT.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following are extracts from a recent report received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

The Tobacco Crop.

KAVALLA, October.

The last crop has been very successful in Eastern Macedonia, both in quality and quantity. It is estimated at 7,000,000 okes, or about 9,000,000 kilos. Buyings of the new crops of tobacco have already taken place, and prices are decidedly better than those ruling last year; certain firms who had declared quite recently that they would not make any purchases this year, owing to the high prices, were the first to buy. Several American firms have already bought large quantities of unmanufactured tobaccos, and we are told that in certain villages as much as 15 drachmæ was obtained per kilo.

An upward tendency is also noticed in the price of manufactured tobaccos of previous crops. One Alexandria firm bought 2,100 bales of high-class tobaccos at 32 drachmæ per oke (25 drachmæ per kilo), representing a deal of about 1,000,000 drachmæ. The general opinion is that not only will these prices be maintained, but that they will still be higher, owing to the lack of stocks of Turkish tobaccos in Europe and America.

Consequent on the high prices obtained, tobacco growers are making huge profits. A surprising improvement is already noticeable in the condition of the inhabitants of Eastern Macedonia, and we are of opinion that our region will again soon be one of the most prosperous of the Near East.

A Strike.

Tobacco workmen are very well paid, and last year they succeeded in obtaining very big concessions from their employers. Unfortunately, the more workmen get the more they want. They again went on strike last month. Besides their numerous grievances, they wanted to force the Government to prohibit the exports of non-manufactured tobaccos. But the strike was ill-timed, as in this season tobaccos do not require nearly so much attention as in summer, and the growers held firm. Not only did they refuse to yield to the new exigencies of the workmen, but they cancelled the agreement they had made last year. The result of this attitude was that the workmen gave way, abandoned their new demands, but as employers fear a strike for next summer they are asking guarantees against such an eventuality. The Government is intervening, and it is hoped that a compromise will be reached. It is evident that the constant growing demands of workmen are discouraging growers, and that the consequences may be detrimental to the general interests of our region.

An aerial map of the Sahara is to be made by three famous French "aces."

An aerial mail service is to be inaugurated between Bombay and Karachi on January 1, by means of which residents of Karachi will be enabled to post home letters at least twenty-four hours after the despatch of the mail steamer from Karachi.

AYAHS' HOME,

26, King Edward Rd., South Hackney, London.

ESTABLISHED 1825.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE LONDON CITY MISSION.

Hindustani spoken. Ayahs boarded and lodged at 18s. per week each until their Return Passage is paid or a Situation secured for them to return. Ayahs met at any Dock or Railway Station in London. Experienced, well-recommended Ayahs taken entirely off Ladies' hands for a certain payment, which differs according to time of year. Ladies proceeding to India or China requiringan Ayah can generally obtain one by applying to Mrs. FLETCHER, Matron.

STRANGERS' HOME FOR ASIATICS,

WEST INDIA DOCK ROAD, LIMEHOUSE, LONDON, E.

"I was a stranger and ye took me in."

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD., LOMBARD STREET E.C.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000

Paid-up - £5,000,000

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Alexandria. Cairo. Mansourah. Minieh. Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem. Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famagusta. Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Caiffa. | Beyrout. Damascus. | Hamah. Homs. | Saida. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Ceylon and Indian Planters.

The report of the Ceylon and Indian Planters' Association for the year ended June 30 states that after paying debenture interest and all fixed charges there is a balance at credit of profit and loss account of £6,261, to which must be added amount brought forward, £3,384, plus excess profits tax recovered, £6,898, making together £16,543. From this has been deducted the preference dividend for the year, depreciation of machinery and ropeways, cost of tea extensions, and the interim dividend on the ordinary shares at 5 per cent., paid in May last, amounting to £4,378, amount written off coast advance account £5,129, leaving £7,036 plus interest and gain in exchange, £1,035, leaving at credit of profit and loss account £8,071. It is proposed to pay a final dividend on the ordinary share capital of 10 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year, absorbing £4,400, and to carry forward (subject to return of excess profits tax) £3,671.

Burma Railway.

The net earnings of the Burma Railway Company for the year ended March 31 were Rs.1,23,21,888, compared with Rs.1,04,85,250. The gross earnings exceeded those of the previous year by Rs.40,54,533, and were the highest on record. The working expenses increased by Rs.22,17,896, and the net earnings were more by Rs.18,36,638. The company's share of surplus profits amounted to Rs.26,95,395, and realised in London £225,748. Final dividend of 1¼ per cent. (against 2¼ per cent.) and a bonus of 2 per cent. (against 1½ per cent.), both payable, less tax, on January 1. The sum of £44,000 is held in reserve for estimated excess profits duty, leaving a balance at credit of surplus profits of £157,683 (out of which the company have to pay in January next a sum on account of income tax for assessed surplus profits of 1919-20, which will not be received till June, 1920. This tax is recoverable from the shareholders on the division of this surplus). To this must be added the amount at credit of reserve fund (from surplus profits), represented by securities at cost price, £53,031. The total return, including guaranteed interest at 2½ per cent., amounts to 8 per cent. for the year, against 7½ per cent. for the preceding year.

British India Steam Navigation.

The report of the British India Steam Navigation Company for the year ended September 30, 1919, states that there is available for distribution, after providing for depreciation, £172,052, which (less interim dividends paid in May last) the directors recommend should be distributed as follows:—Dividend of 5 per cent. on Preference stock, £35,000; dividend of 8 per cent. (free of income tax) on shares, £76,576; special bonus of 4 per cent. (free of income tax) on shares, £38,288; leaving balance to be carried forward £22,188. Lord Chalmers and Lord Cunliffe have been elected directors of the company.

Tiflis Tramways.

It was announced at the meeting of November 29 that the directors were without news from Tiflis, but that the shareholders had been called together to consider a motion for the dissolution of the company put forward by a shareholder possessing more than one-twelfth of the capital.

Banque de l'Algerie.

The accounts of the Banque de l'Algerie for 1918-19 show a gross profit of 20,292,606 francs, against 22,018,548 francs for the preceding period. The net profit is 6,434,432 francs, an increase of 100,000 francs on the former account. The disposable profit amounts to 12,077,115 francs. The distribution for the first half-year having been 62,989 francs, the council fixed for the second half a dividend of 63,273 francs. The board anticipates an increase of the dividend for the current year.

North Caucasian.

The report of the North Caucasian Oilfields states that the company are still without any accounts from Russia, and therefore a short statement only of the conditions on the fields is given. In 1918, by decree of the Bolshevist Government, all oil enterprises were declared national property without compensation to the holders, and the district of Grosny in which the company's fields are situated, was freed from the Bolshevist régime by General Denikin's forces in January last. Under the local government which was established in the district the administration was then able to resume possession and at once begin operations for clearing up the disorder. It was then ascertained that the old or western fields were little damaged, and that the wells, which had been shut down, had not been tampered with, although a considerable quantity of material and stores had been stolen. It is believed that plant and machinery can be put into good order in local machine shops. When the Bolshevist revolution took place three wells on the new field caught fire and burned for many months; one well also on the new plots at Solyana Balka was set on fire, but all these fires have now been extinguished and these four wells securely capped, and they are now under control. From the fountain well No. 1, plot 232, a total of 8,000,000 poods has been sold and shipped away, and there is still in stock a quantity of 5,500,000 poods stored in open ambars and reservoirs. At the present time the ruling price of oil, in view of the excessive cost of labour, would not justify the expense of baling from any of the wells. It is estimated that, without drilling new wells, a production of about 150,000 poods per day can be obtained when once baling wells are again put into operation. So far as is known the new property at Eastysu has been well protected by the villagers and is intact, but conditions in the neighbourhood are too unsettled to resume operations. The staff in Russia have rendered splendid service through most difficult times. An increase in the company's capital from £750,000 to £1,000,000 by the creation of 500,000 Ordinary shares of 10s. each was approved by the shareholders in general meeting on April 28. Of this new capital 268,800 shares were offered to the shareholders at par, in proportion to their holdings. A balance not applied for by shareholders has been disposed of for the benefit of the company. Meeting Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., to-day, 12 room.

Eastern Telegraph.

The report of the Eastern Telegraph Company for the year ended December 31, 1918, states that the revenue amounted to £3,365,049, from which are deducted £889,233 for the ordinary expenses and £664,358 for expenditure relating to maintenance of cables, sundry differences in exchange, income and war taxes payable abroad, share of contribution to the pension and superannuation funds, towards depreciation of investments, and payments to staff and other expenses in connection with the war, leaving a balance of £1,811,458. After providing for income-tax and excess profits duty payable in England, interest on mortgage debenture stock, and dividends on preference stock, which in all absorb £1,011,303, there remains £800,155, to which is added £64,370 brought forward, making a total available balance of £864,525. The directors have placed £500,000 to the general reserve fund. Three interim dividends of 1½ per cent. each, a final dividend of 1½ per cent., and a bonus of 2 per cent. have been paid on the ordinary stock, making a total distribution of 8 per cent., free of tax, for the year, leaving £44,525 to be carried forward. Meeting, Electra House, E.C., December 17, 12.30 p.m.

Egyptian Markets.

The directors of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., have declared an interim dividend of 4 per cent. (less tax at 6s. in the £) for the year ended December 31, 1919, on the ordinary shares, payable December 22, at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 27, Clements Lane, E.C.

New Schibaieff.

The report of the New Schibaieff Petroleum Company for the year ended April 13, states that as conditions at Baku had not sufficiently improved to permit of auditors examining the books of the Russian company, the accounts only show the English company's position. No detailed reports have been received from the fields, but from certain returns which have come to hand it appears that the Russian company worked at a loss during the year 1918. The position since the beginning of 1919 has somewhat improved, in as far as the price at which the production was sold slightly exceeds the cost price, excluding amortisation. The gross production of S. M. Schibaieff and Co. for the twelve months ended April 13 amounted to 2,370,140 poods (38,228 tons), as compared with 3,706,707 poods (59,786 tons) for the previous year. The net output for the year 1918-19, after deduction of royalty and quantity used for fuel (March, 1919, being estimated), is 1,209,179 poods (19,503 tons), as compared with 2,123,545 poods (34,250 tons) for 1917-18. Towards the end of August last there were 37 wells in exploitation, with a total daily output of 9,670 poods. Work is being carried on on the oilfields with a view to increasing the production. Wells on Richard plot have been repaired, and it is intended to repair Wells No. 3 on Djakeli and No. 10 on Volchinsky. In accordance with the local manager's recommendation a sum has been authorised for the completion of the wells on the Binagadi plot, and as the directors are advised that the company's neighbours in this district have obtained very good results, they hope for favourable results. As regards the general position, during the Bolshevist rule, which lasted from June to October, 1918, the production, in common with that of all other companies, was very small. It increased after that régime was overthrown, but the directors are not able to bring it to the normal, owing to the difficulties of transport and shortage of money and materials. No progress has so far been possible in connection with the company's claim, presented through the Foreign Claims Office. Meeting, St. Helen's Court, E.C., December 18, 12.30 p.m.

Assam-Bengal Railway register and transfer books will be closed from December 17 to 31, inclusive.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ON 'CHANGE.

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

We have had a general reaction this week in sympathy with the other markets of our Stock Exchange, the set back having been due almost entirely to the further depreciation in the Continental exchanges and the appreciation in the American dollar. The result has been some heavy selling from the Continent, and prices are lower all along the line in spite of the fact that here and there Egypt has again been a buyer though on a more moderate scale than recently. Probably the Milner Mission has also engendered a cautious spirit in case of any untoward development; but, apart from politics, all the news regarding agriculture and business in Egypt remains of a most satisfactory character.

In Government stocks Egypt Unifieds have relapsed 5 points to 68¾, while Egypt Prefs. have gone back 4 points to 58. Turkish 4 per cent. (1891) and 3½ per cent. (1894) are both 4 points down at 68½ and 58½ respectively. There has been, also, a drop in Turkish Unifieds of 4½ points to 40.

In Bank shares, Nationals, in spite of some good buying during the early part of the week, came back ultimately to 20⅛, a drop of ⅜, and Agriculturals are closing to-night at 5 5-16, showing a decline of 9-32. Agricultural Prefs. are ⅛ down at 6⅞, and Anglo-Egyptian Banks are considerably lower at 16⅞. Bank of Abyssinias have receded 1-16 to 1 13-16, and Bank of Athens are about 5s. lower at 3½. Ottoman Banks have dropped ⅜ to 9, and Land Banks on Continental sales finish also ⅜ down at 6⅛.

In Railways, Delta Lights are ¼ easier at 6¼, at which price some quiet buying has been in progress.

In Land shares, Aboukirs have remained relatively firm, and are only 3d. lower at 30s. 9d. Some small business has taken place in Allotments at 4. Béhéras, after being well bought for Egypt, finished ⅜ down at 15, and Béhéra Prefs. have dropped 1-16 at 4 5-16. There has been some revival in demand for Egyptian Consolidated, which are fractionally firmer at 2s. 3d. Egyptian Land and General Trusts are a nominal market at 1-32. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts are fractionally lower at 14s. 3d., Gharbieh Lands have dropped 1-16 to 2 5-16, and New Egyptians, after pretty large business, are closing 1s. 3d. down at 26s. Sudan Plantations have dropped back ¼ to 7⅜, and Sidi Salems close 1-16 lower at 2⅛.

In Miscellaneous shares, Alexandria Water are ¼ down at 11¼. Egyptian Hotels are ¼ up at 2, Markets have dropped 1s. to 22s. 6d., and Morum's Stores are 3d. firmer at 18s. 6d.

Among the Oils, Anglo-Egyptian B close 5-16 lower at 4⅜, Roumanians are fractionally quieter at 22s. 9d., and Traians are 2s. down at 11s. 3d

In Greek securities there is again an all-round decline to be recorded, due to Continental selling. The 1881 and 1884 loans are both 2 points lower at 56, while Monopoly also have gone back 2 points to 53½. Rentes are 3½ points down at 46½, and Funding have dropped 7 points to 56. The 1902 Loan is 4½ points down at 58, the 1910 is 2 points down at 54, and the 1914 has receded 7 points to 60.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

INTERIM DIVIDEND.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an INTERIM DIVIDEND OF FOUR SHILLINGS per £5 share on COUPON No. 62 is payable on and after the 15th December, 1919, at Messrs. Barclay's Bank, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, in Alexandria, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, form of which will be supplied upon application.

Dated Alexandria, 14th November, 1919.

By order of the Board,
H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Managing Director.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price—Dec. 3	Dec. 10
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	52½	52½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	31	31
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	76	76
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	73⅜	68¾
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	62	58
Greek 5%, 1881	58	56
Do. 5%, 1884	58	56
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	55½	53½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	50	46½
Do. 5% 1890	58	58
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	63	56
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	62½	58
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	56	54
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	67	60
Do. 5% Currant	94	94
Montenegro 5% Loan	68½	67½
Persia 5% 1911	80	78½
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	61	62
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	72½	68½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	62½	58½
Do. 4% Unified	44½	40
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅛	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7	6⅞
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	69	69
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	71	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	17⅜	16⅞
Bank of Abyssinia	37.6	36/3
Bank of Athens	69/9	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	7xd	7
Bank of Roumania	8	8
British Trade Corporation	10	9¾
Imperial Ottoman Bank	9⅝	9
Imperial Bank of Persia	10⅝	10⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅜	6⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅞	6⅛
London County and Westminster	16	15⅞
National Bank of Egypt	20⅞	20⅛
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6¼	6¼
Do. 5% Debs.	78	78
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	12⅜	12⅛
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	17	17
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	59½	59½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	59⅛	59⅛
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55	55
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66xd	66xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	53	53
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	31/-	30/9
Do. 6% Debs	110xd	110xd
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	1	1
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	15⅜	15
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	25/-	25/-
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4½
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/2 paid)	2/1½	2/3
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	14/3	14/4½
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	70½	70½
Do. Land and General Trust	½	½
Do. and Foreign Trust	14/6	14/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅜	2⅜
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	2	2
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	64¾	64¾
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	7	7
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	82	82
New Egyptian Co.	27/3	26/-
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅛	2⅛
Sudan Plantations	7⅜	7⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	4⅛	4⅛
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (10/- paid)	7/-	7/3
Alexandria Water Co.	11¼	11¼
Egyptian Hotels	35/-	40/-
Do. Markets Ord.	23/6	22/6
Do, do 5% Debs. Red.	86xd	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	£3	£3
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	99⅛	98⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅛	5⅛
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅛	3⅛
Levant Co. (fully paid)	19/-	19/-
Morum's Oriental Stores. Partptg. Pref.	18/3	18/6
Suez Canal	178	178
Non Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% Loan II. Series	98⅛	103
Chinese 4½% 1898	70	69
Do. 5% 1896	83	82
Argentine 5% 1890	81	78½
Do. 5% 1907	85	85
OIL.		
Algerian	4/9½	5/6
Anglo-Bulgarian	9/9	9/3
Anglo-Egyptian B	5⅛	4⅜
Anglo-Persian Pref.	24/9	24/9
Do. 5% Debs.	91½	91½
Anglo-Roumanian	9/6	10/9
Cyprus Oil Trust	5/1½	4/6
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	9/-	9/-
Roumanian	23/-	22/9
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez, 1915 (fully paid)	8/6	8/1½
Traian (Roumanian)	13/3	11/3

Sucrerie et Raffinerie de Rustchuk. There was a profit for 1917-18 of 1,946,629 francs, as against a loss of 1,369,648 in 1916-17.

The annual general meeting of the North Caucasian Oilfields will be held at Winchester House, E.C., to-day at noon.

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Dec. 3	Dec. 10
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	60⅜	60⅜xd
Various dates.	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	68	67⅞
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
	Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959	82	82
	Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	74⅛	73½
	Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938	75	74⅜
BANKS.			
	Chartered of India	85	81
	Eastern	7⅛	7⅜
	Mercantile of India A	38½	38½
	National of India	58	57
MINES.			
	Balaghat Gold Mining	4/6	4/6
	Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	⅜	⅜
	Burma Corp.	12⅜	12⅜
	Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	16/-	14/6
	Champion Reef Gold	4/-	3/9
	Mysore Gold Mining	1⅜	⅜
	Nundydroog	16/6	16/-
	Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	17/6	17/3
	Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	20/6	20/4½
	Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)	24/3	24/3
OIL.			
	Assam Oil	2⅛	2⅞
	Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	2⅜	2⅜
	Brit. Burmah	2⅛	2⅛
	Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	17⅛	17⅛
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	1⅜	1⅜
	Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.	10	9⅞
RAILWAYS.			
	Assam Bengal	56	56
	Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	141⅜	141⅜
	Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	58	58
	Bengal-Nagpur	122⅜	123⅜
	Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	108	108
	Burma Railways	114	114
	Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
	E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13	13
	East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	12⅜	12⅜
	Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	13	13
	Madras and S. Mahratta	112⅛	112⅛
	Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	133⅜	132⅜
	Nizam's Guaranteed State	86	85
MISCELLANEOUS.			
	Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	11	11⅛
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	10
	P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	92⅛	92½
	Do. Deferred	655	610
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
	Assam Co.	78	78½
	Bengal United Tea Ord.	16½	16½
	British Indian Tea Ord.	9⅜	9⅜
	Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	17	16⅜
	Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	12/-	12/-
	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	8	8
	Consolidated Estates	7½	7½
	Darjeeling Co.	28/-	27/9
	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon, Ord.	65/-	66/6
	Dooars Tea Ord.	4⅛	4⅛
	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	1⅜	1⅜
	Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	3⅜	3⅜
	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	34/-	33/6
	Hewagam Rubber Co.	1⅛	1⅛
	Jhanzie Tea Association	12⅛	12
	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	24½	24½
	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	⅜	17/6
	Lanka Plantations Ord.	30/-	30/6
	Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	60/6	60/6
	Malayalam Rub. and Produce	46/3xd	2⅜
	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14½	14½
	P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	32/6	1⅜

The transfer register of the Debenture stock of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company will be closed from December 18 to 31 inclusive.

Owing to the delay in the receipt of the annual documents from India, the reports and accounts of the Champion Reef Gold Mining Company of India cannot be presented at the annual general meeting, to be held this month.

Transfer books of the 6 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock of the British Burmah Petroleum Company will be closed from December 18 to December 31 to prepare the warrants for the interest payable on January 1.

The directors of the Jhanzie Tea Association have declared an interim dividend of 4 per cent., or 4s. per share less tax, for season 1919, payable December 23, 1919.

The directors of the Rajawella Produce Company have declared a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent., payable January next, on the ordinary shares for the past year.

The directors of the Eastern Assam Company have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., free of tax, for the year ended December 31, payable on December 20.

The directors of the Nedeem Tea Company recommend an interim ordinary dividend of 7½ per cent. on account of season 1919, subject to tax at 6s. in the £, payable December 23.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 450.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

As a result of M. Clemenceau's visit to London and his conferences with members of the British Government it is understood that Great Britain and France are now in complete accord in regard to the more important points of the settlement of Turkey and the Middle East. The dubious attitude of the United States towards the League of Nations and the likelihood that they will accept no mandate in Asia Minor make it incumbent on the British and French Governments to lose no more time in settling a question that has already been left far too long in abeyance. The approval of the United States Government will still have been sought and obtained for the decisions reached; but it was essential to show the world, and in particular Turkey, that the two Powers are not only in accord, but are quite able of themselves to adjust any point that may have been postponed by the Paris Conference as originally constituted.

In view, however, of the Supreme Council's record, for which Great Britain and France must accept the major responsibility, any satisfaction over the fact that the settlement of Turkey has now been brought within sight will be chastened by uncertainty as to the precise terms of the agreement arrived at in London. Until, therefore, the actual Treaty is made public, we must content ourselves with the reflection that with the lapse of time actual conditions in the territories concerned are conspiring to enforce a reasonable settlement. Eastern matters were not the only subject discussed between M. Clemenceau and Mr. Lloyd George. France is especially interested in a number of economic questions awaiting solution, and this circumstance should have contributed to moderate some of the emphasis hitherto laid on a settlement in regard to the former Ottoman Empire which rather followed the lines of Imperialist aspirations than conformed with the principle of self-determination. The incidents that have accompanied the withdrawal of British troops and the raising of the Tricolour will, it is to be hoped, have convinced the French that their mandate in Syria will call for the exercise of extreme caution and tact on the part of local officials.

The subject of Armenia was raised by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the House of Lords on Wednesday and provided the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs with an opportunity of recapitulating what had already been done by the Allies for the Armenians. With regard to the future Lord Curzon could not hold out much hope that the United States would accept responsibility for the Armenian State, and he seemed to indicate that the Allies proposed to set up an independent Armenia, and to offer it all the blessing they could, but without the definite protection of a mandatory Power. Whether this is the final decision of the Allies remains to be seen. Possibly the failure of any such incomplete settlement might help the United States to realise how much it had fallen short of its duty to civilisation. In the meantime, steps have been taken to bring about peace between the Armenian Republic set up in Transcaucasia and its neighbour, Azerbaijan, through the mediation of the Allied High Commissioner, Colonel Haskell. Armenian territorial claims stretch from Trebizond to Alexandretta; but Lord Curzon made it clear that the region to be incorporated within the new Armenian State would not include a Mediterranean as well as a Black Sea littoral.

The announcement that a British School of Archæology is to be established in Jerusalem will give pleasure to all those who are acquainted with the facts of the case, and who know what has been done and what has had to be left undone in this field in past years. We hail with particular satisfaction the announcement that a branch of the School at Baghdad is already in contemplation; for, as THE NEAR EAST has repeatedly pointed out, the early sites of Babylonia cry more urgently than any others for early and skilled investigation. In that land of flood and mud every winter works havoc with remains of the utmost value to the trained excavator and archæologist; but Great Britain, which was one of the first in the field of exploration of the ruins, had lately stood aside and left other nations to carry on the work and reap the credit. There is now a prospect—and, we hope, a fair one—of those conditions being changed. The claims of Palestine to further examination need no emphasising here. We are glad to note that the Government, through the Foreign Office, is taking an interest in the proposed School; Professor Garstang, who has been provisionally appointed Director, is well qualified for the post, and the Organising Committee is a strong one in many ways. A good start has, therefore, been made. It rests with the public to do their share to make this new national undertaking a success.

The old saying "no news is good news" probably holds true with regard to the Milner Mission, which has now been in Cairo ten days, and is, very wisely, taking stock of its surroundings before beginning its sittings. As a matter of fact, it is obviously a good move to accustom the Egyptians to the presence in their midst of the Mission, and it is not to be doubted that the

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members are utilising the period of quiet to get in touch with native opinion of the less noisy kind, through the medium of personal conversations with leaders of moderate opinion. Lord Milner and the other members of the Mission have been received by the Sultan, and have now doubtless paid and received all the customary visits of ceremony.

It is understood that the Mission intends to visit some of the chief provincial towns and centres, and as neither Cairo nor Alexandria can fairly claim to represent the thought and spirit of the country, this is a very wise decision. If it were possible to pay surprise visits to one or two representative villages, such an extension of the plan would almost certainly yield valuable results. The Fellah, without the agitator at his elbow to bully or cajole him, would probably welcome the Mission, and speak his mind out freely; he would be far more likely to do it in his own village than in any other place to which he might be called to offer evidence; and his evidence would surely be of high value to the Mission. It is to be feared that, like the Indian peasant, he is often in danger of being forgotten by the politicians—except when they want something from him—but he is actually the most important person in Egypt.

An attempt to assassinate the Prime Minister of Egypt was made on December 15 by a Coptic student. The would-be assassin first threw a bomb, then fired a revolver, but happily both efforts failed, and he was at once arrested. Perhaps the most significant thing about the attempt is the fact that it was made by a co-religionist of the Prime Minister. The Copts have hitherto usually failed to respond to the lure of the agitator, and as a body they will sincerely regret that some of the younger members of their community have broken away from the old tradition and allied themselves to the party of violence and self-seeking. Unfortunately, it is not possible to persuade ourselves that these moral renegades are always misguided; for while Yussuf Wahba Pasha's assailant will probably be found to fall under that category, the editor of the *Egyptian Circular*, who was recently arrested in London, for deportation to Egypt, was a very astute person, in his own fashion.

The Zibar Kurds, whose territory lies north-east of Mosul, have been taught that the consequences of an attack on British forces are likely to be very different from those of an attack on the forces of the Padishah. It will be remembered that a few weeks ago they allowed their natural lawlessness to gain the upper hand, and indulged in outrages and disorders which culminated in the murder of two British Political Officers. The War Office announces that the punitive operations undertaken against them have now been successfully executed, with slight loss to ourselves, and that civil administration has been restored in the district. The troops engaged in these operations comprised four Indian battalions, a mountain battery, and three companies of those Assyrians of whom the Rev. W. Wigram wrote in last week's NEAR EAST. The impassable nature of the country is said to have proved the greatest difficulty that our force had to encounter. Having regard to that factor, even without taking into account the Kurd's qualities as a fighter, the swiftness with which these operations have been conducted to a successful finish is highly creditable to all concerned. It would be too much to hope, however, that this will be the last expedition of the kind that it will be necessary to despatch.

A curious incident is reported from Deir ez-Zor, a town of some importance on the Euphrates, and the starting point of the desert road, by way of Tadmor, to Damascus. On December 11 this place was suddenly raided, quite in the old-fashioned style, by a certain Ramadhan es-Shallash, who was recently appointed by the Arab Government as Kaimakam of Rakka. The bazaar was looted, Government buildings were set on fire, and British and Arab officials, both military and civil, were imprisoned. The India Office in the *communiqué* in which it describes these events adds: "We cannot doubt that this was done without the consent or knowledge of the Arab Government. It appears that Ramadhan was accompanied by [a] representative of Ibrahim Pasha Milli from the Turkish side of the frontier. Complicity of the Rahba frontier authorities is therefore suspected." And the *communiqué* concludes: "Deir ez-Zor having been evacuated by the Turks and occupied by the British last year in accordance with the terms of the Armistice with Turkey, its forcible seizure is a grave offence against the authority of the Peace Conference, and against that of all the nations concerned."

All this is very true, but it might be as easy to exaggerate the importance of the incident as it would be to minimise it. On the one hand, if the effervescent Ramadhan is—as his name suggests—a desert Arab newly appointed to office, it is quite possible that his exploit was the result of *razzia* fever, so to say; and the fact that his party was accompanied by some of the Milli Kurds rather lends support to this theory. In this case, he and his freebooting friends must, of course, be taught that such proceedings are quite out of date in the new world arranged by the Paris Conference; but, that done, the matter may well be allowed to drop. On the other hand, if the outbreak is connected with the unrest and dissatisfaction caused in Syria by the replacing of British troops by French, the trouble may spread until it becomes extremely dangerous. Unfortunately this would seem to be by no means an unlikely alternative. A recent report refers to the growth of a hostile feeling towards the British, for their support of the French, and the withdrawal from the city of all Europeans. Moreover, two British officers, who lately arrived, are reported to have been warned not to enter the city. It looks, therefore, as if Arab feeling has been so thoroughly aroused by the French occupation, and our support of it, that we may expect further trouble.

Dispatches from General Sir Reginald Wingate describing the military operations in the Hejaz between June, 1916, and January of this year have been published this week. The story they tell is now well known, but it repays reading again, and a study of the dispatches makes it clearer than ever that these operations in Western Arabia played a quite important part in bringing about the defeat of the Turk. A point which stands out boldly from the story is the value of the personal factor in all dealings with the Arab. Thus we read: "Moreover, the reaction of Faisal's success upon his brothers has produced, in emulation, a degree of activity in the southern theatre never hitherto attained," and the influence of the British and French officers over their men was extraordinary.

The Sultan of Turkey has granted an interview to an American pressman, and the result makes somewhat pathetic reading. For the Sultan urges that his people are "honest and gifted," and that they "have many merits, and deserve better than is reported of them." Three of these claims at least will be readily conceded by many people who know the Turks; but when his Majesty remarks that "as soon as peace is signed we shall tackle the solution of our internal affairs," it looks as if the fatal habit of procrastination has not yet been overcome by the Turks. It would no doubt be extremely difficult to accomplish much in the way of internal reforms at the present time, but an honest attempt, however humble, in that direction should, and probably would, carry a good deal of weight with the Allied Powers, if only the Turks were to make it; and the present conditions, difficult though they be, are not entirely unfavourable to an endeavour to introduce reforms in one or two directions. The Sultan and his subjects, however, seem to be unable to do anything of the kind so long as the peace terms are kept back. And though their friends may regret the attitude, they cannot in fairness deny that it is a perfectly natural one.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

M. Clemenceau's Visit.

The political event of the week has been the visit of M. Clemenceau and his discussion with Mr. Lloyd George and other members of the Government of foreign, colonial, and economic policy. Considerable reticence has been observed as to the matters under review, but there is no doubt that the immediate cause of the Premiers' Conference was the situation arising out of the American rejection of the treaty—a matter on which Washington advices indicate that the quarrel between President Wilson and Senate is to be pushed to the extreme limit. There is no doubt that the presence of M. Clemenceau in Downing Street has had a steadying influence on Berlin, which is naturally prepared to take advantage of any division of opinion among the Allies; but it is understood that the Conference also discussed Russian policy—on which it came to no new conclusion—as well as those difficult Near and Middle Eastern matters which lie outside the scope of this column.

In addition, the economic position of France was the subject of debate. It is an unfortunate fact that France has not been able to reconstruct her industry with the same speed as England, for obvious reasons; and the continued depreciation of the exchange, which was entirely unexpected at the beginning of the year, renders it impossible for her to export to us in any quantity, and very expensive for her to buy from us. What, if any, steps have been taken to rectify this position in the way of stabilising the exchange is not publicly known, but it is announced that a French loan is to be floated in London in the near future. The origin of the difficulty appears to lie in the continued postponement of the anticipated American help for France.

M. Clemenceau has evidently not lost his war-time popularity in England, for he was more cordially received by the crowd than by the climate, which has been unusually depressing even for December. But his visit was emphatically one of business, not of pleasure or triumphal processions or popular receptions.

Parliament.

The Government has been uniformly unfortunate in its dealings with the House of Commons during the past few days. The Bill which was to limit the profits of the coalowners was hurriedly withdrawn, after a very damaging debate in which the Labour Party for once really distinguished itself. The Electricity Bill has had its backbone taken out by the dropping of its compulsory powers; the Home Rule Bill for Ireland, like the Anti-Dumping Bill, has been postponed till after Christmas. On the Home Rule policy, indeed, Mr. Lloyd George promises to make a full statement before the House rises; it is, in fact, long overdue. But the prospects that the Bill, whose main outlines are already fairly well known, will settle the Irish problem are very remote.

The present House, however, is apathetic over the Irish question, and it must be admitted that the British public shares its lassitude. Both have been cajoled, and bullied, and urged, and entreated to find a way out, and both would willingly accept it if the Irish could find a solution themselves. The fact that they cannot, and apparently will not, accept any other arrangement, combined with the memory of the Easter Rebellion and other episodes of the war, has had an adverse effect on British opinion, which is also not very favourably impressed by the activities of the Sinn Feiners in America and the floatings of Irish Republican loans. However, it is evident that things can hardly go on indefinitely as they are, for crime and outrage seem to be getting worse, and it is no longer possible to attribute this, as was the case thirty years ago, to poverty. Even in the legendary days of her kings, Ireland was never so prosperous as at this moment.

A Labour Cabinet?

The Labour Party are taking up the challenge recently thrown down to them by Mr. Winston Churchill and others, who expressed a doubt if they would be able to form a Government if called upon. The problem has become one of practical politics since the break-up of the old Liberal Party during the autumn, for Labour is now the only alternative to the Coalition. Mr. Thomas states that Labour is not only ready to form a Cabinet, but to govern the country as best it can, and that, too, with no exclusive eye to the interests of any particular class. The last remark shows true political capacity. Nobody, of course, doubts that Labour could form a Cabinet, and would do its best; what is doubtful is whether it would get a majority in the country, and whether its present leaders are big enough for the task. On this matter the best friends of Labour believe that they are more likely to be successful in ten years' time than at present; and it must be admitted that, whatever the politicians think and the newspapers say, the general sentiment of the country is against an election in 1920. If other proof were needed, the smallness of the polls at recent by-elections should be sufficient to convince the perfervid pro-electioneers; and, indeed, it is probable that any election would merely restore the present Government to power by a somewhat reduced majority. That is not exactly what Labour wants, for small majorities often last longer than large ones, owing to the sense of discipline and keenness engendered.

International Sport.

A challenge has been sent by Oxford and Cambridge Universities to Yale and Harvard for a joint-track team from the two American colleges to race a similar British team. The challenge has, of course, been accepted at once, and the race will probably take place in mid-July, 1920. It will be the fifth of a series which was interrupted by the war; and the fact that each side has two victories to its credit will give an added zest to the contest.

It may be anticipated that challenges will shortly be exchanged for an international rowing match of a somewhat similar character.

Distributors and Wages.

The strike at the Army and Navy Stores has had its inevitable sequel, and applications for recognition of the distributors' trades unions and increases of pay are being made by the employees of most of the great shops. In many cases employers have fully recognised their responsibilities in the past, and the scale of payment has often been higher than in the small retail shops; but there are, of course, exceptions, and use is being made of these exceptions to brand the whole class of employers in the distributing trades as soulless sweaters. A long period of unrest seems inevitable in this department of industry, with the prospect of occasional strikes, but it is by no means certain that public opinion will be with the agitator and strikers indefinitely. The Army and Navy Stores' affair was recognised everywhere as an exceptional case.

So far as independent economists have studied the general question, it seems that the producer gets less

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and the distributor more than his share of profit. In some cases, no doubt, the distributor increased his already large profits by underpaying his staff, with the exception of the buyers; but it must be remembered that the bulk of the staff required little specialised knowledge, had no real responsibility, and could consequently be replaced with ease. That is certainly no reason for sweating people, or giving bad conditions of service; but it is a very cogent reason against increasing wages beyond a certain level. The skilled worker, and the worker whose judgment is sound enough to secure him responsibility, will always obtain higher money than the ruck of general assistants.

A New Shipbuilding Centre.

The war woke many an old English port from the contented slumber of centuries to sudden activity. Most of these settled down to sleep again soon after the Armistice, but two at least have determined to "seek not yet repose." Falmouth profited by the practical closing of Plymouth to commerce for five years, and the old Cornish town found its magnificent harbours still capable of dealing with much of the Atlantic traffic of modern days; Poole appears to be still more ambitious, for it intends to build ships as well as sail them in future.

The Dorset port was practically ruined years ago by its narrow entrance and its difficult channels, and the greater enterprise of Southampton left Poole no longer a centre for business, but a kind of annexe of Bournemouth, the home of retired people who wanted quietude, and a centre for trippers intent on seeing the Hardy country. (Poole becomes Havenpool in the Wessex novels, and Egdon Heath lies at its back door.) But during the war even Poole realised that there was such a thing as being alive on this planet, and that there is more active work to be done than catering for tourists. It became a distributing centre for goods en route to France, more vessels entered its placid waters in a week than had previously sailed up the tideway in a year, and Poole seems to have enjoyed the novelty. Whether it will now be able to compete with the great Northern shipbuilding centres on ordinary commercial lines remains to be seen, but at least Dorset means to do its best to live up to its new reputation for ambition.

Rural Changes.

Changes of this kind are not confined to old seaports; they meet the eye in many an unsuspected village. A quiet hamlet in Kent, which regarded a one-horse omnibus as a modernist innovation a few years ago and frankly distrusted the seven-miles distant South-Eastern Railway as a dangerous concession to the craze for speed before the war, is now the near neighbour of an enormous aerodrome, and the inhabitants of its rose-clad cottages are getting accustomed to the motor-bus, the motor-lorry, and the aeroplane. Ruskin would have deplored the change, and if Tennyson had been alive he would probably have written, not of "new men, strange faces, other minds," but of "new motors, strange Fiats, other mud"—for the lorries have broken down old country roads not built for such traffic, and the dust on a dry day and the mud after a week's rain must be seen—unfortunately it is sometimes tasted—to be believed. But the villagers, particularly the young women, seem to like the revolution because it brings life to their doors; and both squire and parson assure me that the revolution in transport has done something to check emigration to the towns, and to allay some of that rather sullen discontent which at times resulted from the dreary monotony of village life.

Catastrophic Prophecies.

There has been an extraordinary crop of predictions recently of the approaching end of the world, probably as an aftermath of the theory that the war was in fact Armageddon. Several of these have been worked out in some detail, and with a pseudo-scientific show of learning; the most elaborate prophecy fixed the time and hour of the catastrophe as the afternoon of December 17, on account of a supposed juxtaposition of the planets of our solar system on a single line being presumed to exert too heavy a pull on the sun. As it always happens in these cases, the facts are all wrong, so one can disregard both the theory and its consequence; but repeated failure does not seem to daunt the prophets or even appreciably to reduce their very small band of followers. It is on record that one man sold his business and parted with his home a year ago on account of a similar prediction, but such extreme cases are probably excessively rare in these sceptical days.

The Week's Books.

There is always a public for autobiography, and the latest book of reminiscences—Sir David Blair's "Medley of Memories"—is certain of a large sale. The author is a Benedictine monk, but that has not prevented him from enjoying life, and accumulating a fund of good stories. One of his best concerns Mr. Gladstone.

The great statesman, almost in the last year of his life, happened to meet an old Etonian, and with a keen memory of his former school, he asked whether the custom of "booing" the headmaster on certain occasions still existed. He was told that it had completely died out. "Sir," said Gladstone—and he emphasised his protest by hitting the table with his fist until the glasses rang—"it is a thousand pities. It was the national privilege of disagreeing with those in authority." The saying was entirely characteristic of Mr. Gladstone's later life.

Another book, "The Erotic Motive in Literature," by Mr. Albert Mordell, is an attempt to illustrate the Freudian psychoanalysis by an examination of English literature; it deals with the subliminal and subconscious selves of Shakespeare, Swinburne, and many other authors. It is an interesting but by no means conclusive attempt to discuss the mystery of genius from a new angle. One would imagine that this kind of book was caviare to the general, but a cheap reprint of the late Mr. Myers' classic work on "Human Personality" seems to show that we are all psychical researchers nowadays. These things run in cycles; for the moment sex is out of date, and souls are all the fashion.

Those whose tastes run on more normal lines may prefer Mr. Charles Whibley's "Literary Studies," an interpretation both sound and brilliant of the great seventeenth and eighteenth century writers; or Dean Inge's "Outspoken Essays," in which one of the most thoughtful clerics of the day discusses modern religious tendencies.

A beautiful collected and uniform edition of Kipling's "Poems," scattered through various magazines and volumes during the past thirty years, follows rather curiously in the wake of Thomas Hardy's "Collected Poems." No two writers are more utterly different in taste, texture, and outlook, and it is a queer coincidence which brings them side by side on the bookseller's shelf in the same week. It is very doubtful whether anybody save the professional critic will buy both authors.

On the mere matter of sales, which is admittedly not the best test of literary value, a typical bookseller assures me that Kipling as a whole sells rather less in peace than in war, Hardy remains serenely unaffected either by peace or war, and that the only author of the front rank who is really losing his grip on the public is George Meredith, the demand for whom has fallen off rather noticeably of late. Probably Meredith's style is now, as ever, the real stumbling-block.

OCELLUS.

THE TOMBS OF THE KINGS AT THEBES

At the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, Professor E. Newberry gave a lecture, on December 12, on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Fund. His subject was "The Tombs of the Kings at Thebes." At the outset the lecturer briefly outlined the history of Thebes, and described the Royal Necropolis and the two kinds of royal tombs that have been found in it: the pyramid tomb and the corridor tomb cut in the rock. He then told his audience what is known about the plundering of the tombs in ancient times. The wealth of gold and silver which they contained led to systematic looting.

The lecturer described some of the wonderful "finds" in the tombs of the kings at Thebes of the last twenty-five years, with all of which he has been associated. A very interesting series of photographs of objects found in these tombs was shown on the screen. These photographs included a perfect chariot, with leather tyres to the wheels; several chairs, with rush-bottomed seats and very beautifully carved arms and backs; a bedstead, a toilet table and jewel casket, a king's leather gauntlet, and a great variety of other objects. One of the most remarkable things found was a piece of woven tapestry bearing the name of Amenhotep II., and having a diapered pattern of lotus and papyrus flowers worked in it.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, December 2.

Lord Allenby in Syria.

This week Lord Allenby has paid a flying visit to Syria. He left Cairo on Wednesday morning by special train for Alexandria, where he embarked on a cruiser for Beyrout, and he was back at the Residency on Friday at noon. At Beyrout he met General Gouraud, with whom he spent two or three hours. From unofficial travellers who have just returned, I understand that the situation in Syria and Palestine has much improved, and that, while there is still some excitement in Damascus, the relations between the French and the Arabs are very much better than they were a month or so ago.

The Political Situation.

The political situation in Egypt continues outwardly to improve. Whatever intrigues may be going on under the surface, and however active the political agitators may still be, the fact remains that demonstrations have ceased, and that, despite the arrest and segregation of political leaders and agitators, including two prominent Azhar Sheikhs, there has, for some time now, been nothing to disturb public order. Whether the political agitators are reserving themselves for the arrival of the Milner Mission it is difficult to say; opinions differ very much on the point, but at the same time there is a general feeling that the show of firmness on the part of the British authorities, since Lord Allenby's return, has materially diminished the fear of any organised outbreak, and that even if demonstrations are attempted they will be neither whole-hearted nor widespread. The opinion is, indeed, gaining ground that, although a boycott may be attempted, it will fail, and that the Milner Mission—which, it is understood, will be prepared to receive and listen to representative Egyptians, no matter what their opinions may be, and will not confine its inquiries to Cairo and Alexandria, but will move about the country—will find its time fully occupied in taking the evidence of the witnesses ready to come before it.

The New Cabinet.

The declaration made by Lord Curzon in the House of Lords, which has brought the Parliamentary recital of events up to date, is a very welcome contribution to the series of official declarations. With the sole exception that it assigns the cause of the troubles erroneously to economic conditions, it states the position in this country clearly and fairly. While it has quite naturally not been at all to the taste of the more obstinate element amongst the young Egyptians, it is recognised by the Moderates as calculated to strengthen their own position and that of the new Cabinet.

The latter is still the subject of acute hostility on the part of the Extremists, and attacks continue to be made on it *en bloc*, and also on the Ministers individually. During the past few days it has been repeatedly called upon to announce its programme, and deputations have visited the Prime Minister in order to ask him for a statement of his policy. But Wahba Pasha is not the sort of man to be caught. Unlike Rushdi Pasha, who allowed himself to be brow-beaten by students and schoolboys, or Said Pasha, who, despite his astuteness, fell into the trap laid for him last October, Wahba Pasha realises that interviews and declarations of this nature can serve no useful purpose; so he has steadfastly declined to receive deputations or make any declaration whatsoever.

Statements have been made that the new Cabinet accepted office on the promise of certain definite concessions; but it may be taken as certain that no such concessions were made, and that no promises have been given that will in any way alter or modify the declaration of November 15, which remains, and will remain, as the British Government's statement of policy with regard to the future of the country. Having come into office in the present circumstances, there can be no doubt that the new Cabinet has agreed to carry on under the Protectorate with a view to obtaining the most liberal form of self-Government that it is possible to secure from the Protecting Power. Statements of policy on its part are therefore superfluous and only calculated to entangle it in controversial discussions.

The Attacks on British Troops.

The only unsatisfactory feature in the situation is the attacks which are being made with uncomfortable frequency on British officers and soldiers in Cairo. These attacks have been going on for over a fortnight now. At first made in the outlying and less frequented quarters, they have now spread towards the more populous districts. They have in every instance been made after dark and from behind, and the assailants have invariably been able to make good their escape. Inquiry has proved in each case the absence of any private motive, and there is no doubt that these attacks are purely political.

It may be remembered that last spring similar attacks were made on British officers and men, who were followed about until they reached a sufficiently quiet spot, and were then assaulted, and in some cases killed. Everything points, however, to the present series, which has fortunately so far resulted in only one death, being carried out in a much more systematic manner; and whilst the attacks may quite possibly be neither inspired by nor known to the Extremist leaders, they would appear to be the work of a gang of low-class Effendies, who, excited by the happenings of the past few months and what has appeared in the vernacular Press, have taken upon themselves to avenge the imaginary wrongs of their country by shooting at every uniform they come across, always arranging, however, to choose circumstances which would favour their escape.

These attacks have become sufficiently serious for the military authorities to intervene and take special measures to deal with them. In the first place, certain areas where they are most exposed have been declared out of bounds after dusk for British officers and men; secondly, a proclamation has been issued declaring that all permits for the carrying of firearms have been cancelled and must be renewed, and that anyone found in

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possession of firearms without a new permit will be liable to be brought before a military court; and, finally, a reward has been offered to anyone who gives information leading to the conviction of anyone who has attempted or intends to attempt the life of any member of the British Forces.

The Situation on the Railways.

The situation on the railways has improved very much, and there are neither signs nor talk of restlessness amongst the men. This result redounds very much to the credit of the general manager and his senior staff, who have spared no personal effort in getting to the bottom of the trouble and removing any real cause for grievance. The scheme of volunteers to take the place of regular workers in the case of a strike has undoubtedly contributed greatly to the attainment of this result. While it may have conduced to decide the weaker men to remain faithful to their employers, it has at the same time shown the agitators behind the movement that any attempt at a general strike would not attain the end they had in view, and that they would do their cause more harm than good by trying conclusions with the railway authorities.

This scheme of volunteer workers has at the same time supplied the country with a guarantee that no matter what may happen in the future the railways will henceforward never be caught unawares. A special section has been created in which complete records are kept up to date of the many thousand volunteers who have offered their services, and where, the lists having been collated and examined by the various departments concerned, a note is kept of the particular work which each volunteer will be called upon to do in the event of an emergency. Whilst effecting the immediate purpose for which it has been created, it will at the same time act as a recruiting agency for a good deal of the unemployed labour which, strange as it may seem, appears to exist at the present moment in the country; and it is with this double object that it has been decided to make this section a permanent addition to the State Railways Administration.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, December 6.

Watching Italy.

Political events in Italy are watched with keen interest in Belgrade. Sensational rumours of a revolution, of the abdication of the King, were received and spread, only to be contradicted. Serbs certainly hope that internal affairs in Italy will cause a change in her chauvinistic policy, and D'Annunzio's proceedings especially are being watched. It is argued that as the Italian Government, out of deference to Paris, has repudiated the poet, the Powers ought to clear him out as the common bandit that he is, if his own Government is incapable of doing so. Serbia's attitude is unprovocative, but she is ready for emergencies. The authorities are having some difficulty in restraining the infuriated Slavonic population of the infested districts, for bands of volunteers are ready, straining at the leash; "if only the Entente would give us the mandate to clear up the business," they say, "we would have D'Annunzio out in a day." Meanwhile, Serbia is blockaded, isolated from the sea, and British goods and private property are detained at Fiume.

CROWE & STEVENS,

Steamship Agents and Commercial Representatives,

PATRAS, PIRÆUS, ATHENS, SALONICA.

The shortage of locomotives is producing a curious and unexpected reaction on foreign politics. M. Kristan, the Socialist Minister, has visited Vienna as a member of the committee which is proceeding to Vienna, Prague, and Berlin to beg, borrow, or buy locomotives, and to arrange for the repair of the hundreds of unserviceable ones which are legacies of the war. The Minister reports from Vienna that the Austrian authorities are willing and able to receive a substantial number for repair, and meanwhile to lend Serbia a fair quantity of serviceable locomotives, if the Belgrade Government will carry out a certain agreement which had been reached but not acted on. Now there is appearing a strong feeling in favour of assisting the Austrian Republic, which is living in very difficult times; for, owing to the food shortage and general discontent, there is a movement in favour of the restoration of the Monarchy, a movement which Yugoslavs very naturally regard with alarm, especially as it seems to be even more pronounced in Budapest. Consequently there is a revulsion of feeling in favour of Vienna, and an inclination to do all they can to assist the Austrians and so support the republican form of government. The Serbs' political instinct is, of course, absolutely right in seeing the enemy not in Vienna nor in the Austrian people, but in the Hapsburgs, who, they had hoped, were by now politically extinct; and the accession of a member of that effete dynasty to the Hungarian throne would be viewed here with dismay. It is feared that the infant Otto will actually be elected King of Hungary, under the regency of the Archduke Joseph, who has shown himself in word and deed to be Serbia's most savage and brutal enemy.

Serbians Disappointed by Paris.

A marked feeling of depression is noticeable among Serbs to-day, due to the treatment that they are receiving at Paris—treatment which they, rightly or wrongly, attribute to the hostile influence of Italy. Events at Fiume, in Montenegro, Dalmatia, and now the attack by Magyar troops on the demarcation line, which has caused loss of life; Roumania's treatment of Serbs left behind at Temesvar, the obnoxious clauses in the Austrian Treaty, which were smoothed over at the last minute; then the crushing financial clauses. Now the Allies have taken away the Pechuj collieries, when there is already a coal famine in the country; and there is also the affair of the Danube steamers, which are being taken from them; and though they will probably finally get just treatment in this respect, they still resent it at the moment. Then they are losing Barania; they see Bulgaria, defeated, released of her war debt, while Serbia herself, victorious, is to be made to pay in full, with interest. Yugoslavia has miles of rocky, indented, inaccessible coast, but no port yet; Fiume is closed to her, and she will probably lose it; Salonika is congested. And the Serbs can assign no other reason than the sinister influence of Italy, who is certainly in sympathy and understanding with the enemies which surround Serbia, Bulgars, Magyars, and now Roumanians, who were previously perfectly friendly.

There is certainly cause for depression, though philosophers may take heart, for the strength of the Serbian people has been her resistance and endurance in defeat. So long as she is surrounded by enemies, Serbia will remain strong and united, but if her frontiers were free from aggression she might sink in the depths of materialism and degenerate in comfort: for the high idealism that is so marked a feature of the national character flourishes best in a soil of adversity.

"Union Day."

On festive days the *Glas Tsrnogorska*, the old Montenegrin official paper, used to appear at Cettigne with a border in the national colours. This pleasing custom obtains, too, in Serbia, but when the *Sluzhbene Novine*, the Serbian official gazette, for December 1 appeared, there was something unusual about its appearance, for the order of the colours in the ornamental margin was reversed. Instead of the familiar tricolour, or *triboiwik*, of red, white, and blue, with the red outside, the order is now reversed, with the blue on the outside;

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these are the colours, not of Serbia, but of Yugoslavia, the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and December 1 was the anniversary of the proclamation of union. The past six weeks have been so crowded with anniversaries of the tremendous events of that wonderful month last year that one has felt rather bewildered; but little official notice was taken; even the expulsion of the enemy was but feebly celebrated. Now we see the reason, for December 1, Union Day, is to be the great day, and by Royal Proclamation it is for ever to be held as a national holiday. This year the morning broke bright and sunny, and all looked forward to a warm, springlike day: but unfortunately the heat of the previous few days had evoked a thick, damp mist from the Save and the Danube, which came rolling over about nine o'clock, making the air damp and chilly. But the town was gaily decorated with flags, and a military parade was held in the morning, when the recruits of the gallant Moravska Division marched through the town. They are a fine body of lads, well set-up and sturdy, looking worthy to carry on the splendid tradition of this division established during the past stormy seven years.

An Unexpected Attack.

On November 29, at seven o'clock in the morning, a detachment of Hungarian troops, with machine-guns, crossed the demarcation line without warning, near Sabolakasha, and advanced to Dendva. A party of Serbian recruits who were in the town opposed this unprovoked attack, and drove the Magyars off, but the enemy took with them as prisoners a Captain Gregorievijitch and seven gendarmes. Later advices show that the Hungarian detachment was about a thousand strong, and that they attacked at three points. As the onslaught was totally unexpected, they succeeded in occupying two or three villages before they were driven out, at the cost of ten killed, many wounded, and some prisoners. The Serbian population in Prekomurje is in a great state of anxiety, especially as it appears that Paris is going to award this district to Hungary. The political motive of the attack is obvious—that is, an attempt to rouse the natives to a show of dissatisfaction with the Yugoslav authorities: it was apparently timed to coincide with aggressive action on the part of D'Annunzio in Dalmatia. The Serbian Government has lodged a most vigorous protest, and has stopped sending food supplies into Hungary.

The discontent of the Serbs is increased by the repeated request of Lieut.-Col. Moore, who arrived with four other Allied officers at Pechuj and called upon the Serbian Commandant, Lieut.-Col. Djoka Georgevitch, to evacuate the Barania. The Colonel made the only possible reply—that he was unable to evacuate without orders from his own authorities.

It is reported from Bakar, the Yugoslav frontier near Fiume, that the Serbian General Militch has declared that he does not recognise Admiral Millo at Zadar as representing the Italian authorities, since he has been repudiated by his own Government, but as the representative of D'Annunzio, and expressed the hope that the Italian *stationnaire* Puglia will leave Splijet. The Italian officers declared that they did not recognise the orders of the Serbians, but the vessel is reported to have left the harbour.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 1.

The Caucasian Republics.

For some little time interest has been growing with regard to the unrecognised republics of the Caucasus, and recent events in connection with the volunteer army's Daghestan expedition have caused considerable consternation among the partisans of the independence of Georgia and Azerbaijan, as well as among certain Turkish circles which are still obsessed by the pan-Turanian idea. The Moslems of Daghestan gave the Russians considerable trouble in the middle of last century, and have never really been content under Muscovite dominion, which deprived the mountaineers of extensive pastures in favour of the Terek Cossacks. Thus, when the Bolshevist revolution demoralised the Cossacks in 1918, the province of Daghestan was declared a republic, and the Cossacks were induced to restore the lands which had been attributed to them. It seems that a further turn of Fortune's wheel has made the Cossacks reluctant to abide by their agreement; and perhaps there may be a repetition of the long guerilla warfare which the Russians had to wage over sixty years ago before they conquered the province.

Of the three other Caucasian republics Georgia is in many respects the most interesting. Although only the northern frontier is in any way defined, Georgia consists roughly of the Russian provinces of Tiflis and Kutais, but also claims Batum, which the Germans had attributed to Turkey in 1918. The Georgians possess a distinct language, and boast of a history that goes back a couple of thousand years or more. They are Christians of the Greek rite, but proclaimed their emancipation from the Russian Church at the same time as they proclaimed their political independence. The whole nation is decidedly anti-Bolshevist, but is very doubtful about Denikin, who is thought to threaten its new-born independence. It is for this reason that the Georgians, although no friends of the Turks, are not unwilling to co-operate both with the Turko-Tatars of Azerbaijan and the Turkish Nationalists. Between them and the Armenians there is no love lost, partly on account of Armenian territorial claims and partly because the Armenian is a very astute business man who controls a considerable proportion of Georgian commerce.

The Republic of Azerbaijan consists roughly of the Russian provinces of Elizabetpol and Baku. THE NEAR EAST of November 7 quotes an important English newspaper which speaks of the Republic of Azerbaijan as including the Persian province of the same name. While doubtless there may be aspirations in that direction, this is an error, though a not uncommon one. Whatever the Azerbaijan Republic may hope for in the future, at present there is not much question of trying to incorporate the Persian province within its frontiers. That would be a morsel which, in view of the Anglo-Persian Agreement, might cause a fatal attack of indigestion. The Azerbaijan Republic is more prudently concerning itself with nothing more than the attempt to obtain recognition of its independence and the inclusion of the Baku oilfield within its border. To this end, although most of the population is of the Shiah sect, and therefore not particularly well-disposed to the

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Turks, who are Sunnis, the republic is more than willing to co-operate with the Turks, especially now that their fellow Moslems in Daghestan have had to try conclusions with the Volunteer Army. A delegate of the republic, Yussuf Bey Veziroff, has been in Constantinople for some time, and is said to have established cordial relations with the Turkish Government. Meanwhile, according to the announcements of the local Press, Enver is reported to be in the Azerbaijan, an announcement which *donne furieusement à penser*.

The Position of the Armenians.

The Armenian Republic consists at present of the provinces of Erivan and Kars, and is in a very different position from that of the other Caucasian republics, for it is practically certain that its independence will be guaranteed by one or all of the Great Powers, and there is therefore little to fear from Denikin or the advocates of the reconstitution of pre-war Russia. The President of the Republic, M. Hadissian, was a wealthy Tiflis merchant who abandoned his business interests for the sake of his country. The Armenians are all more or less of Socialist opinions, and there exist two Armenian committees that are said to be tainted with terrorist ideas. Of these the Hinchak party is said to be more extreme than the Dashnak, but it is not easy to obtain precise information in this respect. In any case, the two parties have very great influence upon the Government of the republic; but in view of the commercial instincts of the Armenians and their sound common sense, there can be very little fear of Bolshevist tendencies. There is a good deal of speculation as to the eventual extent of Armenia, and while the claims of Boghos Nubar Pasha may be somewhat extravagant, there seems to be very little doubt that a considerable slice of the Turkish provinces of Van and Bitlis at least will be attributed to the future Armenian Republic. The Turks, of course, swear that they will die to the last man before they will tolerate any such thing; but that is a tale that has been heard before, and, as was pointed out in my last letter, even the Nationalist swashbucklers may have to pipe to another tune next spring.

The Nationalists Attacked.

With regard to the Nationalists, public interest has been aroused by the exploits of one Ahmed Anzavur, a Circassian ex-Major of Gendarmerie, who has been giving the Nationalists a very bad time lately in the Panderma region. He is said to have over a thousand followers, and to have seriously damaged the Nationalist cause. To-day reports of his death which were published yesterday are contradicted, and it really looks as if Mustapha Kemal has found an extremely dangerous opponent.

The Elections.

The elections pursue their weary way, and some indication of the sentiments of the population may be obtained from the announcement that, so far as can be ascertained at present, in the Constantinople area only 7 per cent. of the electorate took the trouble to exercise their privilege of the franchise. The Government announces that the Commissions recently sent to Anatolia to report on the elections report in their dispatches that everything is as it should be, and that there is perfect freedom and tranquillity. One local paper, in a paragraph that must have escaped the censor, remarked that either the Government is wasting time in useless commissions or there is something in the atmosphere of Anatolia that causes "political myopia," which is really a wonderfully apt description of a defect from which all Turkish politicians seem to suffer.

Smyrna: Speculations.

There is a good deal of speculation as to why the report of the Commission of Enquiry into the Smyrna affair has not been published, but the general opinion among the Turks is that this is rather a good sign for Turkey—and there may be something in the idea.

Meanwhile, there is a lull in the general situation, but it is expected that the arrival of Sabah ed Din Bey will stir things up somewhat. *Bakallem!* as the Turks are fond of saying—we shall see.

CYPRUS.

The Pedias Torrent. December 6.

Some anxiety is felt in some quarters of Nicosia in connection with the river Pedias, which skirts the city. This torrent (for "rivers" in Cyprus are but mountain torrents, which nearly all run dry in the summer) comes down at rare intervals with phenomenal volume and force. Some damage was recently caused by one of the floods, and a project has been under consideration for protective work. The Government is now being urged to put their plan into execution without delay, lest a worse evil befall. The Government, on the other hand, is only prepared to defray half the cost, leaving the other to the owner of a mill, whose property is affected. These floods cause frequent damage in the island. They have a way of carrying away bridges and private properties, including gardened terraces. At Limassol some years ago two exceptionally high floods, bringing water simultaneously from several watersheds, overwhelmed the town and caused serious damage and some loss of life. It became necessary to divert the river, across which the town had grown up and formed a barrier, and to construct catch-water drains and other work. The cost, which was heavy, was divided between the Government and the Municipality.

Jewish Refugees.

The Jews who sought safety in Cyprus during war troubles, and who have been settled at Larnaca, are now being sent back to Palestine. They will be taken charge of by Mr. Bowring, Receiver-General, who is expected to be absent for about a month. Major Bayly is to act until his return, while Mr. Northcote will act as Commissioner of Nicosia.

PALESTINE.

JERUSALEM, November 26.

News from Damascus and Beyrout continues to be bad. Reports from Damascus state that the people there, as well as those of Homs, Hama, and Aleppo have resolved to fight for their independence. In Beyrout district several cases of friction between the people and the French Army have been reported.

The following is an incident reported in the *Urdun*, an Arabic paper of Damascus, which throws some light on the events that are happening there. The *Urdun* states that Major Wadman, the British *liaison* officer in Deraa (Hejaz Railway junction) encountered some Arab sheikhs, who were meeting for a conference. He advised them to keep quiet, as the British forces were leaving the country, and informed them that they would be held responsible for any disturbances, adding: "You must know that we have three brigades camping on the boundary, and that we have plenty of aeroplanes and that if you try to cause any opposition and disturbance you will be doomed to destruction."

The sheikhs took their swords from their scabbards and said: "We are not afraid of your soldiers, and aeroplanes; we have decided to ask and to stand for our freedom, and seek nothing but independence."

December 2.

Those who are interested in Palestine exploration and the preservation of monuments will be glad to hear of the active steps that are being taken in preparing the ground for further research. Areas have been assigned to four inspectors, with headquarters at Jerusalem, Beyrout, Aleppo, and Adana. They will collect archæological information of value to the institutions of the Allied Powers "and to the future Government of the country," prevent illicit excavations and trafficking in objects of antiquity, and preserve historical monuments. They will furnish monthly reports, and will apply to the Chief Administrator for any assistance they may require. Although they will not themselves undertake work of excavation, they may submit schemes for the eventual execution of such work, as they may consider desirable. The Inspectors for Jerusalem and Aleppo are Captain Mackay and Captain Creswell. Lieut. Du Boisson takes charge of area 4, Beyrout, and Lieut. Bross area 3, Adana.

As regards Public Health, much is being done in O.E.T.A. (South). The inspection of dispensaries by travelling officers is important. Prophylatic measures, already adopted, will reduce the prevalence of malarial fever. The application, wherever possible, of a regular anti-mosquito campaign on the lines laid down by Sir Ronald Ross would no doubt be of the greatest value in swampy lands and wherever stagnant water breeds the pest. In Palestine much disease originates in water stored in cisterns, both public and private.

There have been a good many cases of rabies, and it would be well to carry out stringent regulations respecting dogs, both ownerless and owned. It is, by the way, an encouraging fact that municipalities are becoming more self-reliant as well as efficient. Little financial aid will be required from the Government.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

I have remarked before in this column on the generosity of the British public, though this certainly applies more to new artists than to new music. Any new artist, provided that he be not outrageously unorthodox, is certain of a welcome. But in the case of M. Ivan Philippowsky, who gave his first pianoforte recital at the Wigmore Hall on December 15, the welcome was more than warm. There is no doubt that his success was in great part deserved; he is a thoroughly competent technician, and his sense of interpretation a fairly keen one. It is easy, and perhaps not very profitable, to point out the faults of this young performer: the incomplete balance of right and left hand, a prolonged use of the right pedal, a touch far too hard in melodic outline, and an exaggerated cultivation of *rubato*. One or more of these faults was present in his playing of Scarlatti, Schumann, and Chopin; but in the Scriabin pieces with which he closed his programme he was excellent. A wide reputation is within M. Philippowsky's reach; he is a player who will certainly develop; and I think that in a few years' time he will have obtained a leading position among pianists.

Though there is any number of competent British pianists, those who can be placed in the front rank are few. In the last few days I have heard two, one of whom appears to be achieving fame, and the other an artist to whom fame has already come—Mr. Anderson Tyrer and Mr. William Murdoch. Mr. Anderson Tyrer was playing at the Queen's Hall on December 10 with the London Symphony Orchestra, and, frankly, I was disappointed with him. He has descended on London from the North of England with a great reputation, and I hoped to find a master. The concertos he chose were Beethoven's "Emperor" and Tchaikowsky's first (B flat minor). These two brought out both his strong and weak points; he has a beautifully delicate touch, and indulges in uncommon refinement of tone. Indeed, in soft, melodic passages he excels, both in technique and in interpretation. But in loud passages, which in addition to vigour and emphasis require clarity above all, he certainly does not succeed. This deficiency was especially manifest in the Tchaikowsky concerto, in which, despite Mr. Hamilton Harty's judicious conducting, the orchestra sometimes swamped the piano. A few days before, I had heard Mr. Leonard Borwick in the "Emperor" concerto, and the superiority of his performance to Mr. Anderson Tyrer's was very evident. There is more than one way of playing "grand" music; but I doubt if Mr. Anderson Tyrer yet possesses any of them. In his sea every wave is a ripple, and all his shores are sand. He tries to clean out his pipe with the soft touch of a feather, when it requires the hard strength of a penknife. But there is no reason why he should not add virility to tenderness, and I very much hope that he will do so.

Far different was the impression which Mr. William Murdoch made in his recital at the Wigmore Hall on December 13. His playing is very intellectual, and he is not capable of, or perhaps does not choose to indulge in, those very delicate *nuances* which are so prominent in Mr. Anderson Tyrer's restrained playing. He is equally good in Bach as in Ravel; he can play with tremendously impassioned vigour, and also with sparkling lightness. His interpretation of Bach's Chromatic Fantasie and Fugue was magnificent, the contrapuntal work being brought out with irreproachable clarity. Rather unfashionably he included some Greig in his programme (he has just returned from a Scandinavian tour), and this minor romanticism was extremely popular with an audience which, incidentally, was far too small. The last part of his performance was made up of Debussy, Ravel, and de Severac, and to this modern music he applied the intellectual method with complete success. His interpretation of Ravel's "Pavane" (especially) and of the now popular "Jeux d'Eau" was amazingly good. I do not suppose that Mr. Murdoch would excel in the more emotional music (like Chopin's); his touch is scarcely a warm one, and sometimes, especially in trills, mordents, and so on, it is, in spite of its splendid clarity, a little hard; but in his own field he is a perfect artist.

The London Symphony Orchestra is a very popular orchestra, and therefore especially prone to both good and bad playing, according to its conductor. Under Mr. Hamilton Harty on December 10 it played well, though excellence was only revealed in flashes. It was at its best in Mr. Hamilton Harty's "With the Wild Geese," making this intelligible realism quite pleasing, and in Duka's "L'Apprenti Sorcier," in which, however, it appeared to greet the jokes with rather a tired smile.

The taste for chamber music has greatly increased of recent years, and it cannot be said that a sufficient number of chamber concerts are given in this country—at any rate, in London. However, the Harmonic Trio (violin, Miss Dorothea Walenn; 'cello, Miss Edith Vance; and piano, Miss Olive Byrne) are doing something in the right direction. At the first of their three concerts at the Æolian Hall (December 12) they played Brahms' Trio in B (Op. 8), a "Suite sur des chants Bretons," by Jean Huré, and a Trio (No. 2) by Ireland. It was a finished performance, and they appear to have overcome the chief difficulty in this kind of music—the preservation of individuality in the necessary sacrifice to balance. If the piano was a little too prominent in the Brahms, this fault was completely absent from the Breton songs, in which they gave their best performance. As yet their work possesses much more soundness than inspiration; but as their technique is quite adequate for a deeper interpretation I think they will improve very considerably.

ANDANTE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"AN APPEAL TO GREAT BRITAIN."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—For the last two years the world has been ringing with the discussion of President Wilson's Fourteen Points: yet the world seems to be still a long way from the realisation of the President's ideals.

Now, Mr. M. A. Hamud comes forward from Calicut, expounding his ten points, with regard to the solution of the Turkish problem.

In your last issue, Mr. Hamud makes an attempt to suggest a policy to the British Government. Among other proposals, he advocates granting autonomy to Armenia under the suzerainty of the Sultan of Turkey. It is difficult to see why Mr. Hamud and the other Indians who share his views should be so much concerned about the status of the future Armenia. We Armenians, who are vitally interested in the political settlement of our country, have not dared to suggest a policy to the British Government; still less should we ever have thought of suggesting a policy to any other Government. One would have expected that those who are anxious about self-government for themselves would champion the cause of other peoples who are seeking national self-realisation.

It is a very poor argument to exculpate the Turkish nation from responsibility for the greatest crime in history by attributing this crime to "Enver and other German hirelings."—Yours, etc.,

December 15, 1919. A. SAFRASTIAN.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Near and Middle East. December 15.

In answer to Major Ormsby-Gore, who asked a question regarding the information of a separate department to deal with the supervision of British administration in the Near and Middle East, Mr. LLOYD GEORGE said: It is impossible to take any steps for future administration of countries in the Near and Middle East which are already, or are likely to be, placed under the control of Great Britain until the Treaty of Peace with Turkey has been concluded and the mandates assigned.

Major ORMSBY-GORE: Is it true that Mesopotamia is to be transferred from the India Office to the Foreign Office?

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: It is not true.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

MESOPOTAMIA (WIRELESS OPERATORS). MESOPOTAMIA (REQUISITIONED DREDGERS). (December 9.)

INDIA: Japanese Exports. TALAAT PASHA. ALBANIA. MALTA. GRAIN (BLACK SEA PORTS). (December 10.)

PEACE TREATY: Serbia.—Albania. EGYPT. TURKEY (PEACE TREATY). ANATOLIA. MESOPOTAMIA. (December 11.)

EGYPT (SAYED FUAD EL KHOLI). (December 12.)

ROUMANIA. TURKEY AND PEACE TERMS. MONTENEGRO. GERMAN PRISONERS. INDIA AND MALTA. "EGYPTIAN CIRCULAR" (EDITOR'S ARREST). (December 15.)

TO READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS.

Owing to the Christmas Holidays, THE NEAR EAST will next week be published on Wednesday morning. Matter for publication should reach the Editor by Monday noon at latest.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE UNIVERSAL LORE.*

All the world loves a fairy tale, though some folk are too superior or too busy to admit it. These tales, which were written down for the first time in the original Kermani and Bakhtiari, will delight not only the children, for whom they are mainly intended, but the most fusty old "grown-ups" as well. They are excellently produced, and are illustrated with a marked sense of humour by Miss Hilda Roberts. Of the two sets of tales we like best those from the Kermani, which all begin with "Once upon a time there was a time when there was no one but God," and all end with "And now my story has come to an end, but the sparrow never got home." These seem particularly delicious to us in their love of sure inconsequence. They are of a land where

The maidens are princesses, with glorious shining tresses,
And their faces, like the moon, are pure and bright;
And though the day is thund'ry, there is luck for all and sundry,
And whatever seems all wrong is coming right.

The illustrations deserve a separate word. There is no Oriental subtlety, nor any attempt at rich colour in them, but they have a direct simplicity and a vivid sense of fun which will certainly appeal to children. In short, the tales and their illustrations are such that no parent, if happiness in watching the result of a gift count at all, should fail at once to give this book to his children. No present could be more seasonable, and, we may add (having in mind these days when the mastery of children over their parents is so evident), more successful.

FASCINATING JANN.†

This is a book which should certainly make a strong appeal to those "wonder-loving boys and girls" for whom it is primarily intended. The stories are full of marvels and adventures, and they are told with a simple directness that is refreshing. "Grown-ups," too, who love the East for its colour, its atmosphere, and its readiness to believe in that which the foolish "superior person" is fond of referring to as "nonsense," will find the stories pleasant reading, with a true Oriental flavour. Willy Pogany's illustrations add to the attractiveness of the book, though he sometimes makes us feel that *his* Orient has been borrowing ideas from Paris or Vienna; and the publishers have done their part admirably, giving us good paper and particularly pleasant type.

"WAY OF HEALING."‡

Miss Estelle Blyth is an original writer of so much charm that at first sight one is inclined to regret what looks like a waste of her time in the compilation of such a book as this. But examination shows that, although there is no original matter in the little volume, it is nevertheless stamped with an individuality that is rare in an anthology. It is, in fact, an excellent bit of workmanship. "Those who know suffering," for whom it is intended, will find it friendly and helpful in just the right way, and will feel correspondingly grateful to Miss Blyth. It is well printed and very attractively got up; and while small enough to do duty in place of a Christmas card, is valuable enough as a gift for any discriminating person.

INNUMERABLE EDITIONS §

The story of a girl without a speed-limit. The heroine says very early in the book: "God made me a woman. Why, only He knows." She dances, rides, shoots with a revolver, smokes cigarettes like no one else in the world; and she is moved by an Arab singing Amy Woodford-Finden. This perfect masculine girl knows nothing of love and cares less; her end, therefore, is obvious. She is "kidnapped" (how sweet a euphemism!) by an Arab chieftain, and learns a good deal from this experience, though the precise number of times that misfortune befalls her we have omitted to register. In the first weeks of their co-existence she says to Ahmed, the handsome chieftain: "I hate you, do you understand? I hate you! I hate you!" Afterwards she says to him: "I am not afraid of anything with your arms round me, my desert lover. Ahmed! Monseigneur!" Of course, that is not the whole tale; the Arab, for instance, turns out to be an Englishman, and there is much that will delight concerning pyjamas, kimonos, riding breeches, silk shirts, and all the rest of the essential "features." We therefore predict for the book innumerable editions; in other words, the complete fulfilment of its passionate purpose.

* "Persian Tales." Translated by D. L. R. Lorimer and E. O. Lorimer: With Illustrations by Hilda Roberts. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 20s. net.)

† "Tales of the Persian Genii." Retold by Frances Jenkins Olcott. Illustrated by Willy Pogany. (London: Harrap and Co. 6s. net.)

‡ "Way of Healing." A little book for those who know suffering." Estelle Blyth. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons. 2s. 6d. net.)

§ "The Sheik." By E. M. Hull. (London: Eveleigh Nash Co. 7s. net.)

A REAL "BOYS' BOOK."*

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Turks in Europe." By W. E. D. Allen. (London: John Murray. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Pan Islam." By G. Wyman Bury. (London: Macmillan and Co. 6s. net.)

"Persian Tales." Translated by D. L. R. Lorimer and E. O. Lorimer. With Illustrations by Hilda Roberts. (London: Macmillan and Co. 20s. net.)

"Caught by the Turks." By Francis Yeats-Brown. With Portrait and Plans. (London: Edward Arnold. 12s. 6d. net.)

"With Pen and Rifle in Kishtwar." By Otto Rothfeld, F.R.G.S., I.C.S. (London: Simpkin, Marshall.)

"The Last Crusade. 1914-1918." By Donald Maxwell. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head. 25s. net.)

"The Road to En-dor." By E. H. Jones, Lieut. I.A.R.O., with Illustrations from Photographs by C. W. Hill, Lieut. R.A.F. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head. 8s. 6d. net.)

"Mesopotamia, 1914-15." By Henry Birch Reynardson. (London: Andrew Melrose. 9s. net.)

"With the Incomparable 29th." By Major A. H. Muro (London: W. and R. Chambers, Ltd. 5s. net.)

"Hospital Jock: Tales of the Malta Hospitals." By Albert G. Mackinnon. (6s. net.)

"The New World." Vol. II. No. 7. December, 1919. (London: Cross-Atlantic Newspaper Service, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

THE GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE.

We have received from the Honorary Secretary of the Gordon Memorial College, Khartoum, a copy of the report and accounts of the College for the year 1918. It gives a brief review of the progress made at this excellent institution during the war, showing the satisfactory condition of the college, despite the difficulties experienced in maintaining efficiency. We hope to deal more fully with the report in an early issue.

A Moscow message states that as the left bank of the Ural River in the Iletz region has been cleared of White Guards, the construction of the Uralsk-Iletz railway has been resumed. This line, when completed, will give direct communication between Saratoff and Tashkent.

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By G. FINLAY SHIRRAS, Director of Statistics with the Government of India; Reader in Indian Finance and Currency in the University, 1914. With tables and charts. 8vo. **16s.** net.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. December 19	1919. December. 6	Friday	1338. Rabia I. 26	5680. Kislev. 27
20	7	Saturday.....	27	28
21	8	Sunday	28	29
22	9	Monday	29	20
23	10	Tuesday.....	Rabia II. 1	Tebet. 1
24	11	Wednesday	2	2
25	12	Thursday	3	3

Lady Inchcape has returned to London from Paris.

The Prince Regent of Serbia has left Paris for Cannes.

Sir S. Dias Bandaranaike, of Ceylon, has arrived in England.

Sir James and Lady Ritchie are leaving to-day for India for three months.

The Emir Faisal will sail from Toulon in the warship Waldeck Rousseau almost immediately.

Mirza Sir Daoud Khan, Persian Consul-General in India, is proceeding to Paris to join the Shah's staff.

A new decoration, the "Military Star of Sultan Fuad," has been instituted as a reward for distinguished services by officers of the Egyptian Army.

General Franchet d'Esperey has arrived at Salonika, and had long conversations with the Greek Commander-in-Chief and the Governor-General of Salonika.

Admiral Sir Ernest Troubridge, Admiral Commanding on the Danube, President of the Inter-Allied Danube Commission, has arrived in England from Budapest.

Dr. Mihailo Gavrilovitch, the newly-appointed Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes to the Court of St. James, is due to arrive in London to-day from Paris.

M. Yovanovitch, the former Serbian Minister, was entertained to a farewell dinner on December 15 by the members of the Yugoslav colony. M. Chedo Miyatovitch, a former Serbian Minister, presided.

Rajah Sir Hari Singh of Kashmir was received by the Prince of Wales on December 11. Lieut.-Colonel Sir James Dunlop-Smith, Political Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of State for India, was present.

King Alexander of Greece has thanked M. Venizelos for his efforts on behalf of the nation, and expressed a desire to confer upon him the Order of Military Virtue, but M. Venizelos declined the honour.

Commander Alfred Stead, R.N.V.R., the Secretary of the Inter-Allied Commission for the Danube, is now demobilised. In January he will be succeeded by Commander de l'Escailles, of the French Navy.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the birthday of the Prophet, General Gouraud, the French High Commissioner to Syria, visited the Omar Mosque at Beyrout. He has since left Syria for a visit to Cilicia.

Under the auspices of the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, a service was held in the Russian Church, Welbeck Street, on December 15, to commemorate the birthday of the Prince Regent Alexander.

Sir George Roos-Keppel, upon his appointment as a member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India, and Father Nicholai Velimirovitch, Bishop of Chackak, had the honour of being received by His Majesty on December 16.

A solemn service of intercession on behalf of Christians in Russia and Near Eastern countries was held on December 18 in St. Paul's Cathedral. It was also a service of thanksgiving for the liberation and reunion of the Serbian people. The Rt. Rev. Nicholai Velimirovitch preached the sermon.

Sir George Grierson, Ph.D., whose great Indian Linguistic Survey is now nearing completion, has been elected a Correspondent of the Institute of France (*Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres*).

At the Æolian Hall on December 16 a variety concert was given in aid of the Arménian Red Cross and Refugee Fund. The organiser, Mr. H. Papazian, had secured for it more than a dozen artistes, all of whom gave their services voluntarily.

A Constantinople telegram states that on the eve of his departure for England, Major-General Rycroft, Chief of Staff of the Black Sea Army, was decorated by General Franchet d'Esperey with the insignia of Commander of the Legion of Honour.

Sir Henry George Richards, on behalf of the United Provinces of India Special War Fund, has given a donation of £5,000 to the Star and Garter Committee of the British Red Cross Society for providing a special memorial in the new "Star and Garter."

At the meeting of the United Kingdom Branch of the Empire Parliamentary Association on December 15, it was announced that a proposal is under consideration for a visit to India next winter by a delegation of members chosen from the Imperial and Dominions Parliaments.

The Persian Minister has left London for Switzerland, and will be absent for several months. His brother, Mirza Hussein Khan Alaï, ex-Minister of Public Works, accompanied him. During the absence of the Minister, Mirza Abdol Ghaffar Khan Emad-ol-Molk will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

Among the officers who attended the Investiture held by H.M. The King at Buckingham Palace on December 11 was Major Charles A. M. van Millingen, of the Rifle Brigade, elder son of the late Professor Alexander van Millingen, M.A., D.D., the Byzantine archæologist and writer. Major van Millingen received the Military Cross and Bar.

The Government of India, in a telegram delayed in transmission, have asked the Secretary of State to convey to Lady Abrahams their great regret at the loss of Sir Lionel Abrahams, "whose valued advice and experience were for so many years placed ungrudgingly at the disposal of His Majesty's Government for the conduct of India's financial problems."

Our Jerusalem Correspondent writes (November 26):—Major-General Watson, Chief Administrator of O.E.T.A.(S.), has been appointed Inspector-General of Service Troops in India, and has proceeded to England on a short leave. His successor, Major-General Sir Louis Bols, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., formerly Chief of the General Staff of the E.E.F., has arrived and has taken over his duties.

The Great Priory of the Order of the Temple of England and Wales, by command of the Duke of Connaught, the Grand Master, have forwarded to Mr. Evelyn Cecil, Secretary-General of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, the sum of £1,657 13s. 8d., as a contribution to the fund raised for reinstating and endowing the British Ophthalmic Hospital of the Order at Jerusalem, destroyed by the Turks on their evacuating Jerusalem.

It is proposed to raise a Memorial, to the Officers, N.C.O.'s, and men of the 60th London Division, who fell in the Palestine campaign. As Jerusalem was surrendered to the Division, the memorial, in the form of a cenotaph, will be erected there. About £1,200 will be required, and subscriptions may be sent to Lieut.-Colonel H. Streatfeild, D.S.O., 19a, Charles Street, Berkeley Square. The Lord Mayor has sent a donation.

A model of the Palestine Memorial to be erected on the Mount of Olives by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force is on exhibition at McLean's Gallery, 7, Haymarket. The design is that of Mr. W. J. Palmer Jones, of the firm of Messrs. Grant and Palmer Jones, 11, Buckingham Street, Strand. The competition for the best design was open to all ranks of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, and the designs submitted by Mr. Palmer Jones, who served as an officer in the Egyptian Labour Corps, was accepted by Lord Allenby as the most meritorious. The Memorial Fund Committee have received £10,000, and £5,000 are still required. Subscriptions should be sent to the Palestine Memorial Fund, National Provincial Bank of England, Savoy Court, Strand. All interested in the memorial are invited to inspect the model, which has been made by Mr. H. W. Palliser, sculptor, Hornsey Rise, N.

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Mr. Montagu (Secretary of State for India) gave a dinner at the Savoy Hotel on December 15 to Sir Thomas Holderness, in connection with his retirement at the end of the year from the office of Permanent Under-Secretary for India. The dinner was in recognition of nearly half a century of service to India. Among the seventy-seven guests invited to meet Sir Thomas were some who have been his chiefs in India and at home, including Earl Curzon, Viscount Morley, Lord George Hamilton, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Viscount Sandhurst, Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Lord Islington, Lord Harris, and Lord Lamington.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Sophoulis, Deputy for Samos, a Liberal, has been elected President of the Greek Chamber.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed Mr. William Stantiall to be Secretary in the Public Works Department of the India Office.

At Oxford, on December 11, Mr. Richard McG. Dawkins, Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, was elected Bywater and Sotheby Professor of Byzantine and Modern Greek.

The King has appointed Mr. William Malcolm Hailey, C.S.I., C.I.E., to be an Ordinary Member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General of India, in succession to Baron Meston of Agra and Dunottar, K.C.S.I., LL.D., V.D.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on December 1, at Cannanore, Malabar, India, of John Archibald Iver Macpherson, of Sunti Koppa Coorg, formerly of Newcourt, Topsham, Devon, eldest son of the late Surgeon-General Duncan Macpherson, in his seventy-third year.

The death of Sir John Jackson, the famous engineer, is announced. His firm was responsible for the Great Hindieh barrage across the Euphrates, and for many other works which have served to enrich Mesopotamia. Further details will be found elsewhere.

Two friends of Sir Edwin Pears, who knew him well in the interesting old Constantinople days before the war, have sent us the following paragraphs of appreciation of this, in many ways, truly remarkable man:—

"Sir Edwin Pears died at a ripe old age, with the infirmity of failing sight growing upon him, and with some disappointment in his heart, one must believe, that the affairs of the Near East he knew and loved so well were still in such a disturbed and unsatisfactory state. He was on his way, as he hoped, to spend his last days with his family in some healthful and, at the same time, beautiful and peaceful retreat in his native land. That this hope was unfulfilled is one of the saddest thoughts in connection with his passing onward. But, although he was not permitted to reach his home shores, it is a consolation to all his friends that his last sleep is on British soil, or, at least, under the protection of the flag that meant so much to him, and that used to float above his beautiful summer home at Prinkipo on all high holidays and whenever occasion permitted.

"He was a citizen of the world, though Constantinople claimed him as a resident the greater part of his full, active life. And though he died full of years as well as honours, it was not old age that brought his life to an end. His physical powers may have been gradually failing, but his mind was as alert and keen, his memory as phenomenal, his humour as varied and mellow as in his more active days. He was taken before life had become a burden to him, when his counsel was still sought, and while he was still able to respond to the appeal of editors of various publications for articles on subjects that his wide experience and research made him especially well fitted to contribute.

"One might say that few Anglo-Saxon men of learning passed through Constantinople in recent years before the great war without at least calling upon Sir Edwin, and, more than likely, being entertained at his hospitable home. He was generous to a degree with his gifts; no interested sightseer to old Byzantium but was welcome to the knowledge that was his by token of long residence and long study of the place and its history. Apart from his legal work, as many as five volumes dealing with Near Eastern subjects, old and new, should be placed to his credit. He could speak, could lecture at a Constantinople college or in a drawing-room at a moment's notice and without notes, exciting as much interest there, where people were *au courant* with his subject, as in England or in the cities and colleges of America, where he was called upon to deliver a series of lectures three winters ago. The Americans found him as familiar with the history and classics of their country as with those of his own England and the lands of the Near East.

"Sir Edwin had the gift of making friends and of keeping them, and he will be missed by a large circle on both sides of the sea. Whatever the future may have in store for Constantinople, one can say with both truth and emphasis that the Anglo-Saxon colonies there will be the poorer for the loss of this eminent Englishman and conscientious student of the great Near Eastern questions."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Practically all the German, Austrian, and other prisoners except Turks have now been repatriated from Malta.

Owing to the collapse of a wall in a cinema at Ben-Kemba, Tunis, sixteen persons were killed and eight injured.

Baron Jules de Bornemisza, former Hungarian Consul-General at Bucharest, will be Hungarian Minister at Berne.

From January 1 the Simplon express will run as a through train, with dining car and wagon-lits, from Paris to Bucharest and Belgrade.

A Moscow message states that a special Soviet train, named "The Red East," has left for Turkestan to organise the Soviet institutions there.

A Moscow message states that nine trains with cotton have been dispatched from Turkestan. Two trains of sixty-one wagons have been sent to the oil districts.

The Lord Mayor of Melbourne has sent to the Lord Mayor of London £2,000 for the Armenian Refugees' Fund, being an additional contribution by the citizens of Melbourne for this charity.

A telegram from the Georgian Government alleges various acts of hostility by General Denikin's warships against Georgian vessels, and states that protests have been lodged with the foreign missions at Tiflis.

A party of Swiss subjects have arrived in Switzerland from Tiflis, where they were engaged in the rearing of cattle. During the war they were often near starvation, and all their belongings were stolen by Tartars.

It is announced that the Roumanians commenced to take over the Dobruja from the French on December 2. When the evacuation by the latter is completed the Roumanian 10th Division will be in occupation of the whole district.

Mr. Cecil Harmsworth (Foreign Under-Secretary) states that the British Mission under Colonel Jacob, which was detained by Arabs whilst on its way to visit the Imam Yahya at Sana, is reported to have arrived safely at Hodeida, the chief port of the Yemen, on the 13th inst., and to have left the same day for Aden. No further details are available.

Official Hungarian estimates put the damage done by the Roumanians in the three counties of Trans-Danubia at 864,000,000 kronen (£36,000,000 pre-war), of which total the Roumanians have, in all, restored only two and a-half million kronen.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1919.

THE OLD INDIA AND THE NEW.

The Government of India Bill has not, as we write, formally become law, but its acceptance by the House of Commons, and the reception accorded to it in the Lords, justify the anticipation that the scheme elaborated by the Joint Committee will be brought into operation, and that the Empire stands charged with the conduct of the greatest political experiment which has ever been undertaken. The successive stages in the development of the project have been recorded from time to time in this journal, and it is not our present intention to recapitulate them, or to enter into any of the complex details with which the Bill is loaded; but in view of the momentous importance of the measure, primarily to India, and through India to other countries in the East, it may be well to review the general position, to indicate briefly the conditions which, in our opinion, have rendered changes inevitable, and to estimate the prospects of the new departure. Young India is prone to dwell upon a glorious if somewhat misty past, and to ignore the dark years that lie between, but this intervening period is of vital import to the statesman, because it reveals the origin of the problems of the present day. For something like a thousand years India as a political entity did not exist; the coasts and the land frontiers lay open to invaders, who were free either to devastate the country and retire with the spoils, or to establish in it foreign dynasties based upon the ruthless exploitation of the inhabitants. When the Mogul Empire, the latest of these exploiting dynasties, was finally wrecked by the excess of its own tyranny and greed, the state of India was indeed desperate, and it fell to a company of English merchants to gather up the fragments and piece them gradually together into the framework of an ordered polity. The men on whom this burden was laid were not at first chosen for the work they had to do, nor were they consciously inspired by any definite ideal; they groped and they blundered, but gradually the work was done; the horizon widened as they went forward: and the fruit of their labours is the India which we know. The coasts and frontiers are now defended; internal peace is established, though the disturbing forces have not yet been finally eliminated; Law is firmly seated on the throne; the national income is increasing, and its distribution, though still very unequal, no longer violates the first principles of justice; fresh ideas have penetrated into the country, and have made a definite impression on the mentality of at least the leading men: in a word, a new India has come into being, and it is impossible to withhold sympathy from those who think that, where such work has been successfully accomplished, nothing is needed beyond its continuance on existing lines.

That view, however, though it is natural, is in our opinion mistaken, because it is incompatible with the new ideas which we ourselves have introduced. Two of these require particular attention, one of them obvious to the world and spreading rapidly downward from the top, the other as yet barely noticeable but gradually rising into the consciousness of the masses of the people. Nationalism, the first of these ideas, needs no definition at this stage of the world's history; in India it is pursuing its normal course of development, and whereas twenty years ago the few minds affected by it sought merely a share in the administration, to-day a much larger number demand a voice, if not the only voice, in determining the policy by which the administration shall be guided. Meanwhile the masses of the people are just beginning to feel that all is not right: oppressed beyond measure for at least a thousand years, and even to-day receiving less than their due share of this world's goods, they are becoming a little uneasy, and the ferment introduced by British precept and example is already manifest in the bubbles which here and there break the smooth surface of submission. Now if timely steps are not taken to harness these new forces for India's good, it is to our mind as certain as anything can be that they must gradually coalesce to form a torrent of unreasoning hate, by which the country will be devastated and all our work will be undone. The justification of the new constitution is that it takes these forces into account, and provides a period of transition during which the privileged classes may learn how to serve, while the masses are learning to be master in their own house. Of these two lessons the latter is by far the harder, but both must be learned if the work already done is not to be wasted, and if India is to journey on the road of progress on which her feet are set: time is essential for their due assimilation, but none of us is in a position to estimate the time that is available.

Such are the considerations leading us to the conclusion that new constitutional machinery is imperatively required. With the details of that machinery we are no longer concerned; probably not one single student is entirely satisfied with the final result, but the time for discussion has passed, and the future of India depends, humanly speaking, on the way in which the new measure is worked. Of one thing we may be quite certain: like all other constitutions, this one depends on the goodwill of those who have to work it, and to-day our main purpose is to appeal for goodwill. We recognise fully that at the outset things will not be easy; settled habits will require alteration, and ardent desires will have to be kept in check; the pace which will be too fast for some will be too slow for others; and should everyone insist on the logical developments of his own particular views, the machine would quickly fly in pieces through internal stress. Regarding one of the most important classes, we are happily in no doubt, for we can safely accept Lord Meston's assurance that the Indian Civil Service is resolved to make the new order a success. Of the unofficial British element in India we are not less confident, but we would remind our countrymen that at this juncture something more than passive acquiescence is required; their representatives must take a more active share in the business of the Councils than has been usual in the past, and the reduction of official representation must not be allowed to result in any weakening of the expression of British ideals. As regards the rapidly growing number of Indians who are interested in political questions, we think the indications are reasonably satisfactory; the majority, probably the overwhelming majority, are prepared to co-operate in working the new constitution, and all we would urge on them is to remember that this resolve has to be maintained in the face of individual disappointments or party rebuffs. The individual must indeed count for something, and the party must count for more, but India counts for more than all parties combined, and it is India's future that is at stake. Lastly, we appeal to the many Indians of wealth, position, and prestige who now stand aloof from public affairs. India requires their help, and their action may well be decisive for the future. In the old India they were content to give silent approval to the actions of the administration; in the new, they must not only think, but speak. Political life will now be a reality, not a shadow, or a game, and while no single class may shrink from the new burdens, the heaviest responsibility rests on the men who can lead; if they will take it up, we believe that the future may be faced with reasonable confidence.

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GREAT ROUMANIA.

(From a Bucharest Correspondent.)

There is a fascination about Roumania, the country of great plains watered by the tributaries of one of Europe's mightiest rivers, plains rising gently to a fringe of mountains clad with primæval forest, the haunt of bear and boar and wolf. Roumania, the land of stirring history, of centuries of fighting for freedom, from the days when Rome's legions left their impress on Dacia and gave to its people the Latin tongue and mind, to the days of the victorious advance of Roumanian troops in the van of Russia's armies, marching against the Turks, and, quite recently, the final effort which set free "Roumania Irredenta"; for to all good Roumanians Roumania was not only the old kingdom but all those territories where the Roumanian race had settled since the earliest days of history.

To understand the problems which face Great Roumania in its task of reconstruction it should be remembered that the Roumanian race was not divided by natural barriers but by the arbitrary boundaries put up by foreign oppressors. The Carpathians were not a frontier in the earliest history of the race, but rather a refuge in times of trouble, when waves of barbarians rolled in from the East or surged up from the plains of Hungary. When those troubles had passed, the Roumanians came down from the wooded mountains and continued their task of cultivating the plains. So rose the duchies of Moldavia and Wallachia, and so also the smaller settlements in Ardeal, as Herodotus and Strabo designated Transylvania. Unhappily the Roumanians to southward of the Carpathians were too much harried by enemies from south and east to afford adequate protection to their kin across the mountains; they fell under Magyar domination and remained so until they threw off the Hapsburg yoke a year ago. It was comparatively easy to shake off the domination of the beaten Magyars; it is infinitely more difficult to remedy the ills caused by their oppressive rule, and this is the great task of those who are responsible for the future of "Roumania Mare."

The reconstruction of the old kingdom of Roumania itself is no mean undertaking. The country was overrun by German armies which left desolation in their wake when forced to retire. Western Europe does not appreciate sufficiently the heroism of Roumania during the time of Mackensen's occupation of the country. Only a narrow strip was left to the Roumanians; and this would have gone, but for the pluck of the remnants of Roumania's fighting forces, which, sadly depleted of warlike stores, and badly "let down" by their allies the Russians, yet held up the advancing Germans, every man in the fighting line (for the defection of the Russians had left to the Roumanians no reserves). The people, too, braced to resist to the end, encouraged the Government to hold out, and so, though peace was forced upon her, Roumania's honour was saved.

The same dogged spirit informed the Roumanians of Transylvania and Bukovina; they held firm to their language and traditions and to the ties of race, and finally, after a successful rising against their oppressors, proclaimed, at Medias, their allegiance to King Ferdinand.

There is, then, in the personal factor, as presented by the Roumanian race, a promise that they will overcome the many difficulties that beset them, and take an honourable part in the resettlement of Europe. It will be an important part, too, as their geographical position shows. Now that the Dardanelles are open, and likely to remain so, there will be a stronger tendency towards the Black Sea from Central Europe, and the way leads through Roumania. The task before Great Roumania is twofold; first, to consolidate the country; secondly, to direct it into the right way in its relations to the outside world. In both tasks Roumania encounters some difficulties not inherent in her actual internal conditions, but rather caused by the Western want of understanding of Eastern European conditions. Thus, many difficulties have arisen in addition to the already considerable number which the inner aspect of the case presents. The atmosphere of uncertainty and unrest which prevails in Eastern Europe especially is entirely due to ill-considered interference in one case with the private affairs of smaller sovereign States; on the other hand to the want of firmness when one or other of the Great Powers strikes out a line that disregards all the principles in support of which the free countries of Europe went to war.

The inner political problem of Great Roumania is complicated, but very interesting, and her aspirations are worthy not only of sympathy but of help on the part of nations which have gained their present standing under much less trying conditions. In the first place there is much work to be done in old Roumania, socially as well as materially; the country has suffered considerably. Material damages can be repaired; in this Roumania requires assistance, not alms but business. Like other Eastern European States, the country has been visited by many peripatetic missions since the Armistice made it possible for the "Indispensables" of the great Western Powers to travel abroad in safety, and these missions have opened Roumania's eyes to Western altruism—they prefer business. Socially and morally, Roumania suffers like the rest of us. There is the same discontent, due largely to the high cost of living, the same disinclination to work, and the same relaxation of civic discipline. At bottom these phenomena are due to the prevalent and generally justified distrust of political leaders of Roumania. The distrust mingled with amusement which the political leaders of Roumania feel (though they do not express it) towards the Olympians of the Supreme Council, is communicated to the workers of all classes, whose opinions may be gathered from the results of the last general election.

There are also reminiscences of Oriental methods due to the Sultan's former suzerainty still lingering in Old Roumania's political life; and these can only be cured by time and by closer relations with such peoples as have not suffered under that unclean influence. It is this latter cause that is retarding the assimilation by Great Roumania of the "minorities," and it affects even the Roumanians of Ardeal and Bukovina. It is necessary to form a very clear conception of the Transylvan Roumanians in order to understand the complicated questions now in process of solution. The Roumanians of Ardeal and the Bukovina, and also those of the Roumanian portion of the Banat, live almost entirely on the land. They are peasants, hard-working and frugal, strong and obstinate. They have generally been considered stupid by the Hungarian and German town-dwellers to whom they sold their country produce; but in this the town-dwellers were mistaken; the Roumanian is anything but stupid. He loved the land he lived on, and was content with the work it demanded, so comparatively few Roumanians left the land in pursuit of other employment. Moreover, the Habsburgs discouraged this, so very few Roumanians went into the liberal professions—it was hardly worth it as the Hungarian Government never allowed even the ablest of them to rise to any high position in Government employ. The effects of this policy are making themselves felt now. The leaders of Roumanian thought in the unredeemed territories managed the revolution of November, 1918, and also succeeded in forming a provisional government, but they are proving unequal to the task of administration and reconstruction. It is not to be wondered at, for the work has to be done by Roumanians who have hitherto held subordinate positions and have, therefore, been unable to acquire the necessary experience. These men are on the whole good types of the Austro-Hungarian official class, honest and hardworking; but the centralised system of Austro-Hungarian administration has tended to kill imagination and initiative. They are further handicapped by the fact that they have had to keep on as subordinates a number of Hungarians who were formerly their superiors in rank, and who certainly considered themselves such in every other respect.

(To be continued.)

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

India.

The *Morning Post* of December 12 devotes a characteristic leader to the Government of India Bill. It says:—

The people of India have not been consulted on the Bill, nor have the people of England been consulted. The announcement of August 20, 1917, made by Mr. Montagu in reply to a question by a private member has been used throughout as if it settled the principle both for India and this country. Any suggestion that the measure should be deferred or amended is treated as if were a proposal to break faith with the people of India. It is important, then, to remember that the people of India never asked for this Bill, that they have never been consulted on the subject, and that they do not want it. As we have said, the National Congress—the body which Mr. Montagu mistakes for Indian opinion—have declared against it beforehand, and it is safe to say that they will not be satisfied with it when they get it. Those non-Brahmins who have contrived to force their way to England to give evidence have declared emphatically that the Bill places them under an oligarchy of Brahmins, whose tyranny they dread. Lord Ampthill points out that in Madras this powerful and exclusive caste—to whom the people of India are unclean—are only 3 per cent. of the population, yet occupy 80 per cent. of the places in the public services and the Councils of the country. The advocates of the measure pretend that it will weaken the caste system; Lord Ampthill states, on the contrary—and we believe that he is in agreement with expert opinion on this subject—that the Bill will greatly strengthen the caste system, since it will add fresh political and administrative power to the vast powers, social, religious, and official, already possessed by the Brahmins. The view of the non-Brahmins is that we are handing them over to the rule of the Brahmins and standing by with a club to see that they obey.

Bolshevism and the East.

In the *Glasgow Herald* of December 3, Miss Louise Peralta discusses the new Persia and the problem of the Middle East. Her conclusion is this:—

The Entente and the world are faced by two alternatives. They will buttress Islam, according recognition to the principles demanded by its leading jurists; or they will attempt dismemberment of the temporalities of Islam and drive the whole outraged mentality and spirituality of the Middle East into union with the Bolsheviks. The warning cannot be too loudly uttered that Bolshevism, an invertebrate thing at present, will find its backbone in the East. From the days of the Tartar horde until the hour of Turkomanchai, the Mid Asian peoples regarded the Slav with inexpressible contempt. Just before the outbreak of the great war it was with amazement—now somewhat tempered—that their listeners repeatedly heard professors of a celebrated Muslim college in the Middle East assert the unconquerable innate savagery of the Slavic peoples, by whom, notwithstanding their brilliant attainments in art, music, and literature, these Muhammadan doctors affirmed a permanent civilisation to be unachievable. Those of us who know the East and its thought are convinced that the Muslim does not fondly desire co-operation with the Jew. Both Muslim and Jew are, however, Aryan-Semites. Many of the cities of the Nearer Middle East, notably Mosul, are metropoli of toleration, within whose walls Muhammadan and Hebrew live on easy, half-brotherly terms. Finally, Islam is at this moment forced to the wall. Muhammadans are of all peoples and tongues in the East. Just as the Arab of the Plains of Irak is laying aside his feud with the Kurd of the hills because of their common inheritance of the great desert tradition of freedom, so are the Muslims of the Middle East—Sunni, Shi'a and Wahabi—becoming at one, bound together by what is still to-day a living, proselytising faith. It is unbelievable that the world can pause before the alternatives; can hesitate as to which is incomparably for the good of humanity: a buttressing of the nations living according to one of the great divine manifestations vouchsafed to mankind, or the submersion of the world under a deluge of the decadent.

Syria.

The *New Statesman* of December 13 deals with the anxiety, both local and widespread, of the Syrian situation. It says:—

The excitement has since been considerably calmed by the announcement that it is not the intention of France to extend her military occupation, and the Emir Feisul is able to exert a moderating influence. But no one imagines that Feisul is likely to exert any moderating influence for a moment longer than it is in his interest to do so. The really critical point will be reached when the Turkish Treaty appears. In the meantime, French chances in Syria are not improving. It is idle to pretend that the majority of Syrians are not hostile to the French. And it is equally idle to suppose that we can prevent that hostility, though we can, of course, take care to avoid any action which will increase it. There is no doubt that Syrian nationalism is a strong and a growing force. Nor is there any doubt that the Emir Feisul means that it shall play its part—and his. We believe, as we have said before, that we have done a risky thing in opening up the prospect of an Arab Empire to the Sherif of Mecca. It will need the most delicate diplomacy on our part if it is to turn out well for the peace of the Middle East.

IN NORTHERN ANATOLIA.

At the Æolian Hall, on December 15, Captain E. H. Keeling related to the Royal Geographical Society how he, with two brother officers, managed, fifteen months before the Armistice, to escape from the hands of the Turks at Kastamuni. He gave a description of the town of Kastamuni and their daily life there. After a futile attempt (he said) to make the prisoners get their meals at a restaurant in which he had an interest, the Commandant left them to make their own arrangements for food, and they were permitted to visit the bazaar, to go for country walks, and to play football. A remarkable fact was that they could cash cheques on London up to any amount with the local tradesmen, though the cheques were not presented for payment till long after the last prisoner had left Turkey—a striking tribute to British credit.

Captain Keeling went on to describe how he and his party were recaptured and rescued. Suddenly from a wood (he said) bullets came in quick succession, as the result of which one of the guards was shot dead and three were wounded. The rescue party consisted of two Circassians, a Georgian, and an Armenian, and the leader—a Circassian—explained that he and his comrades were not brigands in the ordinary sense, but were outlaws who, hating the Young Turk Government, and being resolved not to serve against the English, had taken to the mountains with the idea of joining the Russians. Rajeb Bey, as he was named, had been once a gendarme officer, but he had taken to politics and had been sentenced in 1913 to ten years' imprisonment for his share in the murder of the Grand Vizier. While in hiding near Sinope he had heard of the recapture, and had arranged the ambush for the purpose of rescue.

Sir Francis Younghusband, who presided, announced that the Prince of Wales, who had shown the greatest interest in the adventures of Captain Keeling and his comrades, and had expressed his admiration for their bravery and resourcefulness, had consented to become vice-patron of the Royal Geographical Society, and they hoped soon to have an opportunity of welcoming his Royal Highness.

A BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHÆOLOGY.

The proposals for the founding of a British School of Archæology at Jerusalem have become facts, and a very strong Organising Committee has been formed, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Viscount Bryce, Sir Charles F. Close, Sir Arthur Evans, H. R. Hall, G. F. Hill, D. G. Hogarth, R. A. S. Macalister, E. W. G. Masterman, W. Morrison, W. M. Flinders Petrie, and Sir George Adam Smith. The Chairman of the Committee is Sir F. G. Kenyon. While the Palestine Exploration Fund will continue its work as before, the objects of the School will be:—1. To facilitate the researches of scholars. 2. To provide instruction and guidance for students. 3. To train archæological excavators and administrators. 4. The School will assist in every possible way the excavations and explorations of the Palestine Exploration Fund. It may from time to time undertake investigations on its own account, and such operations would be conducted in harmony with the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. The scope of periods and subjects of study will be unrestricted, ranging from the Stone Age and the early civilisations of Amorites and Canaanites through all the history of Palestine and Syria, and their relations with the nations around them, down through the Græco-Roman Age to the Arab Conquest, the Crusades, and the later Mohammedan period. The subjects will include all those for which archæology provides material: Art and Antiquities of all kinds, the History of Ancient Religions, Topography, Geography, and other relevant studies. A site for the building of the School in a very favourable position in Jerusalem has been provisionally secured. Meanwhile, work will be begun in temporary quarters which the present administration has undertaken to place at the disposal of the School. With the object of expediting arrangements, the Committee have provisionally appointed Professor J. Garstang as director.

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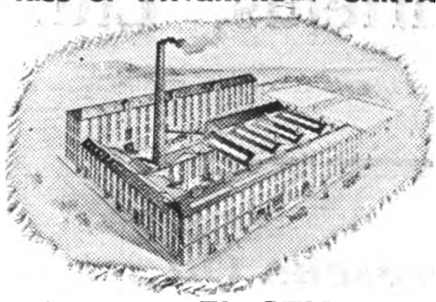
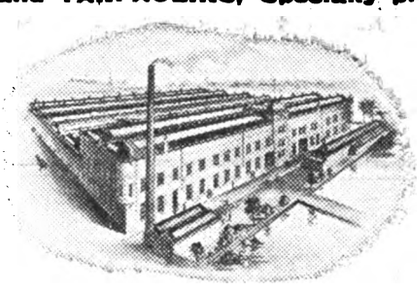
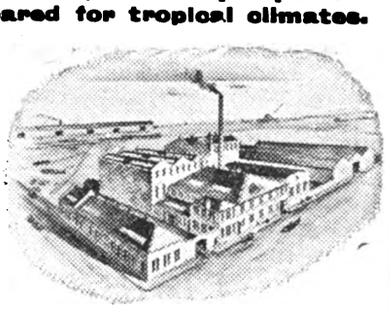

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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The alteration in the exchange value of the rupee from 2s. 2d. to 2s. 4d. was practically a foregone conclusion, in view of the continued rise in the price of silver. Even with the present increase, it is at least a moot point whether the rising rupee—to use an apt phrase—has reached the top of the curve, for in the short time since the latest change there has been a further appreciation in the value of the metal. But it is dangerous to prophesy in this matter, for the high price of silver is dependent on some very uncertain factors. As I have had occasion to emphasise before, these constant alterations in the value of the rupee have a most injurious effect on trade. It is the uncertainty that matters, and while that exists exporters from India are naturally operating under a most serious disability.

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The report of H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India, Mr. T. M. Ainscough, O.B.E., on the "Conditions and Prospects of British Trade in India at the Close of the War," which has just been published, will be the subject of an article next week, and I will merely say here that Mr. Ainscough's authoritative and careful survey of the position of the Indian market should be absolutely invaluable to British merchants and manufacturers. India is the most important market in the world for British goods, and during the war there have been many changes in the trade of the country, and, as I have had occasion to remark, other nations have had a unique opportunity of obtaining a foothold in the market. "Many of these changes," Mr. Ainscough states in a covering despatch, "very considerably weaken our position in the market, and call for special efforts and revised methods and organisation in order to meet them." It may be hoped that the report will have the result of bringing before the business community the fact that the conditions have altered, and that other times demand other measures.

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In the article on "The Athens Exhibition," which appears on page 708, in this issue, our correspondent remarks that "it is significant of the changed outlook that many firms who did not exhibit have now admitted that they are sorry they did not take part." Naturally, for they have been hearing the glowing accounts of exhibitors of the great openings for trade in the Near East! As showing the impressions of those who did exhibit, I quote from a most interesting article on the exhibition in the *Winged Arrow*, the house journal of Messrs. Wood-Milne, Limited, and George Spencer, Moulton and Co., Limited, written by Mr. J. T. Magee, who attended the exhibition on behalf of these firms. "The Exhibition," he writes, "was a gigantic success, a veritable triumph of British skill and organisation. . . . The exhibition has done much to link up the Near East more closely with Britain. Never before in the history of Greece was the name of England more respected than it is to-day. . . . On the whole, I am firmly convinced that the Near Eastern market is one that should be assiduously cultivated by British manufacturers, and I think the Federation of British Industries deserve more than a passing word of credit for their foresight in organising the exhibition."

***

His many friends in the Near East will learn with great regret of the death of Sir John Jackson, the eminent engineer and contractor. In the course of his long and distinguished career, Sir John Jackson undertook many constructive works of the first importance in this country, chief among them the extension of the Admiralty works at Keyham, while his services were frequently employed in various parts of the Empire and by foreign Powers. To his work in the Near East these pages have borne frequent testimony, and it was his great undertaking in Mesopotamia more than anything he did, perhaps, that impressed itself upon the imagination. In that region he was engaged in carrying out Sir William Willcocks' irrigation scheme for the Turkish Government, and completed just before the war the great Hindieh barrage across the Euphrates. Further developments in that region and in the Lebanon district, where his firm was undertaking irrigation works for the Imperial Ottoman Debt, were, of course, stopped by the war. But the Hindieh barrage stands as a lasting monument to one who was destined to carry the emblem of modern civilisation to the home of one of the oldest known civilisations.

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A feature of special interest in the address of Lord Bessborough at the general meeting of the Imperial Ottoman Bank was his reference to the extension of the activities of the bank. During the war new branches were opened at Marseilles and Paphos, and to these are to be added branches at Tunis and at Kerkook in Mesopotamia, while developments in other regions are contemplated. As regards the bank's position, Lord Bessborough drew attention to the liquidity of the establishment, and to the fact that the advances to the Government, which in the last balance-sheet represented £1,700,000, no longer appeared, and while he made no mention of the prospects of the resumption of dividends, shareholders will no doubt draw their own conclusion from his assurance that the committee looked forward to the future with every hope of successful results being achieved.

***

A most interesting cinematograph film was shown at Manchester last week, illustrating all the processes of cotton spinning and weaving from the opening of the bales of cotton to the production of clothing. This is the first time that anything of the kind has been attempted, and the special circumstances at present affecting the Lancashire cotton industry naturally invest the film with particular interest.

***

At the general meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, the chairman, Mr. F. Eckstein, was able to give a most encouraging survey of the company's position. They had every reason, he said, to be satisfied with the last year's results. Zeidab produced 8,495 kantars as against 7,738, Barakat produced 8,079 as against 5,743, and Tayiba produced 7,179 as against 6,953, while as to prospects for the coming year, he pointed out that they had under cotton at Zeidab 3,300 feddans, at Barakat 2,056, and at Tayila 1,710, or 7,066 feddans as against 7,164. At Zeidab, where picking is in full swing and the first shipment of 400 bales is already on its way home, the crop promised, he added, to equal, if not to exceed, that of last year. Picking at Tayiba and Barakat would commence towards the end of the month. The managing director cabled that at present the plants looked well, so that they might look forward to a very promising crop, and therefore to corresponding results.

***

Turning to the agreement with the Sudan Government, Mr. Eckstein said that the rough outline of the agreement was that it established a three-cornered partnership between the Sudan Government, the syndicate, and the natives of the Sudan, which meant and had the inestimable value that all three parties were equally interested to make that important enterprise the greatest possible success. "I cannot emphasise the importance of this part of the arrangement too strongly," he added; "in fact, I consider this the bull point of our agreement." As to the outlook for the syndicate under the agreement, Mr. Eckstein pointed out that it was not to be expected that cotton would remain for ever at the present high rates; on the other hand, it was also fairly certain that good long-stapled cotton would command for a number of years to come high prices. All their estimates were based on very moderate figures, and all he would like to say on this point was that with ordinary luck they should be able to pay dividends which would leave the shareholders well satisfied.

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The Athens Exhibition.

Outlook for British Trade.

(From a Correspondent.)

It would not be going too far to say that the point of view of British manufacturers with regard to trade with the Near East has been profoundly modified as a result of the remarkable success which has attended the Exhibition of British Manufactures at Athens, organised by the Federation of British Industries. When the project of an exhibition was first mooted it was evident that there was a considerable lack of appreciation among the business community with regard to the vast amount of trade that might be reached by exhibitors. There was also a very widespread feeling that adequate scope for trade could be found in meeting the enormous demand for home consumption without embarking on doubtful adventures in comparatively unknown fields. Again, some manufacturers, while not unwilling to enter the Near Eastern markets, counselled delay. "Why have it so early?" was the cry, and doubts were expressed whether an exhibition could be held so soon after the Armistice. But to listen to this cry would have been as short-sighted as the policy of those traders who believed, in concentrating on home trade at the expense of all else, oblivious of the fact that while the home market can always be regained without much difficulty a really unique opportunity of securing a firm foothold in foreign markets is an event of a lifetime.

Well, the exhibition has been held, and the enterprise of the Federation has been repaid by what can only be described as a tremendous success. Practically all the manufacturers who exhibited admit that they have taken an enormous amount of orders, and also that there are simply colossal trade openings waiting to be picked up in Greece and the Near East generally by anyone who can spare goods to meet the requirements of that market, or even a portion of them. And it is significant of the changed outlook that many firms who did not exhibit have now admitted that they are sorry they did not take part!

The Question of Agents.

A matter which has been brought to the foreground as a result of the activities of British manufacturers in connection with the exhibition is the question of the appointment of agents. Those in a position to judge claim that experience shows that the most successful British firms are those who appoint a sole representative who is able to give practically his whole time to the development of a particular trade. The view is taken that the collective representation so favoured in the Near East is not altogether satisfactory from the point of view of the manufacturer, since when a firm is overloaded with agencies there must be a danger that the interests of some of the manufacturers concerned may be neglected. There is a very satisfactory alternative, it is emphasised, to the appointment of agents, namely, the combination of a number of firms engaged in different undertakings of a similar character into an agency. An outstanding example of successful union on these lines is afforded by the Associated British Manufacturers (Near East), Limited, which comprises a number of firms engaged in various forms of constructive work whose interests do not clash. In what may be termed the "mixed" agency there can also be no clashing, it is true, but it is maintained, and possibly with good reason, that the representation of firms engaged in a given category of undertakings such, for instance, as engineering, is bound to be more successful than that of firms producing many products which have little or no relation to one another.

Banking Enterprise.

If there is one factor more essential to the success of British trade in the Near East than any other it is the provision of adequate facilities by British banks, and it was most satisfactory to note that banking interests were well represented at the exhibition by Barclays Bank, which rendered very valuable assistance to the exhibitors in general. Enterprise of this kind cannot be too highly praised, and Barclays is entitled to every congratulation on the excellent lead it has given. Now that the ice has been broken, so to speak, perhaps some of the other great joint-stock banks will turn their attention to the Near East.

Goods in Special Demand.

"What trades did best at the exhibition?" is a question that is naturally of great interest to those firms who were not represented at Athens. Textiles were chiefly in demand, as was only to be expected, and jewellery, small engineering tools, chemicals and fertilisers, soaps, and perfumes were also in great request. As regards engineering, the immediate sales were not of such importance as the inquiries received, which were very large and varied.

Roughly it may be stated that about 75 per cent. of the exhibits at Athens will not have to be taken back. Had many exhibitors wished, they could have taken vastly greater orders than they did, but these were purposely kept within controllable dimensions in view of the fact that their output at the present time is limited. It is sincerely to be hoped that the orders that were taken will be executed within a reasonable time. If this is only done, there is every promise of splendid trade to come in the Near East. A great impression has undoubtedly been made, and it is up to manufacturers now to follow up the openings which are awaiting them.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General, Commercial Intelligence Department, Calcutta, dated December 10 :—

During week ending November 29 sowing spring crops and harvesting autumn crops continued. Harvesting paddy continued North-eastern and Southern India. Sowings continued Madras. Plucking tea continued Assam. Wheat sowing progressed Punjab. Cotton plucking continued everywhere. General crop conditions good, but rain much needed to north-west.

Bombay cotton market irregular. Fully good Broach April-May Rs. 564 eight annas. Piecegoods market steady. Calcutta jute market firm, gunny market quiet but steady.

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CONDITIONS IN ROUMANIA.

Excellent Maize Yield.

We have received the following report on conditions in Roumania from Messrs. Watson and Youell:—

The Ministry of Domains reports that the maize crop is a very good one. It is not yet gathered in most districts, and it is still too soft to permit of its transport. In some districts it is reported that sales are taking place on the fields at 300 lei per metric ton. The Roumanian press report that the superabundant yield of maize causes difficulty in winter storage owing to insufficient material for constructing ricks. One of the largest grain merchants in Roumania writes that his firm "expects to export in the spring a large quantity of maize, the crop being excellent."

The prohibition of grain exports continues, and from recent reports little or no wheat of this year's crop is likely to leave the country. The autumn sowings could not be conducted under normal conditions. The quantity of rapeseed and colza available for export was about 10.000 tons, and a good portion of this, we understand, has been sold to Italy, and must have been shipped by this time. About 5,000 tons of grain were booked lately at 60s. per unit on special Dancon terms, prompt shipment for the Continent. Our Constantza house reports under date of November 28 that the pontoon bridge will shortly be removed when transport of goods to and from Roumania proper will have to rely upon the barge ferry, which carries six railway trucks per trip, and can make three to four trips per day, say, a total of 200 to 240 tons per day.

Storage room at Constantza is scarce, and there is an active demand for warehouses, rents for which have risen sharply and are still on the rise. There is great scarcity of fuel, and oilcake is being used for heating purposes, especially in the Dobruja. It is selling at 50 lei per ton, and the demand is much greater than the supply. Firewood is being brought by sailors, and fetches 350 lei per ton f.o.b., which is equal to about 500 lei per ton delivered.

There is little or no movement at Constantza yet. The steamers of the Roumanian Maritime Service land small quantities of cargo, and those of the Lloyd Triestino (ex-Austrian Lloyd), calling at Constantza on their way to and from the Danube, land and ship a few packages and passengers.

The weather towards the end of November was frosty, and it was reported in London about ten days ago that ice had formed on the Danube. This could only be a short cold snap, as we have not heard of any impediment to navigation, which does not usually close before the end of the year.

There is great congestion on the dock quays at Galatz, chiefly arising through the supply of railway trucks having been suspended for about seven weeks, the rolling stock having been requisitioned for the transport of troops. The landing of cargo ex steamers, therefore, is conducted under enormous difficulties, and at unprecedented cost. In view of this congestion and the lateness of the season it may be necessary to discharge some of the cargoes into lighters, but this will only be done as a last resort. Some steamers destined with cargo for Galatz have managed to make arrangements with consignees to proceed to Braila to discharge, where conditions are more favourable.

The Yugoslav Government have decided to send to the United States of America a Commissioner to study financial and other questions which may interest and concern the two countries.

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Engineering.

MOTOR SHOW REFLECTIONS V.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The exhibits of Messrs. Napier and Son at the show consisted of a 40-50 h.p. chassis with a polished finish; a similar six-cylindered chassis with a limousine-landaulette body; a 40-50 h.p. chassis with a sporting phaeton body; and a 40-50 h.p. chassis with a coupé-cabriolet body.

I was able to have a few minutes' conversation with my friend, Mr. H. T. Vane, the managing director of the company, at the show, and he informed me that the Napier six-cylinder car still holds more than four times as many Royal Automobile Club certificates as any other make of six-cylinder car, a fact which speaks for itself as to the general merit and excellence of this production.

A short technical description of this engine may be of interest to many readers. Of course, the use of aluminium has cut down the weight considerably without any sacrifice of strength, and has also permitted the gain of a good deal of power. In fact, the new model develops quite 50 per cent. more power than a pre-war chassis of the same weight. All working parts of the engine are enclosed, and the valves, which are of the overhead type, are mounted on a single detachable head, which, when removed, permits the condition of the pistons and cylinders being seen. In this way all the valve gear can be removed for regrinding or other attention without it being necessary either to dismantle the engine or lift the cylinders from the crank chamber.

It must be mentioned that the chassis itself, apart from the engine, gears, and transmission, is lighter by several hundredweight than the pre-war chassis, this reduction in weight being also gained without any reduction of strength. As a matter of fact, the Napier Company inform me that the chassis is not only lighter but considerably stronger than before, and the car can consequently be depended upon for use on rough roads and under adverse conditions.

The chassis is a standard model complete with electric starter, dynamo for lighting, a four-speed gear and reverse, and a silent drive to the back axle. The springing is by long cantilever springs encased in leather gaiters to prevent the admission of wet or road grit. The wheels are of the detachable wire type, made by the Rudge-Whitworth Company, and are fitted with Harland dual rims and heavy Dunlop tyres.

In the limousine-landaulet body the wings and panels are of special aluminium alloy, and the total weight of the carriage work has been reduced; this type of body actually weighs less by 25 per cent. than a similar pre-war body. It has accommodation for six people including the driver, and is the first landaulet body to be fitted with a "V" type wind-screen, which adds greatly to its appearance.

A similar high-grade British production is the Rolls-Royce chassis and completed cars. This firm, whose reputation is now world-wide in connection with aeroplane and airship engines as well as automobiles, inform me that in future they intend to produce only one model of chassis. This will be fitted with a 40-50 horse-power engine, the bore and stroke of which is 4½ by 4¾ ins. The wheel base of the car will be a fraction under 12 ft., and the size of the wheels will be 895 by 135 millimetres. A Rolls-Royce automatic carburettor will be fitted, and the ignition will be by means of a Watford British-made magneto. The standard chassis includes a self-starter, the necessary batteries and dynamo, a switchboard for the electrical work, all wiring, a spare detachable wire wheel, a Klaxon electric horn, four tyres fitted to the wheels, and a well-fitted tool-kit, containing all necessary tools of best quality. There will also be an ample supply of spare parts and an instruction book. The purchaser can arrange with the company for a moderate fee for an inspector to visit the car once yearly for three years in order to make a close inspection and to give a complete report as to condition. Free instruction in the driving and care of the car will also be given at the Derby works of the company to all purchasers who care to avail themselves of the offer.

It must be made clear here that the 1919 Rolls-Royce chassis is not actually a new model so far as essentials of design are concerned. It is really the old pre-war model, which was so well tested and found so satisfactory, brought up to date in as many respects as were capable of any improvement. In connection with it one of the most striking innovations is the self-starter made by the firm, and which embodies many new and desirable features. The only similarity this starter bears to others on the market is that the power for starting is derived from a high capacity and exceptionally strongly built accumulator set, which is kept up to full power by a dynamo, and which feeds the electric lighting circuits and also provides the battery ignition. I am informed by Mr. Claude Johnson that both the efficiency and the silent running of this starter have been the subject of a considerable number of tests and experiments, and it can be relied upon as an appliance in which all these considerations have been dealt with in a most successful manner. The technical details are perhaps a little too mathematical and abstruse to be dealt with fully, but it may be said that the motor of the self-starter actually drives the engine through the clutch and gear-box, and that all that has to be done to put it in action is to press a conveniently placed knob.

Although every user of a Rolls-Royce car is convinced that their pre-war chassis left nothing to be desired in the way of power and sweetness of running, yet the company have derived a great deal of knowledge and experience from their extensive and remarkably successful work in connection with aero-engines, and have embodied the whole of this, so far as was practicable, in their new chassis.

Oil and oilseeds can now be exported from India, the Indian Government having removed the embargo.

RANKEN CIVIL & MILITARY TAILORS,
13a, GEORGE STREET,
Spécialité—INDIAN ARMY OUTFITS. AND HANOVER SQUARE,
And at CALCUTTA, DELHI, SIMLA, LAHORE, and RAWAL PINDI.
COMPANY LONDON, W.
Telegrams—"Mertally." 'Phone—Gerrard 59

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

Drawbacks of Concrete Ships.

It is admitted now that war exigencies alone were responsible for the attention bestowed on concrete shipbuilding during the war. But whatever may be the opinion now in this direction, it is evident that in the Eastern Mediterranean ports, owing to the great scarcity of shipping and to the hopeless efforts to obtain at present either new or secondhand iron ships, the concrete ship is still considered as a very economical and good substitute, and thus some good concrete ships, it is said, have already been built in local shipyards. For those, however, who are over-enthusiastic about this newest style of vessel and have no patience to wait until the British shipyards are ready to take up their orders and to execute them with rapidity, a few notes, comparing the two systems, may be of interest. Except for rapidity of building and cheapness of construction, the concrete ship is distinctly inferior to the steel ship, and although the prime cost may be less the working cost is very much greater because the weight of the concrete necessitates stronger engines. According to an estimate, a steel ship of 4,484 tons cargo-space displaces 1,750 tons and is driven by an engine of 1,240 h.p. at a speed of nine knots, while a concrete vessel of equal capacity has a displacement of 2,020 tons and needs 1,350 h.p. for a speed of nine knots. The steel ship costs £34,800, the concrete one £30,340. Working expenses for a month's voyage for the steel ship would be £1,089; for the concrete, £1,129. Should the concrete vessel be driven by motor power, it compares better with the steel steamship, but compared with a steel motor-boat the concrete motor-boat is at a still greater disadvantage. There are some, however, who declare that the new shipbuilding process is only in the initial stage of development, and hope that improvements will be made as time goes on—just as was done with iron and steel boats. This is not, of course, improbable, and is a matter which the thoughtful Mediterranean shipowners, who want *now* a strong ship, may take into consideration.

Export of Cars.

The Board of Trade returns show that during the eleven months ended November 30 the total value of motor-cars, chassis, and parts exported from this country was £4,493,363, as compared with £3,270,909 and £2,736,397 during the corresponding months of 1918 and 1917 respectively. The number of cars and chassis was less this year than in either of the two previous years, being 1,865 against 2,694 and 2,125, the increase in the total value of exports being in respect of tyres and parts.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the contracts given below, and must be made by the dates mentioned:—

Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company.—Supply of (1) steel rails, (2) cast-iron pot sleepers, (3) copper rods, (4) acid open-hearth steel boiler plates, and (5) firebricks and fireclay. (Spec., Nos. 1 and 2, £1; No. 3, 10s.; and Nos. 4 and 5, 7s. 6d.; Secretary, 48, Copthall Avenue.) December 31.

Madras Corporation.—Supply and delivery of about 67 miles of English stoneware pipes, from 4 in. to 18 in. internal diameter. (Spec., 5s.; Messrs. J. Mansergh and Sons, 5, Victoria Street, S.W.1.) February 2.

Egyptian Ministry of Education.—Supply of 180 blue linen overalls (jackets and trousers), for the Technical School, Boulaq, Cairo. A copy of the adjudication and a list of measures can be inspected at the office of The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended November 22 amounted to £8,692.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from November 24 to December 5 amounted to 6,370,000 francs, as against 2,750,000 francs.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended November 20 amounted to £E17,922, making the total for the year £E211,605. The corresponding figures for 1918 were £E13,612 and £E219,109.

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GENERAL BANK OF GREECE.

Paid-up Capital, Drs. 3,000,000.

Head Office - ATHENS.

BANKING OPERATIONS:
Every description of Banking business transacted.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS:
Investigations in connection with, and the promotion, organisation and financing of, Limited Joint Stock Companies, with a view to exploiting agricultural, industrial and mineral resources, executing technical works, etc.

COMMERCIAL AND SHIPPING DEPARTMENT:
Purchase and sale of goods on account of clients. Warehousing, Advertising and placing foreign products on the market. Agents for foreign companies and large commercial and industrial firms abroad. General Shipping Agents.

POPULAR BANK OF GREECE.

Head Office, ATHENS. Branch, PIRÆUS.

Correspondents throughout Greece.

Established June, 1905, by the National Bank of Greece and a group of Capitalists.

CAPITAL - Drs. 1,500,000.
RESERVE FUND - Drs. 2,500,000.
Deposits and Credit Accounts, Drs. 100,000,000.

The Bank specialises in the collection of Bills payable in Greece; it accepts goods on consignment, and undertakes their sale, and transacts every kind of Banking business.

General Manager: D. LOVERDO.

TRADE WITH THE NEAR EAST.

The Bank of Athens extends special facilities for business with the Near **East** to manufacturers, exporters and importers.

The Bank has offices in all the principal towns in **Greece,** also in **Egypt,** Cairo and Alexandria, in **Cyprus,** Limassol, in **Constantinople,** in **Smyrna,** and in **France,** Marseilles.

Inquiries from interested parties are invited.

BANK OF ATHENS.

PAID-UP CAPITAL : £1,920,000. **HEAD OFFICE IN ATHENS.**

London Office: 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 3.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE, LIMITED.

CAPITAL PAID-UP - Drs. 15,000,000.
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 2,364,793.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches:—**Piræus, Salonika, Patras, Volo, Syra, Calamata, Corfu, Cephalonia, Candia, Chios, Argos, Pyrgos, Vostizza (Ægion), Nauplia.**

AGENTS IN ALL PARTS OF GREECE, THE LEVANT, AND ABROAD.

The Bank conducts every kind of Banking, Commercial and Stock Exchange business and extends special facilities to traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts.

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT:
The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

GREECE.

Area 43,522 square miles. The cultivated area amounted to 5,745,300 acres, of which about 2,253,400 were under cereals, 518,900 under grapes and currants, 370,600 under oak trees, 295,500 under olives, and 2,223,900 were forests.

Population (1914), 5,000,000 approximately.

Chief Products (with average annual production):—Currants, 142,000 tons; wines, 3,000,000 casks; tobacco, 9,000,00 lb.; cereals, 8,000,000 bushels; olive oil, 200,000 casks.

The **MINERALS** of Greece include:—Iron, Marble, Magnesite, Emery, Lead, Lignite.

IMPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £7,000,000, of which £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom; £1,800,000 from Germany and Austria Hungary; £1,000,000 from Russia.

EXPORTS (1914), Old Greece only:—Total value £4,000,000, of which £3,000,000 came to the United Kingdom.

COINAGE.—The unit is the Drachmæ, equivalent to a Franc (10d.). The current rate of exchange is about 25·05 Drachmæ to £1.

FREIGHT.—From England, 160/- + 10 % primage.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—It was decided in 1898 to introduce the metric system. The change is to be gradual from the old system, which is:—Oke = 2·82 lb., stater = 123·20 lb., livre (Venetian) = 1·05 lb., baril (wine) = 16·33 imperial gallons, kilo = 0·114 imperial quarter, pike = ⅔ of a yard, stremma = ·242 of an acre.

BANK OF NATIONAL ECONOMY (of Greece)

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches:

PIRÆUS, SYRA. PATRAS.

Capital Paid Up - Drs. 10,000,000

Fully represented in all parts of the world for all kinds of commercial, financial, and shipping business.

President. L. EMBIRICOS. *Manager.* D. MIAOULIS.

BANK OF PIRÆUS.

For COMMERCE, INDUSTRY and SHIPPING.

Capital Paid-up - Drs. 5,000,000. Reserve Fund - Drs. 3,095,000.

OFFICES at PIRÆUS and ATHENS.

Every kind of Banking business transacted.
The Bank's connections throughout Greece enable it to offer foreign clients special facilities for the collection of Bills, etc.
Correspondence invited.

BANK OF INDUSTRY OF GREECE.

Head Office: 14, Stadium Street, Athens.

Capital Fully Paid-up - Drs. 15,000,000

The Bank has been established for the encouragement and development of Industry and Commerce, and undertakes every description of banking business.

BANK OF ORIENT.

Capital Paid up - Drs. 25,000,000

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: SALONIKA, SMYRNA, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MITYLENE, SERRES, ZAGAZIG, MAGNESIA, PERGAMA, SOMA.

Every kind of Banking Business transacted

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COMPANY MEETING.

SUDAN PLANTATIONS SYNDICATE.

Gezira Cotton Areas.

Increase of Capital Foreshadowed

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., was held on December 17, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. F. Eckstein (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Acting Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—Before dealing with the business part of our meeting to-day, it is my duty (and a very sad duty it is) to refer to our late colleague and managing director, Mr. D. P. MacGillivray, who died in London after a very short illness in February last. Mr. MacGillivray joined us in 1907, after having acquired by purchase the interest of Mr. Leigh Hunt, one of the pioneers of our syndicate. At that time we were only concerned in the working of the original 10,000 feddans concession at Zeidab, about 180 miles north of Khartoum. He at once put all his energy and ability into the work there, but soon realised that, although we were able to grow good cotton, a still more favourable and larger field for cotton, which would benefit the Sudan, our Lancashire friend, and our syndicate, would be found south of Khartoum, in what is known as the Gezira district. With characteristic perseverance he tried to impress on the authorities in the Sudan the importance of this area, so eminently favourable for cotton growing on an extensive scale. This induced the Sudan Government to establish an experimental station there, and it entrusted our syndicate, and particularly its guiding spirit, Mr. MacGillivray, with the management. The results of this test station were so encouraging, and so impressed both the late Lord Kitchener and the Sirdar, Sir Reginald Wingate, that plans were prepared for the irrigation and cultivation of the Gezira, and it was then arranged that the syndicate should have the management of this large enterprise. The war, unfortunately, postponed its execution. It is a melancholy reflection that with the happy advent of peace and the consequent resumption of work after the successful termination of our negotiations with the Sudan Government, our late managing director should unfortunately not have been spared to see the fruition of his devoted labours. The shareholders of our syndicate—large and small—owe him a great debt of gratitude for the work he has accomplished in season and out of season in a trying climate. They have lost a most capable director, the board a loyal and trusted colleague, and I a dear personal friend.

Now, gentlemen, presuming that you will take as read the accounts and report of the last year, which have been in your hands for some time, I will move their adoption by this meeting. My task in doing this is once more a pleasant one, as not only have our financial results been satisfactory, but also our long-debated and long-deferred agreement with the Sudan Government has been finally settled. I will refer to this more fully later on.

Balance Sheet.

Turning first to the balance sheet, you will find share capital unchanged and our debenture debt redeemed, with the exception of £1,000, which we are unable to pay back, as this belongs to the estate of a deceased American gentleman, whose executors have so far not taken out probate in this country. Reserve account and share premium account are the same as last year, but to the Gezira reserve account we have added £6,000. On former occasions I have given you full explanations regarding this account. Creditors in London, £25,421, include £14,397 provision for postponed repairs. The item of Sudan creditors, £58,088, is made up of £44,304 due to tenants, £1,784 deposits of our staff, and £12,000 outstanding accounts (including research farm, £2,500). The amount of £26,700 owing to the Sudan Government represents its share in the Tayiba station profits, and has since been paid almost entirely.

On the credit side of the balance sheet you will find concession and land account the same as last year, and the general development account about £10,000 less, which I will explain presently. Buildings account is £2,000 higher and canalisation the same as before. From pumping plant, agricultural implements, ginning factories, tugs, and barges we have made the usual writings off. Cotton figures as an asset of £147,579, exclusive of £130,620 already received and absorbed in the accounts. This has all since been disposed of at this figure. Other stocks in the Sudan include live-stock, seeds, and stores, light implements, and supplies. Debtors in the Sudan (£8,060) are represented by:—£395 19s. 10d., loans to tenants against 1920 crop; £6,088 5s. 1d., working account; and £1,576 13s. 5d., sundry accounts. Our cash position is good and steadily improving.

If you will now look at the profit and loss account you will see that our income shows a sum of £138,946, against £121,292, and transfer fees £237, against £5 in the previous year. On the debit side general expenses and cultivation expenses are somewhat higher, as you can well understand. We have again made a provision of £5,400 for postponed repairs. Every penny of this amount is earmarked, and will be spent to keep our plants in first-class order. As last year, we propose to pay a well-earned bonus to our staff, and I feel sure shareholders will readily agree to the £3,000 set apart for this purpose. The total sum written off this year amounts to £13,950, against £4,102 last year. The reason for this increase I will explain when I deal with our agreement with the Sudan Government. Our net profits (£59,064) are, within a few hundred pounds, the same as last year.

To sum up, we have every reason to be satisfied with our last year's results. Zeidab produced 8,495 kantars, against 7,738 kantars in the previous year. Barakat produced 8,079 kantars, against 5,743 kantars in the previous year. Tayiba produced 7,179 kantars, against 6,953 kantars in the year before. Shipping facilities were quite satisfactory.

Crop Prospects.

As to our prospects for the coming year:—We have under cotton at Zeidab, 3,300 feddans; Barakat, 2,056 feddans; Tayiba, 1,710 feddans; in all, 7,066 feddans, against 7,164 in the past year. At Zeidab picking is in full swing, and our first shipment of 400 bales is already on the way home. The crop promises to equal, if not to exceed, that of last year. Both at Tayiba and Barakat picking will commence towards the end of the present month. Our managing director cables that at present the plants look well, so that we may look forward to a very promising crop, and therefore to corresponding results.

Agreement with Sudan Government

It gives me particular pleasure to be able to tell you to-day all about the long delayed and much discussed agreement with the Sudan Government, which was signed in London on October 17 between myself, representing the syndicate, and Colonel Sir Edgar E. Bernard, for the Government. The rough outline of this agreement is that it establishes a three-cornered partnership between the Sudan Government, our Syndicate, and the natives of the Sudan, which means and has the inestimable value that all three parties are equally interested to make this important enterprise the greatest possible success. (Applause.) I cannot emphasise the importance of this part of the arrangement too strongly: in fact, I consider this the bull point of our agreement. The object is, as you know, cotton growing in the Sudan by irrigation in the area situated between the Blue and White Nile south of Khartoum, and called the Gezira. The Government supplies the land and the water, and receives for this 35 per cent.; the native does the cultivation, and gets 40 per cent.; we undertake the entire management, the marketing of the crops, do the minor canalisation, supply the machinery, buildings, offices, ginning factories, and receive 25 per cent. of the net profits. The agreement is for a period of 10 years, starting from the day on which the Government can supply us with water sufficient for 50,000 feddans of cotton, and it has a clause providing an option for a further four years.

The whole scheme comprises in the first instance an area of 300,000 feddans—one feddan is equal to about one acre—of which 100,000 are to be under cotton, and I may remark here that from our past experience we have learned that a three years' rotation of crops is the best and most profitable course to follow. In other words, we shall have one-third of the 300,000 feddans under cotton, one-third under green crops, of which the native gets the full and undivided benefit, and one-third lies fallow. Our endeavour now is to be ready for planting 50,000 feddans with cotton the moment the Government can supply us with the necessary water.

You will want to know what this agreement costs us. Firstly, two of our directors, one of whom is, alas, no longer with us, and a certain number of our old staff in the Sudan had an option on 15,000 of our shares at par for a number of years, only exercisable in case this agreement became an accomplished fact. This option has now been exercised. Secondly, we abandon an option we had with the Sudan Government on 10,000 feddans of land in the Gezira. Thirdly, we pay to the Sudan Government a sum of £32,500, against which the Government frees our syndicate from the obligation of subscribing £500,000 at par under an old agreement dating from pre-war times. You may perhaps remember that the late Lord Kitchener, who took such a deep interest in the Sudan, and, I may incidentally say, in our syndicate, caused a Bill to be passed through our Houses of Parliament for a Sudan Government loan of two and a-half million pounds, which he hoped to issue at par at 3½ per cent. It was in this loan that Lord Kitchener stipulated that we should subscribe the above-mentioned half-a-million. In addition we are writing off from development account the sum of £8,086 10s. 9d., which represents expenses incurred during the last seven years under the heading "Gezira Scheme."

Now, quite apart from this, we have naturally to find a considerable amount of working capital, and to achieve this it is the intention of your Board to increase our capital and to offer in the first instance, say, 150,000 shares—that is, one new share for each old share to the shareholders at a moderate premium. When our plans in this respect are complete we shall have to call you together again to obtain your sanction for such an increase and corresponding issue. The Sudan Government is also advancing to us as a loan and have already paid to us a sum of £400,000, which is to be used entirely for the erection of further ginning plant, buildings, offices, steam ploughs, in effect all necessary machinery, and one of the conditions of the agreement is that the Government has to take over these items on the expiration of our tenure at a valuation. We have to find the money for the minor canalisation, the ordinary running and working expenses, as well as for advances to the natives, etc.

The Outlook.

The question which naturally interests you is, what will our syndicate make out of this agreement? A direct answer to this, I am afraid, would be in the direction of a prophecy. Gentlemen, there is an old saying, and a very true one, "Never prophesy unless you know." Unfortunately, cotton growing, like agriculture everywhere, is a business subject to various and varying climatic conditions, as well as to the fluctuating prices of the product. The old shareholders of our syndicate are only too well aware of our experiences at Zeidab—our first and original cotton-growing station, which belongs to us—namely, that you get good years and also lean years, but we never once had a complete failure of a crop. (Hear, hear.) For the last few years we have had, in all, about 7,000 feddans under cotton, and we have been able to pay you what I consider good dividends, and at the same time to strengthen our financial position, thanks chiefly to the high prices of cotton. Against that we had rather a larger staff than we actually required, for the simple reason that we used all our three stations as a training ground for our inspectors in view of the coming bigger scheme. It is not to be expected that cotton will remain for ever at the present high rates; on the other hand, it is also fairly certain that good long-stapled cotton such as we can grow and do grow in the Sudan, will command for a number of years to come high prices as compared with the pre-war values. All our estimates—and we

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CREDIT NATIONAL OTTOMAN

(Established by Imperial Decree dated January 1, 1917.)

Subscribed Capital -	*£T. 4,000,000*
Paid-up Capital -	*£T. 2,000,000*
Reserve Fund -	*£T. 140,000*

HEAD OFFICE: 50, Voivoda Street, Galata, Constantinople.

Branches: STAMBOUL and SMYRNA.

Correspondents in the principal cities of Turkey and Abroad.

Chairman: His Ex. DAMAD CHERIF PACHA
(late President of the Council of State).

Managers: FERID BEY. SOUBHY ZIA BEY.

Transacts every kind of Banking Business and undertakes Commercial, Industrial, Mining Enterprises, Public Works, etc.

THE HELLENIC COMPANY OF MARITIME ENTERPRISES

(PALIOS LINE.)

Head Office - PIRÆUS.

A. P. PALIOS, Founder. M. P. PALIOS, General Manager.

REGULAR MAIL, PASSENGER, and FREIGHT SERVICES from PIRÆUS to MEDITERRANEAN PORTS, GREECE, SEA OF MARMORA, BLACK SEA, SEA OF AZOF, ASIA MINOR, SYRIA, and EGYPT.

26 PASSENGER and CARGO STEAMERS.

85 AGENCIES in Greece, Sea of Marmora, Black Sea, Sea of Azof, Asia Minor, Egypt, Mediterranean and principal Ports of the World.

Coaling Yards and Repair Shops.

GENERAL AGENTS for the High Commission of Sea Transports; for all Passenger Steamers requisitioned by the Greek Government.

Cable Address—Navigation Palios.

Codes used—Scott's (1905) 10th Edition; A.B.C. (1901) 5th Edition.

MARITIME BANK of GREECE

AUTHORISED CAPITAL FULLY PAID DR.10,000,000.

Founder—A. P. PALIOS.

Head Office: PIRÆUS, GREECE.

Cable Address: "Maritime Bank."

Codes Used:

Scott's 1906—10th Edition. A.B.C. 1901—5th Edition. Pa'ios 1919.

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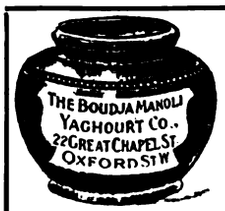

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have taken exceptional care in framing them—are based on very moderate figures, and all I would like to say on this point is that with ordinary luck we should be able to pay you dividends which will leave you well satisfied. (Applause.) This short synopsis gives you, I think, the salient features of the project on which your directors have expended many years of anxious work and thought. If any shareholder is desirous of further information, and will call at our office, either I or my colleagues, or the secretary, will be only too happy to supplement what I have stated now.

The Management.

From the directors' report you will have gathered that we have appointed Mr. Alexander MacIntyre managing director in the Sudan, in place of the late Mr. D. P. MacGillivray. Mr. MacIntyre has been with us even longer than his predecessor, and he has been our manager for many years. He is not only fully qualified for the position he now occupies, but he enjoys the full and absolute confidence of us all here and, I may say, of the authorities in Khartoum. In place of Mr. MacIntyre, we have appointed as manager in the Sudan Mr. H. Poyntz Wright who has likewise been with us for many years. He is a first-class agriculturist, knows all our requirements and has the full confidence of your Board. Again I wish to put on record the Board's unqualified appreciation of the loyal and efficient services rendered by our staff. I have to apologise for the absence of two of our directors, Sir Lionel Phillips, who is on his way to South Africa, and Mr. Arthur Hutton, who has to preside at another meeting to-day, and is therefore unable to be with us. Mr. Alex. MacIntyre is at his post in the Sudan. I propose that the report and statement of accounts be received and adopted, and I beg to ask my colleague, Mr. Hannay, to second the motion.

Mr. D. M. Hannay seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then proposed: "That a dividend be declared for the year ended June 30, 1919, upon the issued shares of the company at the rate of 25 per cent. (5s. per share), less income-tax, and that such dividend be payable to all shareholders registered at the close of business on December 10, 1919.

This was seconded by Mr. F. Wise and unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman next moved that Mr. J. A. Hutton, Mr. F. Wise and Mr. Alexander MacIntyre be re-elected directors of the company.

Lieut.-Colonel S. H. Pollen, C.M.G., seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted.

On the proposition of Colonel Douglas Jones, seconded by Mr. H. W. Morrison, Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co. were re-appointed auditors.

Mr. Morrison moved that the directors' remuneration for the past year be £300, with an extra £100 for the Chairman.

Colonel Douglas Jones seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously, and the proceedings then terminated.

Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants and Sultanas.

The position is much the same. Distribution is proceeding as quickly as is possible in view of the congestion at the quays and on the railways.

Coffee.

An easier tendency has been evident in the market. Transactions have included Costa Rica at 150s., Guatemala at from 120s. to 126s., and Nairobi at 125s. At auction, 1,238 packages were offered, and met with a fair demand. Costa Rica good bold greenish came to business at 149s., while the prices for bold varied from 135s. 6d. to 146s. 6d. The futures market is steady. Quotations are: December 124s. 6d., March 120s., May 115s. 6d., July 112s. 9d., September 110s. 9d.

Sugar.

The market for the raw commodity has continued to be very active. Demerara has been done at 100s., while crystallised Mauritius has realised 118s. Other quotations include Trinidad at 105s. and Barbados at 95s. The sugar production for 1919 is estimated at 16,561,000 tons.

Oilseeds.

Linseed is closing rather quietly, with La Plata at 40s. January-February, and 39s. 3d. February-March. Rapeseed has been a firm spot, though there has not been much doing. Cottonseed has been fairly firm, with Egyptian at 26s. December.

Oilcakes, etc.

There has been little doing in oilcakes. Linseed oil closes easier at 107s. 6d. spot. Rape oil, ground nut oil, and cottonseed oil are firm, with the last-named at 98s. for crude and 110s. for edible. Soya bean oil is also a firm spot.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

This bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in November:—

Maize (Nili).

The weather was favourable. Harvesting is now general, the bulk of the crop having been cut down. The yield, as foreshadowed last month, is proving satisfactory in Middle and Upper Egypt, but is a little below the average in Lower Egypt.

Rice (Sêfi).

Harvesting is nearly over, and threshing and winnowing are in progress. The yield is a little below the average in Beira and Gharbiya Provinces

Rice (Nili).

The early-sown crop in Faiyûm is above the average, while the late one is below. The yield in general is about the average.

Sugar Cane.

Weather favourable and water supply ample. The crop is in good condition, and continues to be cut for local consumption only. Stalk-borer was noticed in Giza, Minya, and Asyût Provinces.

Bersim.

Weather favourable and water supply ample. The first cutting of the early-sown crop is being grazed in some provinces. The severe attack of cotton worm and cut worm reported last month has subsided, but the considerable amount of resowing that took place has delayed the crop about fifteen days. The large amount of inferior seed used for resowing is bound to tell on the quality of the crop.

Wheat, Barley, and Beans.

Weather was favourable and water supply sufficient. Ploughing, sowing, and watering are in active progress, and the greater part of the sowing has been early. The early-sown crops have germinated well.

Helba.

Sowing is still going on in some provinces. The early-sown crop is being cut in some parts for human consumption.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

Coupon No. 29 of the preference shares of the Société Anonyme du Behera will be paid on and after January 1 at the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria, Cairo, and London (6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4).

Mortgage Company of Egypt.—Warrants in payment of dividend on 5 per cent. cumulative preferred shares for the half-year ending December 31 will be posted on that date. Books will be closed from December 15 to 31, inclusive.

The directors of the Imperial Bank of Persia have declared a dividend for the half-year ended September 20 last of 5s. per share, free of tax, payable December 30.

The ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company, Limited, will be held at the offices, 5, Rue Adib, Alexandria, Egypt, on December 30.

An an extraordinary meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank held on December 16 the resolution altering the articles of association increasing the directors' remuneration, and passed at the meeting on November 25, was confirmed as a special resolution.

The directors of the Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Company have declared a dividend of 9d. per share on the Ordinary shares, less tax at 6s. in the £ payable January 1.

The directors of the East Indian Coal Company recommend a dividend of 15 per cent. for the half-year ended October 31, payable January 2.

The ordinary general meeting of the Crédit Foncier Egyptien will be held at Cairo on January 13.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

KERASSUNDE, November.

Exports.

In normal times this district exports nuts, haricot beans and eggs, the last two commodities in small quantities. Now only the export of nuts is permitted, and that is not done on a large scale.

The new crop which appeared on the market towards the end of August is estimated at about 20,000,000 kilogs, and the surplus for export is estimated at about twelve to thirteen million kilogs.

CAIFFA, November 18.

The approximate prices per kilo, in milliemes, of commodities exported in the current year are: Wheat, 37 to 47; barley, 16.5 to 17.5; red lentils, 24; white lentils, 29 to 29.3; chick peas, 20.5 to 21.5; maize, 21 to 21.5; sesame, 70 to 72; and oil, 150 to 160.

The production of the above-mentioned has been very small this year, except for barley, chick peas, and to a lesser degree lentils, of which the crops have been satisfactory.

The yield of oil will be particularly small. It is probable that a large part, if not the whole, of the sesame crop will be utilised here or exported to neighbouring districts for the manufacture of oil for food and also lighting.

A large part of the crop of chick peas has been exported to Egypt, Malta and Greece. Very little has gone to Marseilles on account of the fall in the franc.

STAMBOUL, November 20.

Manufactures.

The market is firm in the centres of production, and prices continue high in England, Italy and Spain where our merchants chiefly make their purchases.

Here there has been a decline in purchases for Russia and the Black Sea, and prices are in general comparatively lower than those of Manchester, owing to transactions carried out earlier. An increase in prices is all the same to be expected in view of the firmness of European markets and the recent rise in exchange, the pound sterling having risen from 338 340 to 364 365.

Produce.

Sugar.—At the commencement of the week the market was more active on the news of an important rise in centres of production. Java sugar in transit rose from £76 to £82 per ton. But the local authorities having intervened to fix a maximum price of £T41 per 100 kilos, the market has weakened, and the price is now £78 per ton. There have been no arrivals this week. Stocks are rapidly decreasing on account of the large consumption and the strong demand for Russia and Roumania.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED

INTERIM DIVIDEND.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an INTERIM DIVIDEND OF FOUR SHILLINGS per £5 share on COUPON No. 62 is payable on and after the 15th December, 1919, at Messrs. Barclays Bank, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, in Alexandria, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, form of which will be supplied upon application.

Dated Alexandria, 14th November, 1919.

By Order of the Board,
H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Managing Director.

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Jerusalem. Jaffa.

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Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

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YUGOSLAV COMMERCE.

Regulations Affecting Exports.

A Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, published in the *Official Gazette* of November 9 (and in force from that date), established revised regulations affecting the exportation of goods from Yugoslavia. The decree supersedes all regulations previously issued concerning exports. The following articles may be exported from the kingdom in any quantity and without payment of export duty :—Fresh, dried, and pickled vegetables; fresh and dried mushrooms; ground cayenne pepper (paprika); garlic; seed onions; fruit of all kinds, fresh or dried; dried maraschas (cherries); tomato preserves in casks; dried figs; carobs; coffee substitutes; laurel leaves and berries; hops and hop meal; fruit jams; opium; cocoons; cattle and pig hair and bristles; fresh and salted fish; lobsters; oysters; sieves; cane; medicinal plants; pyrethrum chrysanthemum, fresh or ground; sumach; maraschino; cognac; slivovitza (plum brandy); komovitza (brandy distilled from the grape refuse left in the wine press); wine; mineral waters; waste from the manufacture of starch, beer, and oil; preserved fish, meat, vegetables and fruit in hermetically sealed receptacles; magnesite; lime; cement; pyrites; antimony metal and antimony oxide; bauxite, crude or refined; sodium sulphate; carbide of calcium; per-ferro-manganate; tartar; glue; glaze; fusel oils, unpurified; carpets; lace and embroideries of all kinds; feathers; cordage; hats of straw or otherwise knitted; products made from animals' intestines; straw knittings; wickerwork of all kinds, grids and sieves; wooden toothpicks; wooden soles and heels; wooden walking sticks; wheelwrights' products; wooden penholders; kitchen utensils of wood; products made of horn; books; printed matter; pictures; goods made of stone; millstones; stones for sharpening, hollow-grinding and polishing cutlery; fine pottery products; wrought iron nails; zinc sheets; lead; black copper.

The following goods may be exported in any quantity on payment of the export duty specified in the schedule annexed to the decree :—Lamb and kid skins; skins of wild animals; timber for building purposes. The following goods may be exported up to the amounts specified, and on payment of the export duty specified in the schedule, annexed to the decree :—(a) Wheat and wheat flour—up to 80,000 tons; (b) maize, maize flour and semolina—up to 120,000 tons; (c) haricot beans, peas, lentils—up to 150,000 tons; (d) hay, straw and lucerne—up to 20,000 tons (provisional limit); (e) hemp and flax—up to 2,000 tons (provisional limit); (f) cattle—up to 20,000 head. (Milch cows, cows for breeding purposes, heifers and calves are exempted.) Any quantities of fresh or prepared beef exported are to be set off against the 20,000 head of cattle allowed to be exported, specified weights of meat being regarded as the equivalent to one animal; (g) goats and sheep (together)—up to 30,000 head; (h) pigs, live or slaughtered—up to 25,000 head. Any quantities of fresh or preserved pork, bacon or lard exported are to be set off against the 25,000 head allowed to be exported, specified weights of such products being regarded as the equivalent of one animal; (i) horses for slaughtering purposes—up to 2,000 head (provisional limit).

The export of all other articles not specified above is prohibited; but special provision is made for goods already despatched for export, and the export of which was licensed, at the date of publication of the decree, and for raw materials if imported in order to be re-exported in a manufactured condition. Goods the export of which is permitted may in principle be exported only against payment in good currency. By special permits, such articles may be exported by way of exchange for other goods; for that purpose the exporter is bound to procure a certificate from the Centrale de Devizes that good currency has been obtained. The export duty is to be levied in silver dinars or in kronen respectively and according to the rate of exchange fixed by the Minister of Finance every ten days.

ON 'CHANGE.

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

We have had a sharp turn round in our market this week for Egyptian securities, after some fresh weakness in the early part of the week, and the market is closing very strong to-night.

In Government securities, Egyptian Unifieds are signally strong to-night at 73, a rise of 4¼, and the 3½ per cent. preferences are up 3½ points at 61½.

In bank shares, Agriculturals, after dipping to 5, have recovered smartly to 5⅞, an advance of 1-16. The preference shares have been an exceptionally dull market, and are ⅛ down at 6¾. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have also been a weak spot, and are ⅝ lower at 16¼. Ottoman Banks have firmed up ¼ to 9⅛, and National Bank of Egypts after dropping to 20 (sellers) finish ¼ up at 20⅜.

In Railways there is nothing new to report.

As regards Land shares, Aboukirs have been exceptionally dull, closing 1s. down at 29s. 9d. There has been a demand for Béhéras from Egypt, and also locally, and the price closes ¼ up at 15¼. Béhéra Preferences are rather dull at 4⅛ xd., and Delta Lands have receded 4½d. to 14s. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts are 6d. lower at 13s. 9d., and Gharbieh Lands have dropped ⅛ to 2 3-16. New Egyptians, after dropping to 25s., are closing very strong to-night at 27s. 3d., a rise of 1s. 3d. In Sidi Salems there is a rise of 1-16 to 2 9-16, with a certain amount of business passing. Sudan Plantations, after being easier, finish ¼ up at 7⅜. Union Foncières have remained a firm spot at 4½.

In miscellaneous descriptions, Abyssinians are 3d. down at 7s., and Alexandria Waters are ¼ lower at 11. Salt and Sodas, after being lower, have recovered, and leave off unchanged at 3. Mörums have dropped 6d. to 18s.

In Oil shares, Anglo-Egyptian B are 3-16 higher at 4 15-16, and Roumanians fractionally firmer at 23s.

In Greek securities we have again to record a sharp decline all round. The 1881-1884 and Funding Loans are all 6 points down at 50. The 1887 Loan has dropped 3½ points to 50, and there has been a similar decline in the Rente Loan to 43. The 1910 Loan has dropped 4 points to 50, with some small business at an even lower level, while Currant Bonds are 1 point down at 93. The 1914 Loan has exceptionally recovered 2 points to 52 on a cessation of selling from the Continent.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Moss Line s.s. Amasis, for Gibraltar, Algiers, and Malta, will leave Liverpool on December 20.

The Ellerman Line s.s. Malatian, for Malta and Alexandria, will leave Liverpool on December 20.

The Cunard s.s. Cypria, for Gibraltar, will close for cargo on December 23.

The Johnston line s.s. Norton, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 23.

The Prince Line s.s. Cyprian Prince, for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria direct, taking cargo for Cyprus and Syrian coast, with option of transhipment at Alexandria, will close for cargo at Manchester on December 23.

The Ellerman s.s. Barotse, for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, will close for cargo at Liverpool on December 30.

The Bibby Line s.s. Lancashire, for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, will leave Liverpool on December 24.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The market continues decidedly strong, and prices have again advanced. More spinners and manufacturers are adopting the policy of putting up their quotations after each sale. Supplies of yarn and cloth available at the moment are far below the requirements of customers, and producers experience no difficulty in securing very profitable rates. Fluctuations have again occurred in Egyptian cotton prices. It is said that spinners in the United States have not yet satisfied their wants. The spot sales in Liverpool have been rather smaller. The crop outlook continues healthy, but according to some people there is a possibility of the yield not being quite so large as at one time expected. More money has had to be paid for most counts and qualities in Egyptian yarns. The undercurrent of demand remains healthy, but owing to the shortage of supplies there has been some irregularity in the trade done. Steady buying has occurred in piece goods for Egypt and the Levant. Favourable reports are being received as to clearances abroad. Special prices have now and again been paid for quick delivery. Shippers to India continue to give increased support in a variety of cloths. A few more lines have been put through for China. Printing cloths have been active for South America. American yarns for home use have moved off fairly freely from day to day at hardening rates. Plenty of demand continues to be reported in bundles for India and China, and special sales have been put through for Japan. The spinning employers have decided to pay a special bonus to the workpeople. The payments will be made on three dates in January, February and March, the total amount being £3 for operatives under the age of 16 years to £9 for males over the age of 21.

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Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price Dec 10	Price Dec. 17
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	52½	52½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1907	51½	51½
Do. 4½% Bonds, 1909	31	31
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	76	76
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	68⅔	73
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	58	61½
Greek 5%, 1881	56	50
Do. 5%, 1884	56	50
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	53½	50
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	46½	43
Do. 5% 1890	58	58
Do. 5% Funding Loan, 1893	56	50
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	58	58
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	54	50
Do. 5% Loan, 1914 (Lon. issue)	60	62
Do. 5% Currant	94	93
Montenegro 5% Loan	67½	68½
Persia 5% 1911	78½	78½
Roumania 4½% Gold Loan, 1913	62	61
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	68½	68½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	58½	58½
Do. 4% Unified	40	40
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	5⅛	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	6¼	6¼
Do. 3½ Bonds Red.	69	69½
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	71	71½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	16⅛	16⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	36/3	36/3
Bank of Athens	65/-	65/-
Bank of British West Africa	7	7
Bank of Roumania	8	7
British Trade Corporation	9¼	9¼
Imperial Ottoman Bank	9	9¼
Imperial Bank of Persia	10⅛	10⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	6⅛	6⅛
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅜	6⅛
London County and Westminster	15⅛	15⅛
National Bank of Egypt	20⅛	20⅜
RAILWAYS.		
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	6¼	6¼
Do. 5% Debs.	78⅛	78⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	12½	11½
Do. Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	17	16
Do. Do. 4% Debs.	59½	57½
Do. Do. 5% 2nd Debs.	59⅜	52
Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba & Ext. Ry.	55	55⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	66xd	66xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	53	53
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	30/9	29/9
Do. 6% Debs	110xd	108½
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	1	1
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	4	4
Béhéra Co.	15	15½
Do. Pref.	4⅛	4⅛xd
Building Lands of Egypt	25/-	25/-
Daira Sanieh	4/4½	4/4⅜
Egyptian Consol 5/- (4/2 paid)	2/3	2/3
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	14/4½	14/-
Do. Agricultural 5% 1st Mort. Debs.	70½	70½
Do. Land and General Trust	1/6	1/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	14/3	13/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	2⅛	2⅛
Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt	2	2
Do. 4½% Debs. Red.	85	85
Do. 4% Deb. Stock Red	64⅜	64⅜
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	7	6⅞
Do. 4½% 1st Charge Debs. Red.	82	80
New Egyptian Co.	26/-	27/3
Sidi Salem Co.	2⅜	2⅜
Sudan Plantations	7⅜	7⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	4⅜	4⅜
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Abyssinian Corp. (10/- paid)	7/3	7/-
Alexandria Water Co.	11¼	11
Egyptian Hotels	40/-	35/-
Do. Markets Ord.	22/6	22/6
Do, do 5% Debs. Red.	86½	86½
Do. Salt and Soda Bearer	£3	£3
Do. do. 1st. Mort. Debs.	98⅛	99⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	5⅛	5⅛
Do. Do. Prefs.	3⅞	3⅞
Levant Co. (fully paid)	19/-	18/-
Morum's Oriental Stores. Partptg. Pref.	18/6	18/-
Suez Canal	178	178
Non-Near Eastern Stocks and Shares quoted by special request.		
Japanese 4½% 1905 II. Series	103	99
Chinese 4½% 1898	69	71
Do. 5% 1896	82	85
Argentine 5% 1890	78½	78½
Do. 5% 1907	85	83½xd
OIL.		
Algerian	5/6	5/6
Anglo-Bulgarian	9/3	9/6
Anglo-Egyptian B	4¼	4⅛
Anglo-Persian Pref.	24/9	26/-
Do. 5% Debs.	91½	91½
Anglo-Roumanian	10/9	9/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	4/6	5/-
Maisel's Petroleum Trust	9/-	8/4½
Roumanian	22/9	23/-
Do. do. 1st Chge. Conv. Debs.	100	100
Suez, 1915 (fully paid)	8/1½	8/-
Trajan (Roumanian)	11/3	10/-

The directors of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock recommend a dividend of 15 per cent. (3s. per share) on the Ordinary shares for the past half-year, making 20 per cent. for year, carrying £18,673 forward.

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Dec. 10	Dec. 17
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931	60⅜xd	60½
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	67⅛	68
	* Redeemable.		
CORPORATION STOCKS.			
	Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959	82	82
	Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	73½	73½
	Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938	74⅜	75
BANKS.			
	Chartered of India	81	82
	Eastern	7⅜	7 3/16
	Mercantile of India A.	38½	40
	National of India	57	57
MINES.			
	Balaghat Gold Mining	4/6	6/-
	Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	⅜	11/4½
	Burma Corp.	12⅛	13⅛
	Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	14/6	13/6
	Champion Reef Gold	3/9	4/-
	Mysore Gold Mining	⅜	13/32
	Nundydroog	16/-	15/3
	Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	17/3	17/-
	Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	20/4½	21/2
	Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)	24/3	24/3
OIL.			
	Assam Oil	2 7/16	2 7/16
	Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	2¼	2¼
	Brit. Burmah	2 1/16	2⅛
	Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	17⅜	17⅜
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	1⅜	1⅜
	Do. 5% Cum. 2nd Pref.	9 13/16	10
RAILWAYS.			
	Assam Bengal	56	56
	Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	141½	142½
	Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	58	57
	Bengal-Nagpur	123½	119½xd
	Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	108	106
	Burma Railways	114	114
	Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
	E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13	13
	East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	12⅜	12⅜
	Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	13	13xd
	Madras and S. Mahratta	112½	108½xd
	Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	132½	132½
	Nizam's Guaranteed State	85	85
MISCELLANEOUS.			
	Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	11⅜	11 3/32
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	10	10
	P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	92½	85xd
	Do. Deferred	610	575x
TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.			
	Assam Co.	73½	77
	Bengal United Tea Ord.	16½	16⅜
	British Indian Tea Ord.	9⅜	9⅜
	Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	16⅜	16⅜
	Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	12/-	12/3
	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	8	7⅞
	Consolidated Estates	7½	7
	Darjeeling Co.	27/9	27/-
	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	66/6	3½
	Dooars Tea Ord.	4⅛	4
	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	20/-	19/-
	Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	3⅜	65/6
	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	33/6	34/6
	Hewagam Rubber Co.	1⅛	21/10½
	Jhanzie Tea Association	12	12
	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	24¼	24¼
	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	17/6	19/-
	Lanka Plantations Ord.	30/6	28/9
	Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	60/6	60/6
	Malayalam Rub. and Produce	2⅝	47/6
	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14⅜	14½
	P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	1⅝	31/3

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON NOVEMBER 29.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	19⅞
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	81
" " Div.	Frs.	110
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	15⅛
" priv.	£	4 1/16
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	114
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1½
Building Lands of Egypt	£	⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	4⅛
Société des Immeubles	£	7½
Bonded Stores	£	15⅜
Unifiée	£	76⅜
Privilégiée		63⅜
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅜
Nungovich Hotels	£	7 1/16
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅜
" " Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	4½
" Ord		104/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	23 1/16
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	110
" Jouissance	Frs.	159½
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		33/9
Egyptian Markets		24/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	450
" Div.	Frs.	405
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	322
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	6⅜
Egyptian Salt and Soda		59/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	681
" Fondateur	Frs.	970
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	435
" 1903 "	Frs.	299½
" 1911 "	Frs.	287½
Consolidated Land	P.T.	6
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	21/32

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Oct. 29. Rs.	Nov. 13. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	66½	64½
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	300
Bank of Bengal	1930	1900
Bank of Bombay	2007	2360
Bank of Madras	1500	1350
Bank of India	160	150
Tata Industrial Bank	70	70
COAL.		
Baraboni	19	19
Bengal	890	900
Burrakur	56½	56
East Indian	38	38⅜
Equitable	473	50⅛
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	74	72
Standard	66½	71
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	—	314
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	—	2380
Bowreah	—	625
Buckingham	—	1425
Carnatic	—	680
Cawnpore	—	75
Century	—	822½
Central India	—	3252½
Elgin	—	1626
Gold Mohur	—	125
Khatau Makanji	—	1300
Muir	—	5600
New Ring	—	120
Phœnix	—	190
Svadeshi	—	845
	—	3085
JUTE.		
Alliance	776	790
Barnagore	218	206
Budge Budge	732	725
Clive	340	320
Dalhousie	595	570
Delta	740	730
Fort Gloster	1120	1087
Gourepore	1359	1365
Howrah	54	53½
Kamarhatty	1032	994
Kanknarrah	823	784
Khardah	555	620
Kinnison	1126	1095
National	485	475
Standard	796½	779
Union	1026	965
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	92½	92
Bengal Timber Trading	500x	500x
Burn and Co.	350	330
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	226½	226½
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	206x	200
Howrah Oil Mills	44	40
India General St'm.	200	165
Indian Iron and Steel	110	110
	99	97
Marshall Sons and Co.	163	164
Titaghur Paper	410	410

The directors of the Singlo Tea Company have declared a dividend of 6d. per share on the Ordinary shares, payable January 1.

The India Office has issued the following telegram received from the Viceroy, Revenue and Agriculture Department, dated December 12:—Our telegram dated December 5. Famine operations closed in Deoghar, Bhagalpur, Sadar and Banka sub-divisions in Bihar and Orissa, and in Goomsoor Taluka and Kalikota and Atagada estates of Ganjam district in Madras Presidency. Numbers relieved:—Burma: works, 2,700; gratuitous, 100. Bihar and Orissa: gratuitous, 450. Feudatory States of Orissa: works, 89; gratuitous, 14. Hyderabad: works, 8,000; gratuitous, 6,000. Madras: works, 502; gratuitous, 2,277.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 451.—Vol. XVI. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1919.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

In the House of Commons on December 18, Mr. Lloyd George made a definite statement with regard to Turkey and peace terms. After explaining once again that the delay in this matter had been due to the Allies' desire that America should take part in the settlement, he announced that, as there were no indications of America coming in in the near future, the Allies had made up their minds to act forthwith. "We consider now," he declared, "that we are entitled to proceed to make peace with Turkey, and we propose to do so at the earliest possible moment." Preliminary discussions between ourselves and France had, he thought, been very promising, and he was hopeful that it would be possible to submit the terms of peace to Turkey at an early date.

While it is much to be regretted that the United States should not yet be able to come to any definite decision in this matter, it must be acknowledged that Europe could not afford to leave the question open much longer. Great Britain especially is urgently concerned to have it settled as quickly as possible, and France was becoming distinctly anxious regarding it. The Premier's announcement has, therefore, been hailed with unfeigned relief on this side of the Atlantic at least. What lines the settlement will follow cannot even yet be foretold with any certainty. Mr. Lloyd George, it is true, made a pointed reference to the impossibility of leaving the Turk as gatekeeper of the Straits, after he had treacherously shut them in our face at the critical moment; but he gave no hint as to who is to have the post thus, presumably, to be rendered vacant; and cynics may suggest that the porter may yet be given another chance. Perhaps it will be true wisdom in this case to "wait and see."

On the same occasion, Earl Winterton emphasised the necessity of remembering that the Arabs were as much our Allies as were the French or the Belgians. Speaking with warm feeling, natural in one who had served with them in a combatant capacity, he declared that no single small people had so well vindicated their right to independence; and he repudiated indignantly the suggestion that the Arab movement had been "organised by us on a *quid pro quo* basis," the fact being that the Arabs were fighting the Turks as we were. We welcome the statement, as indicating that the friends of the Arabs in this country do not intend to let their claims be forgotten.

Speaking last Friday at a dinner given by Indian residents in London in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Montagu, the Aga Khan gave eloquent expression to the views of Indian Moslems upon the Turkish Question. That question and others bound up with it are, he declared, vital to the 70 million Indian Moslems; and he pleaded that Turkey should be granted a generous peace, that "the unborn members of that remarkable and historic race" should not be punished "for the errors of a handful of men who allowed themselves to be dominated by the cajolery and threats of Germany." There is, as our Constantinople Correspondent points out this week, some danger of this argument being overworked; but it must be remembered that the view which it expresses was very widely held in this country, and even—unless memory plays us false—expressed more than once by responsible statesmen, when Turkey first joined in the war. In any case, the earnest desire of Indian Moslems must be a matter of real concern to British statesmen; and it is satisfactory to know that the Moslem view has been steadily borne in mind by the Empire's representatives on the Paris Conference, who have done their best to secure just treatment for Islam in all respects.

Latest reports make the incident at Deir-ez-Zor appear more serious than it looked at first. The raiding Kaimakam, Ramadhan es-Shallash, now appears as an ex-Secret Service agent of the Turks, and there can be no serious doubt that he is once more playing the old game in a slightly different guise; while his associate, Ibrahim Pasha Milli, is definitely identified as the leader who successfully set his wits against those of Abdul Hamid over the question of the Hamidieh cavalry. Such a combination bodes no good to the forces representing law and order, and the statement that "the whole affair is attributed to a Turkish intrigue . . . having for its object the embroilment of Anglo-Arabian relations" seems likely to prove only too true. At the time of writing, the most recent news is that a considerable body of troops is moving down the Euphrates, and that there is a possibility that they may come in contact with a British force.

Happily, the official Arab attitude is perfectly loyal and correct. The Emir Faisal, in his own name and in that of the Arab Government in Damascus, has formally repudiated knowledge of, or complicity in, the attack on Deir-ez-Zor. He has also ordered that the offenders, if arrested, are to be handed over to the British authorities; and has issued a *communiqué* to the Arab press denouncing them as rebels. More than this could

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hardly be expected of the Damascus Government, which finds itself at the present time confronted by extreme difficulties that have been brought about by the substitution of French for British troops. It would be an unfortunate *dénouement*, indeed, if recent developments should lead to the Arabs and Kurds uniting against any *giaour* intrusion in Syria and Mesopotamia. But stranger things have happened in Turkey, and the agents of the Committee of Union and Progress have certainly achieved wonders lately, thanks chiefly to the long delay in settling the question of Turkey's future.

Some particulars of the cowardly attack upon the Prime Minister of Egypt have now reached this country. They indicate that Yussuf Wahba Pasha probably owed his life to the presence of mind of his chauffeur, who, apparently recognising the danger at once, manipulated the car with a dexterity that baulked the assassin's aim. The Minister himself showed considerable courage, and would not allow the outrage to turn him from his day's work. The Sultan, Lord Allenby, and the Ministers hastened to congratulate him on his escape, and it is probable that the attempt—which is universally condemned outside Egypt, though the Egyptian Press is strangely reticent on the subject—will eventually strengthen his own position and that of his Ministry. The student who made the attempt is described by *The Times* correspondent as being of the "exalted type," of which Egypt would seem to have a very full share; and, so far from showing any just appreciation of his act, he "smiled as he was led off." It is to be hoped that he and his like will soon be taught that crime is no laughing matter.

The extreme Nationalists and their backers worked hard to bring about a general strike on December 17, bending their energies chiefly on an endeavour to induce the Government employees to come out. The officials, however, had been warned that if they struck they would not only forfeit their pay, but would incur other penalties; and very few of them hearkened to the voice of the agitator. Some six hundred railway workshop men stopped work—and will find some difficulty in resuming it, thanks to the authorities' firm attitude; while the cab-drivers and lawyers are also making holiday. Another incident in the anti-British demonstrations is the presentation of a protest by the officials of El Azhar, who allege that British troops have violated a mosque. The facts appear to be that the building was actually entered by soldiers in pursuit of students who had been stoning them, and who continued to do so after entering the mosque; but that they were withdrawn almost immediately by an officer when the character of the building was recognised, and no damage whatever was done to the building. *The Times* correspondent suggests that the incident was the result of arrangement, for propaganda purposes. If the suggestion is correct, as it probably is, it is a pity that the authorities of El Azhar should allow themselves to be made use of in such fashion.

The later stages in the progress of the Government of India Bill proved to be uneventful. There had, of course, been rumours of a secret mobilisation of those reserve forces in which the House of Lords is so rich, but nothing of the kind appears to have been attempted, and when the time came for the crucial amendment, aimed at the principle of the dyarchy, the number of votes recorded in its favour was exactly five. It was in accordance with the fitness of things that this amendment should have been proposed by Lord McDonnell, one of the master-bureaucrats of the nineteenth century, and a man to whom the new India owes much more than she is likely to acknowledge just yet; but apart from his speech, there was nothing very remarkable in the proceedings in Committee, while the "debate" on the Third Reading was practically limited to some compliments to Lord Sinha—compliments which were undoubtedly deserved. The formal amendments introduced in the Lords were accepted without discussion by the Commons, and so the Bill was passed, and the great experiment is fairly under weigh.

As yet we have heard nothing of the feelings aroused in India by the smooth progress of the Bill, but the deputations of politicians to this country were, in one sense, representative, and probably their expressed views may be taken as fair samples of what is being said and thought in the East. The Moderates here are as nearly enthusiastic as it is the nature of Moderates to be, and since they claim to speak for the overwhelming bulk of intelligent public opinion, they are doubtless already preparing to undertake the burdens of office. We fancy that beneath the enthusiasm we can detect a note of astonishment, and even trepidation, at the ungrudging response which has been given to their claims; but they are already too experienced politicians to allow such feelings to appear in public, and in truth their proper place is the closet rather than the platform. Whatever their private feelings may be, they have our cordial good wishes for the journey which now lies before them; the road has never been trodden before, and they will find rough places as well as smooth, but at any rate it leads in the direction which they wish to follow, and stout hearts and clear eyes will carry them far.

If the Moderates seem to be shaping as the Ministerial party, the Congress deputation is beginning to present the appearance of a not very responsible Opposition. To them the Bill is "totally inadequate," and we fear that when the new Legislative Councils meet they will find some hard things to say of the men who now welcome it. Indian politicians have hitherto had little experience of criticism or invective directed against themselves, and we cannot deny that there will be a certain piquancy in the situation when the issue is fairly joined; at any rate, we may anticipate that the Councils will lose their reputation for somnolent dulness, and that in a year or so the debates will be better worth reporting than has been usual in the past. Western experience seems to establish the principle that practical politicians are all the better for tolerably thick skins, and the acquisition of that equipment is the most seasonable wish we can offer to both sides.

It may be desirable to explain in a few words our attitude towards the proceedings of the Commission which has been inquiring into the disturbances in the Punjab. We recognised in May that an inquiry was inevitable. Now that it has taken place, we are content to await the Commission's findings; and we see no advantage in discussing the incomplete reports of the evidence which have reached this country. Some of our contemporaries have taken a different view, and while admitting that the whole matter is *sub judice*, have demanded that somebody should be hung in the meantime, the choice of the victim being apparently determined by individual preferences. This line of action does not commend itself to us, and our only reason for referring to it is to dissociate ourselves from what we regard as a departure from a sound and wise tradition; the Commission will have to decide whether the exceptional action taken by the authorities was justified by the circumstances in which they were placed, and until their decision is published, discussion of particular incidents can serve no useful purpose.

TO AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS.

The Editor will be glad to consider photographs of Near Eastern scenery, types, places of interest, etc., etc., suitable for reproduction in THE NEAR EAST. *When desired, payment will be made for the right of producing such photographs. Readers should state, when forwarding pictures, whether payment is desired or not.*

Photographs should be sent either packed between stout cards or rolled in a cardboard tube, and should on no account be folded. Titles and notes should be attached to each photo, and should be very clearly written.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

Lord French and Ireland.

The attempt to assassinate Lord French has filled the country with horror. Outrage and murder in Ireland have been steadily increasing during the past few months, but this latest attack on the Viceroy himself has every sign of careful planning on the part of numerous conspirators. It is bound to have a most unfortunate effect on all the projects for Irish reform, and it will probably lead to an indefinite postponement of the schemes for Dominion Home Rule. It is certain to stiffen the Government policy, since it necessarily deprives Ireland of much of that fast diminishing stock of sympathy which many Englishmen had come to feel for the country before the war; and it is not improbable that it will have some reaction on the recent alliance of the official Labour Party in the Commons with the small band of Nationalists. The latter, it need hardly be said, repudiate the crime as strongly as the Unionists.

A Short-Lived Scare.

Home politics have been slack during the week, and some of the Lobby correspondents have been driven to fill the gap by predicting a General Election in February. The most reasoned prophecy appeared in the *Daily News*, from Mr. A. P. Nicholson, the most experienced, and usually the most sane of politicians; it is only charitable to suppose that the forecasts of the end of the world led him to the logical supposition that the Government would not in that event survive much longer.

It must be confessed that the public refused to take the thing much more seriously than a Christmas ghost story. The Government has been in deep waters of late, and has suffered several embarrassments; but the country hates the very thought of a General Election, and would rather bear the ills that it has for some time longer than fly to others that it knows not of.

The most serious trouble of the Cabinet at the moment is the judicial decision that its Imports Regulation was illegal. The regulation was founded on an old Act which prohibited the importation of arms, ammunition, *or any other article*, and the Government construed "any other article" to be, in fact, any other article whatever that they chose to name. It is extraordinary that the Law Officers of the Crown should have forgotten the existence of *ejusdem generis*, which limits the application of subsequent words to matters contained in the preceding clause; "any other article" obviously applies to articles connected with arms and ammunition, and cannot be held to include sewing-machines, typewriters, or anything whose importation the Board of Trade chooses to prohibit.

The Government are to appeal against the decision, but the appeal is only a matter of form. While the appeal is pending they will be getting ready new legislation to fill the gap in trade policy.

State Housing.

The Government appears to be singularly unfortunate in its housing policy, and Dr. Addison, the Minister responsible for housing schemes and eventually, let us hope, for houses, is becoming almost as favourite a target of criticism and abuse as the Geddes brothers. The difficulty is likely to grow more acute, for the population is increasingly rapidly, despite the pessimists who discuss the birth-rate, and the congestion in industrial areas is an increasingly serious question. Meanwhile, the present uncertainty has practically stopped private building, and the prospect of fixing economic rents on a tolerable basis does not improve.

It is beginning to look as though Parliament would have to prolong the Act restricting any increase of rent, owing to the hopelessness of remedying the shortage of houses in any reasonable time; but the Act, though necessary in the circumstances to prevent the wholesale ejection of tenants, will in the long run aggravate the evil, since it prevents the property owner from obtaining a fair interest on his capital, now that the expenses of repairs are so exorbitant; and that in itself prevents building. On the other hand, if the restriction were removed, the immediate increases of rent which would be the consequence would at once force up the cost of living again, and lead to further demands for correlative increases of wages, which the Government hopes to avoid.

Increased Pensions.

Old-age pensions, which before the war were five shillings a week and during the war were raised to seven shillings and sixpence, are now to be increased to ten shillings a week. Nobody will begrudge the aged poor their bonus, which is, in fact, only a recognition of the increased cost of living. It will add ten millions a year to the national expenditure, which in these days is not a very large sum in the annual budget.

But it is noteworthy that this increase releases Mr. Austen Chamberlain from his pledge. A few weeks ago he stated that no further taxation would be necessary next year, *if* no further additions were made to expenditure by the House of Commons during the current financial period. Most people forgot the *if* at the time. But the addition has been made, and now the patient taxpayer knows what to expect.

The Shopping Crowds.

Oxford Street and Regent Street have been immovable this week with Christmas shoppers, and one sympathises with the man who advertised in *The Times* Agony Column for a suit of armour to protect him from infuriated females intent on presents. Jewellery and books seem to be the leading favourites this season: and the present writer found a celebrated bookshop guarded by a policeman at the door to regulate the crowd. As each attendant seemed to have a dozen customers at once, the situation looked hopeless; but fortunately the book required was near the entrance. It was the work of a moment to take it from its shelf, slip the necessary seven-and-sixpence into the policeman's hand, and vanish. For a brief second the man of law looked reproachful at this uncovenanted addition to his duties, but then he smiled reminiscently. "They can call it Peace Christmas if they like," he said; "I found it quieter in the trenches."

Doctors' and Dentists' Bills.

The doctors having put up their fees fifty per cent., it seems likely that the dentists will follow suit. But the dentists are in a peculiar difficulty that does not touch the doctor, for while every doctor must be qualified by law before he can practise, the dentist has only to provide himself with a bogus degree from an American or, if he chooses, an Ethiopian college that exists more in the imagination than in reality, and he can at once begin operations on the public. More than half the dentists who practise in England are, in fact, unqualified, and so strong is their influence that a Bill which was to make registration and degrees compulsory seems to have been dropped. It is not suggested that all the unqualified men are inefficient, but it is the fact that the advertising quack usually makes a larger income than the qualified dentist, who is forbidden by professional etiquette to announce his painless extractions in the papers; for the public is often unable to distinguish the one from the other. On that account alone it may be difficult to raise fees. But although nobody but the dentists would regret that fact, it is likely to have an unfortunate effect in reducing the applicants for the dental profession, which ought to be largely augmented in numbers. The late war showed that bad teeth were responsible for half the sickness of the country, and doctors who have studied the subject and can speak with authority say that if everybody went every six months to the dentist many thousands of years would be added to the life of the country. But not one man in a hundred goes unless his tooth aches.

Higher Club Subscriptions.

The latest trial that rising prices have brought is a general increase of club subscriptions. The Constitutional has notified its members that the annual subscription will be raised from seven to ten guineas; and since the Junior Carlton, the Conservative, the Devon-

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shire, St. Stephen's, Union, and United Services have also sent out similar notices recently, it is clear that every institution of the kind will have to revise its rates in an upward direction. The step was inevitable, in view of higher rates and taxes and establishment charges, which it is impossible to meet out of increased charges in the coffee-room, but members will grumble and pay. Not many are likely to resign, for the club habit, which seemed to be diminishing before the war, is now more firmly fixed than ever. Even the older and sturdier institutions, which were too dignified to hunt for, far less to cater for new members, and which were then notoriously in rather low water, are now understood to have a reasonably good waiting list, while the more popular institutions are usually uncomfortably crowded.

Not many, perhaps, would go so far as the cynical husband, who remarked that it was worth much more than ten guineas a year to escape the horrors of home; but with exorbitant restaurant charges and impossible hotels, the club in these days is more of a necessity than a luxury. One of the incidental difficulties that faces club secretaries is the excessive demand for bedrooms from their members. The accommodation is heavily overtaxed, and the old rule that no member could have a room for longer than a week when it was required by another member now has to be strictly enforced.

One particular club, whose resident population was so comfortable that it sent an ultimatum to the secretary, refusing to be ejected for "mere casual country members," had the difficulty solved by the purchase of another house in the neighbourhood, to which every member who stayed longer than a week was summarily banished. But, alas, the new house proved so comfortable that it, too, became crowded, and the difficulty is as acute as ever again—unless the secretary buys another house.

Theatre Prices.

The theatres are also announcing a further increase in their prices, mainly in the more expensive seats. Undoubtedly their expenses have increased, and while the stars still get those exorbitant salaries which make a Cabinet Minister or a Judge a relative pauper in comparison, the rank and file of supers, beauty chorus, and the rest are less inadequately paid than of old.

But the theatre is an industry *sui generis*. Never, in the opinion of critics and public alike, has the drama been so bad; and most of the plays now showing are frankly miserable stuff, whose only recommendation is that the acts are extremely short and the intervals extremely long. The theatres are crowded, nevertheless, and it is often impossible to book seats for days ahead, while new theatres are being planned and speculative managers and producers were never so busy. While the public is content to swallow the fare that is set before them, no improvement in the quality can be looked for.

Hospital Finance.

Long advertisements and public appeals have begun to indicate to the community the plight of the great London hospitals. It is rather wonderful that they have succeeded in carrying on so long under adverse conditions, for food, coal, and everything else have doubled in price, and the cost of drugs has more than trebled since 1914. It has been suggested in some quarters that the public are reluctant to subscribe, owing to the possible establishment of a State medical service and the conversion of voluntary hospitals into State-supported institutions, but that does not appear to be the case, for at a recent dinner £50,000 was given towards the funds of a single hospital. Even that was only a quarter of what was required. It is noteworthy that the Prince of Wales, following the example of his father and grandfather, is taking a keen personal interest in the appeals for funds.

The Butter Mystery.

In some future age some grave historian, reviewing the many unsolved problems of the year 1919, may perhaps decide that the greatest mystery of all was the practical disappearance of butter from the British breakfast-table. The ration has become less and less, and it is now stated that it may possibly be withdrawn altogether in 1920; even the miserable ounce per week per head may vanish. The farmers say the fault is not theirs, and suggest that if the dairy industry were decontrolled and the price incidentally put up to four shillings and sixpence the pound they could again produce butter. An uncharitable section of the public suggests that there are people who have an interest in forcing the sale of margarine, and that the only way to make the consumer tolerate margarine is to ensure that he forgets the existence of butter. Whatever the truth of the matter may be, the absence of butter is causing some anxiety among the doctors, who recognise that it is a food essential to bodily health, and it is suggested that the Government would be well advised to listen to their warnings, in view of its effect on the national vitality.

The Week's Books.

The most interesting of the week's books is Mr. Bligh Bond's resuscitation of the monk of Glastonbury, in "The Hill of Vision." This excellent ecclesiastic, who has become extremely popular in spiritualist circles, purports to be a spirit who died in the middle ages, and after a presumed slumber of several centuries he kindly revealed to Mr. Bond the site of a buried chapel at Glastonbury by means of automatic writing. At any rate, Mr. Bond excavated in accordance with instructions, and the chapel was there or thereabouts. But the intelligent old monk also foretold, it seems, the beginning and the accurate date of the end of the war—it was a pity he was not in the War Cabinet—and the record of these latter revelations is now published. He talks like a sensible man, and has evidently kept up with the times pretty well, since he uses a good many words in his familiar conversation which were, to say the least, not generally current in his own day. It is perhaps unfortunate that his predictions of the Armistice were not announced in 1917 instead of 1919; we should have given a good deal to know the final date in that gloomy year.

It is perhaps rather unfair to mention in the same breath "The Road to En-dor," by Lieutenant Jones, who took the trouble when a prisoner of war to fake his own psychic revelations "pour épater les bourgeois," or at any rate to impress the Turk. But it is a comforting thought that he found it as easy to mimic spiritualism for his own purposes as Father John of Glastonbury to reveal the future; it may be taken as a proof that what our ancestors could do in the spirit we can do in the flesh. To that extent, therefore, we can hardly be called degenerate.

A book of another kind that will find many readers is "The Letters of Donald Hankey," whose war sketches, under the name of "A Student in Arms," attained so just a celebrity. A "Life of Mrs. Gladstone" should also be added as a pendant to Lord Morley's classic biography of the statesman; and, in a very different genre, another volume of Lord Fisher's reminiscences, which will be eagerly read and perhaps not less eagerly abused—a fact for which the author will care nothing at all. Mention may perhaps also be made in this place of the Life of John Murray III., the publisher, a too brief memoir of a very considerable man; and some will enjoy "Theodore Roosevelt's Letters to His Children." But this last book should be held in reserve, pending the full-length biography of the energetic President which is expected early in the New Year.

The novels of the day are generally flat, stale, but from the publishers' point of view not unprofitable, if all that one hears in literary circles be true. However that may be, the critics are agreed that Mrs. Humphrey Ward's "Cousin Philip" is hardly up to her usual level; but Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall's "Sir Limpidus" is being praised in many quarters. For sheer literary merit, Sir T. G. Jackson's "Six Ghost Stories" are easily ahead of anything else in current fiction; but they should not be taken as a nightcap except by the very strong-minded.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, December 8.

The Political Situation.

There is little change to report in the political situation. Some other more or less active Nationalists have been ordered to proceed to their estates, and another vernacular organ has been suspended. The segregation of active Nationalist agents in the villages is an admirable measure, since these gentry, when by themselves, are, as often as not, quite prepared to remain quiet, and only make trouble when they congregate together and gain courage from contact with one another in a place like Cairo. In the case of one of these active Nationalists, Sinnot Bey Hanna by name, he is not really a man who carries much weight, but he has of late made himself somewhat of a nuisance, and it is amusing to note that an Egyptian lady at Assiut has written to the Press, stating that instead of dabbling in politics, Sinnot Hanna could better employ his time by trying to repair the damage done, four years ago, to the widows and orphans of Upper Egypt by the failure of the native banking house, of which he was one of the principal partners.

The paper now suspended is *Misr*, which has distinguished itself for some time past by the violence of its language, far exceeding that of the two sheets recently similarly treated. The effect of this official action is making itself manifest in the tone of the Press, which, although still truculent and bitter, is trying its best to trim its sails to the new breeze. As a sign that a saner spirit is arising, it is noteworthy that the Mouled Ennabi (the Birthday of the Prophet), which always attracts great crowds wherever celebrations are organised, has passed off without any trouble anywhere.

The students have nearly all returned to their studies, and are reported to be quite quiet. Their attitude has been utterly childish, and without assisting in any way the present political problem it has seriously prejudiced their careers. They were given a chance to return to grace by the order issued by Lord Allenby ordering them to resume their studies on October 23. They took a week to make up their minds, but by delaying their compliance, they have now forfeited the right to sit at the special examinations fixed to be held next month, and will therefore lose another year of their scholastic career; and some of them will not be able to complete their studies, owing to the age limit. Efforts are being made to get the authorities to relent, but it is very much to be doubted whether, after the very good warning given them, any departure will be made from the terms of the High Commissioner's order. Indeed, it would be very regrettable if such an action were taken, for it is time that the students—and their parents—had a severe lesson.

The Alexandria Tram Question.

The Alexandria tram question is still without any solution, although so much was said about the municipality taking over the services itself, and the plight of the Ramleh residents is going from bad to worse. After vainly trying to enforce higher rates despite the opposition of the municipality and the refusal of the passengers to pay them, the Ramleh Company decided to return to the old tariff, and all went well. Recently, however, they have put the new rates into force again, and about three days ago they suddenly reduced the service to a skeleton one. As a result, the majority of the Ramleh residents have now to make their way into Alexandria to business as best they can, while the few cars running are so crowded that scarcely any fares can be collected. The state of affairs has indeed become nothing short of a scandal. That an important suburb should be put to incalculable inconvenience in this manner and be practically cut off from the city merely because the concessionnaire-company chooses to flout the authorities and to take the law into its own hands is a thing unheard of, and would not be tolerated in any European city. If a satisfactory settlement could be arrived at with the Cairo Tram Company, which had similar pretensions to higher fares, it should surely have been possible long ere this for an agreement to be come to with the Alexandria companies, and it is certainly high time that the Alexandria municipality justified its existence and put an end to a situation which is as undignified for it as it is prejudicial to the interests of its citizens.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 8.

The General Situation.

After the Armistice in 1918 the principal argument of Turkish apologists was that Turkey had been the victim of a clique of criminals who had deceived the whole nation and had plunged it, against its will, into the war, on the wrong side. At present very little is heard of that argument, which until a short time ago was repeated *ad nauseam* by statesmen, journalists, public officials, and every Turk with whom one discussed the matter. This is just as well; for the results of the elections, so far as known at present, mean, if they mean anything at all, that the policy of the infamous Committee of Union and Progress has the sympathy of eighty per cent. of the voting section of the Turkish nation. Out of the thirty-five deputies elected up to the present, twenty-eight are well-known Unionists of no uncertain colour. That they were elected under pressure is no argument, for if the great majority of the nation were not in sympathy with Unionist ideals and methods, pressure would have been unavailing. At the same time, one must take into consideration the fact, pointed out in last week's letter, that only a very small fraction of the electorate has voted. The whole of the Opposition parties refused to take any part in the elections. It is possible that this policy was deliberately adopted for the purpose of forcing the Unionists, who made the war, to sign the treaty that will leave Turkey without an Empire. If this is so, it is somewhat incon-

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sistent to call for the suspension of the Parliament on the grounds of the illegalities committed in the elections. However, you never can tell: even Bernard Shaw could not invent more extraordinary paradoxes than the Turkish mind.

The general situation seems to become more complicated every day. Last week's letter recorded something of the adventures of Ahmed Anzavur, the Circassian who has gathered together a small army of his Circassian brethren, and is making things particularly unpleasant for the Nationalists. But it would be a mistake to suppose that his is the only movement that complicates matters. Since the Armistice there has been a mania for clubs, associations, unions, and what not, all for some political purpose or other, usually based upon one of President Wilson's fourteen thorny points. The Kurdish Association is one of the most important of these formations, and although its ostensible object, as declared in official publications, was originally merely academic, it speedily became evident that the association had other aims besides that of educating an ignorant world in the language, customs, and history of Kurdistan. It was not long before the Government discovered that the true object of the association was the independence of Kurdistan, and promptly set to work to remedy the initial mistake of having given permission for the formation of the association. The result was first of all a split in the association itself, one side maintaining separatist opinions and the other favouring the maintenance of the Turkish dominion, and shortly afterwards a repudiation of separatist policy by several influential Kurdish sheikhs, who sent telegrams to the Sublime Porte expressing their devotion to the Khalif and the Turkish Empire. Obviously this result has been materially assisted by Government propaganda; but there is no doubt that Armenian claims to a considerable portion of Kurdish territory have made a certain section of the Kurds doubt the wisdom of separating entirely from the Turks.

Politics and—Gambling!

Apart from the Turkish political parties, of which there are a round dozen, there are innumerable Turkish clubs. Before the war there were three clubs in Constantinople—the Cercle d'Orient, the Petit Club de Constantinople, and the British Club. Many of the Turkish clubs that have sprung up since the Armistice are run for propaganda purposes combined with gambling, and officers of the Allied armies frequently receive discreetly worded invitations to honour the club with the light of their countenances for an hour or two. A good deal of money must have been spent in this direction, but, so far as can be judged, with very little success. For in social matters the Turk is badly handicapped in not being able to extend the same sort of hospitality as that offered by Greeks and Armenians, who can mobilise the female section of the household for purposes of entertainment—and instruction. Thus, although it is by no means uncommon to find a subaltern who has been here about a month declare that the Turks are the cream of the Near East, it is most unusual to hear the same opinion repeated by those who have had more experience.

Meanwhile, with the Armenians wanting Eastern Anatolia, the Greeks wanting Smyrna, the Italians wanting what the Greeks want, the Kurds wanting what the Armenians want, the Turks swearing that they will die to the last man rather than yield anything to anybody, and yet fighting among themselves, is it any wonder that even Mr. Balfour, that master of political subtleties, has not the faintest idea of what is going to become of Turkey?

Election Incidents.

The Turkish Press reports that while Enver and Talaat received one vote each, the urn in which were deposited the voted tickets of the Fatih electors of Stambul contained one vote for M. Venizelos!

Sabah ed Din Bey.

Sabah ed Din Bey arrived by the Italian steamer from Taranto yesterday, and was interviewed by a local reporter before he landed, but was exceedingly guarded in his statements. At the same time it is worthy of note that when questioned with regard to his opinion of the Nationalist movement in Anatolia he replied, "Everyone has a perfect right to defend his country. I am faithful to my principles, and I venture to think that if they had been applied in time, many misfortunes would have been avoided."

It will be remembered that Sabah ed Din Bey was the founder of the National Liberal Party in 1909, and opposed to the Unionist programme of extreme centralisation a policy of decentralisation which was regarded as nothing short of treason by the Committee. How far he really maintains his original opinions remains to be seen, as also the possibility of accommodating them to Unionist ideas, which will dominate the new Parliament—if and when it meets. At the same time, Sabah ed Din Bey denies all knowledge of having been offered a place in the present Cabinet of Ali Riza Pasha, and the Minister of the Interior denies all knowledge of a projected Sabah ed Din Cabinet. One would think Sabah ed Din Bey had merely come here to have a look at the bazaars.

General Rycroft Decorated.

On November 30, General Franchet d'Esperey decorated General Sir W. H. Rycroft, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., with the insignia of Commander of the Legion of Honour. The ceremony took place in the presence of a considerable number of French troops and British officers, and terminated with the customary accolade bestowed upon the recipient of the honour.

CYPRUS.

December 6.

The state of suspense and the existence of so many gaps in the ranks of officials are sources of growing complaints—some perhaps exaggerated, but not without foundation. The man who writes smart articles in the Greek papers attacking the Government generally belongs to a generation which has only known British administration and liberty, and has been brought up in an atmosphere widely different from that in which their fathers and grandfathers lived. It is only Cypriots of fifty years and more who can realise the change from the old order. Political gratitude is a rare plant, and some reformers expect too much on what was yesterday Turkish soil. This is one point of view. It must, however, be admitted that there is ground for a good deal of the present grumbling. One principal grievance relates to the congested state of judicial work in some of the Courts, owing to shortage in the number of judges. Serious complaint is made of the frequency of adjournments, which is inevitable where judges of busy districts have to preside also in other divisions besides their own. This involves unnecessary delays and expenses to litigants, and other evils. It may tend to weaken that respect for and confidence in the Courts which have never yet been shaken here. The fullest credit has always been given by Cypriots of all classes for the benefits introduced by the complete transformation effected in Cyprus by the establishment of British justice in the reformed law courts. It would be a great pity if inadequacy to meet present requirements were to undermine in any way this feeling. Personally, it should be added, all the judges are held in the highest estimation, and the new Chief Justice, Mr. Stanley Fisher, who has been so many years in the island, commands the complete confidence and respect of all.

Another complaint relates to public works, especially roads and bridges, the maintenance of which will always cause heavy expenditure in this mountainous island, if they are to be kept in anything like good order, especially

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in these days of motor traffic. This cannot be said of some of the main roads at present. Votes will have to be increased for upkeep of all works, seeing that ordinary labour, which for the greater part of forty years cost 1s., now costs from 2s. to 3s. a day, and that the wages of skilled labour have risen proportionately.

Inadequate Salaries.

A committee representing Government officials of all departments at Nicosia has waited on the Commissioner, requesting that he would receive all officials in a body, in order that they might urge the real need of increased salaries. The Commissioner replied that this was unnecessary, as he fully realised the justice of the complaints under present conditions of life, and would himself submit to Government all the necessary information on the subject.

Nicosia Winter Races.

The attendance at Nicosia Winter Races was disappointing to the promoters from all points of view, partly owing to the weather, which was cold and showery. Had it not been for officers and soldiers from the camp at Famagusta, the gathering would have been a rather miserable one. Experience seems to show that spring and summer meetings are sufficient for the year.

The London Deputation.

Opinions are divided in the Greek community regarding the decision of the London deputation to return to Cyprus. While everything is being done to keep up the hopes of the sanguine element, it is pretty generally recognised that, in view of the present state of the Levant and Asia, arguments for any political change can hardly carry much weight, and that any "Cyprus question" is bound up with very serious and complex considerations of British policy touching those vast and disturbed territories in an angle of which the island lies.

Miscellanea.

Dr. Max O. Richter, whose death in Germany has been made known, carried out excavations at several places in Cyprus during some years. He published various works recording the results of his painstaking explorations. His widow states that she intends to publish a volume on the history and archæology of the island, which will also deal with the present condition of Cyprus.

Owing to some damage to the cable connecting with Alexandria, telegraphic communication with the outer world is interrupted.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Turkey and the Near East. December 18.

Speaking on the Consolidated Fund Bill, Mr. Lloyd George made a lengthy announcement on Turkey and the Near East, but he had little fresh to add to the subject. The more important points of his speech are dealt with in "Notes of the Week."

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE, replying to Captain Ormsby-Gore, said: The situation in Syria is a part of the larger question of the future of Turkey, arrangements for the examination and settlement of which were discussed at the recent meetings in London. Conversations between the French Government and the Emir Feisal are proceeding in Paris, and have not yet reached a termination. I am happy to say that in consequence of these conversations and of the military arrangements between the British and French Governments the tension in Syria has sensibly relaxed.

Topics in Parliament.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—

EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. INDIA: Riots at Amritsar. INDIAN ARMY (OFFICERS' PAY). MALTA (CONSTITUTION). (December 16).

INDIA: Bolshevist Intrigue.—Troop-Train Attack near Thal. TRANSYLVANIA: CHALDEAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. (December 17.)

CAUCASIAN AND BALTIC STATES. S.S RIVER CLYDE. NEAR EAST (RAILWAY CONTROL). TREATY WITH TURKEY. HUNGARY (EVACUATION BY ROUMANIAN TROOPS). BATOUM (BRITISH OCCUPATION). MONTENEGRO (SERBIANS IN OCCUPATION). TURKEY (CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES). ROUMANIA. INDIA: Army Medical Appeal Board, London.—Amritsar Disturbances. CEYLON. (December 18).

According to information received from Erivan dated December 13, the Presidents of the two Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan met in Tiflis at the invitation of Colonel Haskell, the Allied High Commissioner in Transcaucasia, and arranged for a cessation of the hostilities which had broken out at Zangezur between troops of the two States. The questions in dispute, if not settled by mutual agreement, will be submitted to the arbitration of the High Commissioner, whose decision will be accepted.

YUGOSLAVS IN THE EAST.

(FROM OUR BELGRADE CORRESPONDENT.)

BELGRADE, December 7.

A curious by-product of the war is the appearance of a Serbian newspaper, *Yugoslovensko Uyedinienie*, "The Yugoslav Union," in far-off Siberia. One has read in the papers of the prowess of the Czecho-Slovaks in Russia and Siberia, but less has been heard of the Yugoslav detachment, partly perhaps because they are fewer in number, partly because mighty events have overshadowed them. This jetsam of the war, some fifteen or twenty thousand in number, are still stranded in Eastern Siberia and Manchuria, anxiously awaiting the appearance of a military mission to repatriate them. They consist, probably, for the most part of ex-Austrian troops, Yugoslav by blood, who were prisoners of war in Russia, and probably most of them are veterans of the Serbian detachment that fought so well in the Dobruja. It will be remembered how a division of Yugoslavs travelled from South Russia through Archangel to Scotland, passed through England as mysteriously as the phantom Russian army of 1914, camped for a short time near Winchester, and was finally shipped to Salonika, where, after their long odyssey, they performed prodigies in the liberation of Serbia.

In May, 1918, the Yugoslavs in Russia, following the example of their Czecho-Slovak brothers, organised themselves into a "Provisional Yugoslav National Committee in Russia," and formed the Volunteer Battalion of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, under the command of Major Blagotitch. They wished to avoid interfering in Russia's domestic problems, but were inevitably drawn into the whirlpool, recognised the anti-Bolshevist regime, and employed on garrison duty in various towns. They particularly distinguished themselves in the defence of Cheliabinsk, when the overwhelming force of the Bolshevists drove the loyal Russians over the Urals, and threatened that important town, where the Yugoslavs had their headquarters. On the night of July 23-24, when the Russian army retired, two battalions of Yugoslav troops remained to protect the town as long as possible, and to cover the Russians' retreat. The first, with a squadron of cavalry and a machine-gun detachment, took up a position some nine or ten kilometres in front of the town, but the front was very long, and liaison with the retreating Russians very feeble, and they were in danger of being cut off; they beat off an attack by three enemy battalions and actually advanced a couple of kilometres, but finally, overwhelmed by numbers, and under a merciless machine-gun fire, they were obliged to withdraw, and retired in order into the town, where they found their second battalion engaged in desperate street-fighting with the local Bolshevists. Finally, they succeeded in withdrawing and saving their colours, under overwhelming pressure, with the loss of seven officers and 150 men.

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GREAT ROUMANIA.

(From a Bucharest Correspondent.)

II.

The assimilation of the Magyars who have become citizens of Great Roumania is the most serious problem with which the country is faced. These Magyars still hold ideas that are out of keeping with the changes caused by the war they brought about. They do not realise that they have been beaten, that their unjustified predominence by force is no longer in keeping with modern conceptions; they even entertain hopes that the present state of affairs is transitory, and that the Supreme Council will eventually restore the lost provinces to a reconstituted Hungary. This hope is no doubt without foundation, but it has been fostered by the treatment meted out to Roumania by the Supreme Council when Roumania freed Buda-Pesth of its Bolshevist incubus. Then, again, it was believed that at least one Great Power was assisting Bolshevist Hungary against one of its own Allies, a situation offering opportunities for intrigue well suited to the Magyar mentality. Be this as it may, the result is that the Magyars of the Roumanian Banat and of Ardeal are far from becoming politically assimilated, and the fervent hatred they entertain for the Roumanians makes that process still more difficult. The local government of Ardeal wisely retained a number of Hungarians in the public services —they are short-handed even now, and as old Roumania has no experts to spare no help can be expected from that quarter. But the Hungarians that remain are by no means satisfactory; their attitude seems to be one of passive resistance, which may become sabotage under little provocation. On the whole, the Transylvan Roumanians are dealing wisely with their old oppressors, and, as a ray of hope, it appears that the Szeklers are beginning to realise this. The Szeklers, a good number of whom are really Magyarised Roumanians, are stout, determined people, and they showed some interest in the recent elections, instead of sulking as did the other Magyars.

The Germans of Ardeal and the Bukovina offer another, but less difficult, problem. While retaining the traditions and ideals of the Germany of long ago smothered by the materialism which brought the Teutonic Empires to ruin, they consider themselves culturally far superior to any of their neighbours. They are industrious and self-centred, and, for all their eclecticism, are likely to make good citizens of the new State if allowed to continue along the line they have always held to. Their power of combination makes them a political factor of importance, and they will show skill in using their power. At present they are inclined to give the new order a trial; but their Press has already given some indications of the direction their policy may take; there have been warnings against "Orientalism" in home politics, and in discussions on foreign affairs a certain anti-Anglo-Saxon tendency is beginning to show itself. The majority of Hungarians and Germans live in the towns, in communities, whereas the native Roumanians are mostly scattered about the countryside. Therefore watchful tact is required in dealing with these two racial factors.

Roumania's relations to her neighbours will be influenced, if not dictated, by the progress of her inner development and consolidation. The great riches of the country place Great Roumania in a more favourable situation than that of her neighbours, but there is as yet a lack of coherent plan for the exploitation of the country's many resources, and, as already stated, the want of sufficient expert *personnel*, especially in the new territories, adds to the difficulties of the task. That Roumania cannot be coerced by economic pressure became apparent in course of the proceedings launched against her by the Supreme Council after the rout of Bela Kun's army on the Theiss. But Roumania recognises that she need not stand alone, and has been looking round, carefully choosing her future Allies. There was a tendency towards a Latin alliance, which was voiced chiefly in the French papers of the capital. The tendency was sufficiently obvious, as also was the inspiration, and it decreased as the noise of D'Annunzio's imperialistic *fantasia* increased, drowning what slight remonstrances, if any, may have wafted down from High Olympus. In fact, the inertia of the Supreme Council towards the latest of the *condottieri* as compared with its action against Roumania has begun to react on the latter country, and the result would seem to be a tendency towards a more definite understanding with her nearest neighbours, Czecho-Slovaks, Poles, and Ukrainians. This may be a "call of the blood," for there is a good deal of Slav in those Eastern Latins, the Roumanians, but it is certainly an economic call. The Czecho-Slovaks have manufactured goods to export, and the road down the Danube passes through countries the destinies of which are still on the knees of the gods, but there are alternative routes through Great Roumania. The Poles want to be sure of an outlet to the sea other than the somewhat dubious window on the Baltic, and the Ukrainians will welcome the support of an old-established and respectable firm.

So, while the Great Powers are still havering over the League of Nations, the young, smaller nations are acting, and may before long have arranged a League of Nations for themselves and in their own specific interests, a League, moreover, which, while facing Europe's dread enemy Bolshevism, will gather strength enough to afford to smile openly at the fulminations of "High Olympus."

MR. LLOYD GEORGE ON CYPRUS.

The *Voice of Cyprus* of December 5 publishes the following letter received by the Cypriot Mission in London:—

"The Office of the Prime Minister, Downing Street, November 14, 1919.—Dear Sir,—I am directed by the Prime Minister to reply to the letters you were so good to send him dated September 15 and October 21. The Prime Minister has given his careful attention to the considerations urged in these letters. He is fully aware of the sentiment which exists among the Greek population in Cyprus in favour of the union of the island with Greece. He directs me to make it clear to you that the wishes of the inhabitants of the Island of Cyprus will be taken into the most careful and sympathetic consideration by his Majesty's Government when they consider its future. He is unable, however, at the present time, owing to the uncertainty of the international situation in the Middle East, to give any definite reply to the petition of the Cypriot Mission. The Prime Minister greatly regrets that the great pressure of public business will make it impossible for him to receive the deputation in person; he understands, however, that Lord Milner has had the pleasure of an interview with the deputation, who laid before him the facts and considerations which they desire his Majesty's Government to take into consideration when they are determining the future of the island.

LESSEPS P. LOISIDIS

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THE CARAVANSERAI.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultán after Sultán with his Pomp
Abode his Hour or two, and went his way.

A Belgrade correspondent writes:—"A young Serbian student, who was studying at Cambridge during the war, has raised a voice in protest at the way in which his compatriots are fleecing Englishmen now in Belgrade. He points out that one of his friends is paying 700 dinars a month for one small bedroom, while another is paying no less than 1,700 dinars a month for two furnished rooms. This is quite in accord with the present scarcity of accommodation in Belgrade and the outrageous prices at present obtaining, but the *Politika* rather humorously points out that this is nothing new in Anglo-Serbian relations; for our Consul here in 1837, Col. Hodges, paid Prince Milosh 900 florins for his lodgings in one of the Prince's houses. This, however, was no obstacle to their excellent relations, and in compensation the artful old Prince gave a military parade in the colonel's honour when the latter visited Posharevata."

***

The proposals for a British School of Archæology in Jerusalem remind me of a wicked little story connected with digging, which shows how even the "expert" may be led astray—shall I say?—by his own theories and his desire to "persuade" facts to fit in with them! At a certain site in what was the old Turkish Empire an archæological expedition had long and industriously been shifting tons of earth from the ruins of an ancient city, and had achieved very gratifying results in many directions. But the director was bent upon finding a particular architectural feature—I dare not be too explicit, for reasons that may be guessed—in a particular section of the ruins, and for a long time he was unable to do so. This annoyed him not a little, because it left some of his pet theories "up in the air," whereas the discovery of what he hoped, and expected, to find would lend them invaluable support. Naturally, he was not pleased. And very soon the native workmen observed that all was not well with their employer.

***

Now the big man was popular with his workers, being a genial soul, with a ready wit of the kind to appeal to them. So they decided to do their best to restore his equanimity, and one of their foremen collogued with one of the Great Man's lieutenants. The result was apparent a day or two later, when the delighted archæologist, going his rounds of the site, found the particular architectural feature for which his soul had yearned slowly emerging from the all-covering mud. As it was built in sun-dried mud brick, it was difficult to be sure about its precise dimensions at first, and it required extraordinary care on the part of the foreman to avoid cutting away the surface in clearing the mud off. However, there was the long-sought evidence, and the archæologist rejoiced as a mother rejoices over her first-born. But, alas and alack! as the mud gradually dried out, his suspicions were aroused. The "brickwork" had an odd appearance, and the pointing looked weird for such "early" work. And then . . . the truth came out. Anxious to please, the too-ardent foreman had "faked" the feature, and—— But, no! On second thoughts, the curtain had better come down at that point on an "ower-true" story.

CORSAIR.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

One sign of the advent of Christmas is the decrease in the number of concerts. At every hall the bill of fare grows less and less. It is true that until the present we have feasted well, but now it is ended. Opera at Covent Garden and the Russian ballet at the Empire have both finished their respective seasons. They have had such success that their early return is certain; but, for the time being, man has to look inside, rather than outside, himself, for enjoyment.

Thus it is that I have been to but two concerts in the last few days—both on December 17. At the first Mr. Norman Wilks gave a pianoforte recital at the Wigmore Hall. Unfortunately (for these afternoon performances are rather unmanageable things), I did not hear Mr. Wilks in his first piece—Beethoven's Sonata in C Major—but the remainder of his programme I certainly did not enjoy. He played a couple of Brahms' Ballades, Chopin's Sonata in B flat minor, and two slight things by Rhené-Baton—a sufficient selection by which to judge him. There is little tenderness in his playing, and his intellectuality is, if I may use a word in the exact, and no more offensive, sense in which I should have used it before the war, Teutonic. He can make a tremendous noise, and seems rather to delight in the consequent unintelligibility. Chopin he attended to with brilliant mercilessness: in the Funeral March, for instance, there was no mere suggestion of drums—they were there on the piano—a most unhappy position. The Rhené-Baton went on quite straightforwardly, with no trace of guile or finesse; and in these again the tone was far too strong. The clarity that comes from restraint seems to be Mr. Wilks' most urgent need.

In the evening, at the Queen's Hall, Marguerite Nielka sang with the London Symphony Orchestra. She is a young British singer whom I had not previously heard. In her first item, two songs from "Le Nozze di Figaro," she was excellent, getting precisely the simple attack on the Italian phrases without which Mozart is nothing; in the second, the recitative and aria, "Iphigenie en Tauride" of Glück, she failed in a very wide trial—the music was altogether too big for her; but in her third—"The Nightingale" of Alabieff—she again did excellently. She has a range of two octaves, but her high notes are hard and her low notes passionless. The pieces she chose to sing make anything in the way of a certain judgment of her somewhat difficult, but I should think her future lies rather along the plane of soundness than up the plane of greatness.

The orchestra was conducted by Mr. Albert Coates, whose reputation has probably reached almost every reader of THE NEAR EAST. He is certainly one of our greatest conductors, and for modern Russian music he has no equal in this country. In Mozart and Glück he was very good, but we have plenty of conductors who can be so. It was in Rimsky-Korsakov and in Scriabin's "Poème de l'Extase" that he showed most his wonderful power of interpretation. The Scriabin was intensely interesting; he made the alarmingly unintelligible appear merely strange—a very great feat.

ANDANTE.

ALL SOULS' DAY.

(From the Serbian of Brana in *Epocha*, of November 9, 1919.)
Translated by Elizabeth Christitch.

(After the tramp through Albania, and the starvation entailed by delay on its inclement coast, the Serbian army was so extenuated that hundreds of victims were shipped daily from Corfu to the adjoining lazaret on Vid Island, whence the corpses were dropped into the sea.)

Towards the black massing clouds the wild hurricanes leap,
And tear down a veil on the waters to spread:
A pall for the myriad Serbian dead,
Near Vid's dismal island consigned to the deep.

'Tis the Day of the Dead, the Feast of All Souls.
For the regiments below is no epitaph writ;
But their candles of foam by the lightning are lit,
And low-booming thunder the Litany tolls.

A spectral priest rears out of the main;
By turbulent tide frothing censers are swung;
'Mid hissing of spray is the Requiem sung;
A wide cross he traces, and glides down again.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

TANKS.*

It was in July, 1915, that Colonel Swinton "discovered" our author and his "Tanks." "What on earth are you, Lieutenant Stern?" said he. "Are you a mechanic or chauffeur?" "A banker," was the reply. "This," said he, "makes it still more mysterious.'

We doubt whether Colonel Swinton's quick intelligence saw much mystery in the connection between "Tanks" and Lieutenant Stern after he had spent half-an-hour with him. To the present writer, who had the good fortune to see a good deal of our author's masterful ways between 1915 and 1918, the connection seemed clear enough, and the country may well consider itself fortunate that the connection was there. The fact is that he is the very embodiment of the "Tank" principle. His portrait in this volume will prepare the reader for this. A man of iron determination; a man who allowed nothing to stand in the way of the production of his beloved "Tanks," caring nothing for his own comfort (or for that of others), if only his "Tanks" prospered; a man who looked on "red-tape hurdles" as things not to be leapt over with the help of minutes, but as obstacles to be crushed down; a man who troubled little to argue with those whom he, perhaps too often, felt to be fools, preferring to ignore their orders, no matter how highly placed they were. And a man who "got there" in spite of hundreds of obstacles, any one of which might well have daunted a less suitable man. There never was the least mystery about the connection between Stern and his Tanks.

And this book is curiously like him. It is a record, perfectly plain and straightforward, of how "Tanks" came to be made and what they did. It is neither modest nor vainglorious. He is out to tell us all about "Tanks," and, in doing so, he tells us a lot about himself, simply because he and "Tanks" "go together." And a wonderful story it is. There is, we imagine, hardly another instance of a totally new war weapon being conceived and developed into a practical instrument of the first importance in so short a time and at a time when the whole energies of a country were so fully preoccupied. Even had he received all kinds of encouragement and help from every side, the achievement would have been wonderful. As a matter of fact, the contrary was too often his experience. But obstructions were nothing to him. He treated them as his "Tanks" did, and down they went while he moved on slowly but surely to his objective.

This book is more than a valuable historical record. With all its matter-of-fact statements of facts, it is a book of thrilling interest which it is difficult to lay down when once begun. Sir Albert Stern would be the last to claim for himself a fine literary style, but he has produced a live book. The numerous and excellent illustrations greatly add to its value.

C. S-W.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.†

It is not altogether easy to "place" this book. Certainly it is not mere political propaganda; it is much too good for that. On the other hand, it contains too many inaccuracies and misinterpretations to serve as a scientific treatise, and, speaking for ourselves, we find its chief interest in the unconscious revelation of the writer's development. We have an able man with a definite political creed brought into contact with a mass of unfamiliar facts, and we see him struggling to reach a satisfactory orientation; he tells us on several occasions that he has changed his mind, and his honesty of purpose is apparent throughout. The mischief is that he has not gone to the most important sources of knowledge of the past: he has studied the English period of Indian history with tolerable success, but he has got an entirely wrong view of the period which preceded it, and his whole field of vision is in consequence distorted, while he constantly attributes to English influence institutions and tendencies which existed before Englishmen set foot in the country. Thus he blames Englishmen for the tawdry internal fittings of palaces, "beautiful in all the traceries and designs of Moghul architecture"; apparently, he does not know that the taste for tawdry novelties was at least as characteristic of Moghul culture as the architecture he admires, and that under Akbar and his successors ability to supply "toys," or, as we might say, gimcracks, was the surest passport to favour at the Court. Again, he asserts that the English raised the standard of official salaries; it would probably surprise him to learn that, measured in commodities, the salary of one of Akbar's provincial Governors was about ten times as great as that which a Governor enjoys to-day, and that a not very dissimilar proportion holds good throughout the scale. In the same way ignorance of the real past, or a somewhat complacent acceptance of idealistic theories, vitiates his views on police, education, and other spheres of State activity, and English administration is sometimes blamed for introducing what it has struggled unsuccessfully to eliminate. Even on matters of current practice, the book is not an entirely safe guide: we are told, for instance, that the Viceroy's Council includes a member for Public Works, who disappeared long ago, and that the Secretaries at Delhi correspond to the Permanent Secretaries of Departments at home, whereas they have an entirely different status. In view of the defects we have indicated, the book cannot be recommended to students anxious to ascertain the position in India, but its merits are still substantial and it may be read with advantage by those who know the facts and are interested rather in studying the impressions which those facts may produce.

LYRA HEROICA?*

This slight volume of verse is of a constant quality, never rising above (or even to) the ordinary. Any stanza being typical, we select the following from "Holbrook's Feat":—

Ho! Britons, we are Britishers, compatriots we thrill
To know that in the midst of foes we rule the ocean still;
Though brutal Germans say to-day we are but broken reeds,
The pluck that won Trafalgar's fight still breeds the bravest deeds.

We regard comment as needless. Possession of this kind of patriotism may be desirable, but expression (and in verse of all things!) of it is quite another matter. The best thing that can be said of the book is to mention its purpose: the proceeds derived from its sale are to be devoted to Lady Carmichael's War Fund.

BOOK NOTES.

The Cambridge University Press announce "The Cambridge Ancient History," to be completed in eight volumes, under the general editorship of Professor J. B. Bury, Mr. S. A. Cook, and Mr. F. E. Adcock. The work, of which the general plan will be similar to that of the "Cambridge Modern History," will begin with an account of archæological discovery, tracing the history of Egypt and Babylonia, Assyria and Persia, Greece and Rome, to 324 A.D.

Messrs. Longmans have in the press a new work from the pen of Professor Patrick Geddes. It is a volume on the life and work of Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose.

Mr. Murray has nearly ready "Russia in Rule and Misrule," by General C. R. Ballard, British Military Attaché in Roumania. Sir William Robertson has written a foreword to the book.

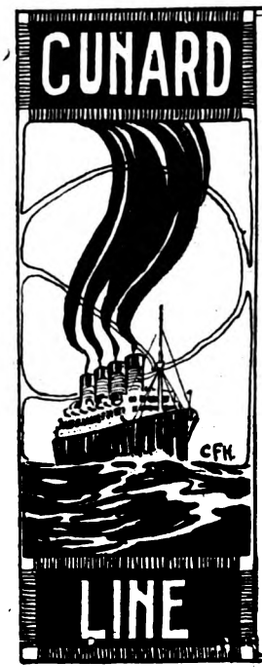
BOOK RECEIVED.

"Diana of the Ephesians." By "Rita." (London: Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Ltd. 7s. net.)

* "Songs of War and Patriotism." By K. Knight Hallowes. (Longmans, Green, and Co. 2s. 6d. net.)

* "Tanks, 1914-1918. The Log Book of a Pioneer." By Lieut.-Col. Sir Albert Stern, K.B.E., C.M.G. With many illustrations. (Hodder and Stoughton, 12s. net.)

† "The Government of India." By J. Ramsay Macdonald. (London: The Swarthmore Press. 10s. 6d. net).



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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1919. December 26	1919. December 13	Friday	1338. Rabia II. 4	5680. Tebet. 4
27	14	Saturday.....	5	5
28	15	Sunday	6	6
29	16	Monday	7	7
30	17	Tuesday	8	8
31	18	Wednesday	9	9
1920. January 1	19	Thursday	10	10

H.H. Prince Fazil Pasha has passed into Woolwich.

The Emir Faisal was received by M. Clemenceau on December 20.

The Aga Khan, who came to London to attend the dinner to Mr. Montagu, has returned to Paris.

General Sir W. Birdwood arrived at Fremantle on December 19, and received a great welcome.

Mr. Alexander Part has left London for Egypt on business, and will probably be away for two months.

Viscountess Ebrington left England on December 16 in the s.s. Minnesota to join Lord Ebrington in India.

The Prince of Wales received Mr. N. D. A. Silva Wijayasinghe, Padikara Mudaliyar of Ceylon on December 22.

The Hon. Mr. Henry Sharp has been confirmed as Secretary to the Government of India, Education Department.

Sir Herbert Dering, British High Commissioner in Bulgaria, left London on December 20 for the British Legation, Sofia.

We understand that the Shah, who is staying in Paris, will pay an official visit to the King and Queen of the Belgians on January 15.

Prince Firooz Nosrat-ed-Dowleh, Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, concluded his mission to London on December 21, and left for Paris.

The Belgian Ambassador and Baroness Moncheur returned to Brussels on December 18 from Constantinople, and will leave shortly for London.

The solemn consecration of the Most Rev. Alban Goodier, Roman Catholic Archbishop-Elect of Bombay, took place in Westminster Cathedral on December 22.

Nawab Sarwar Ali Khan of Korwai was received by the King on December 18. Mr. W. S. Davis (Political Officer) also had the honour of being received.

Princess Mavrocordato held an exhibition of Roumanian embroideries at Claridge's Hotel on December 22, 23, and 24, on behalf of the Anglo-Roumanian Guild of Art.

M. Venizelos was welcomed at Athens on his return from Paris by the heads of the Mussulman communities of Salonika, Drama, and Kavalla, who will thank him for his efforts on behalf of Macedonian Mussulmans.

M. Nicolas Misu, formerly Roumanian Minister to the Court of St. James, and recently Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been nominated Administrator of Crown Lands in succession to Prince Styrberg, who has undertaken other duties.

Sir Duncan Colvin Baillie, K.C.S.I., of the East India United Service Club, St. James's Square, S.W., and of Glenquoich Lodge, Amurlee, Perth, N.B., chairman of the British Empire Producers' Organisation, formerly Acting Lieutenant-Governor of United Provinces, India, who died in August, aged 63, left unsettled property in the United Kingdom of the gross value of £1,657, with net personalty £1,056.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania, accompanied by his sister, Princess Marie, and attended by Colonel Arion, Equerry, left London on December 19 for Paris. Prince Nicolas is proceeding to St. Moritz, on a visit to the Infante Alfonso Maria of Orleans, while Princess Marie will stay in Paris.

Mr. Athelstan Riley and Miss Riley gave a reception on December 18 at 2, Kensington Court, in honour of the Bishop of Zica, Serbia, and of Serbian Ministers. Among those present were Marie, Princess Serge Poutiatine and Prince Serge Poutiatine, the Greek Minister, the Serbian Chargé d'Affaires, the Armenian Vartoped Abel, Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, Count Cheddo Mijatovitch, Professor G. Thoumaian, and Mr. Frank Hastings.

Captain Stanley L. Willis, who has been serving in the battleship Emperor of India, flagship of Rear-Admiral M. Culme-Seymour, C.B., Second in Command of the Mediterranean Fleet, as Chief Staff Officer, took over duties on December 22 in the Naval Intelligence Division at the Admiralty, preparatory to commencing duty on New Year's Day as British Representative on the Inter-Allied Naval Commission of Control for Bulgarian Peace Terms.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The King has given directions for the appointment of Mr. Stanley Fisher (Puisne Judge) to be the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Cyprus.

M. Dragomir Stefanovitch, the Serbian Minister to Portugal, has been appointed to take charge of the Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A decree has been issued definitely nominating Mr. Sheldon Amos to be Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government in the place of Sir William Brunyate, resigned, and Brigadier-General Sir Gilbert Clayton to be Adviser to the Department of the Interior instead of Mr. J. Haines, resigned.

Mr. T. E. Peet, Lecturer in Egyptology in Manchester University, has been appointed to the Brunner Chair of Egyptology in Liverpool University. He is well known as a distinguished archæologist. In 1909 Mr. Peet assisted Professor Garstang's excavations in Egypt. The following season he was invited to excavate for the Egypt Exploration Fund at Abydos. The result of these investigations are published in the three volumes of the Exploration Fund Memoirs, "Cemeteries of Abydos."

The Secretary of State for India in Council has made the following appointments and promotions in the India Office:

Sir Malcolm Cotter Cariston Seton, K.C.B., to be an Assistant Under-Secretary of State and Clerk of the Council of India.

Mr. John Edward Ferard, C.B.E., to be Secretary in the Judicial and Public Department.

Mr. Percy Harold Dumbell to be an Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Cecil Hermann Kisch, C.B., to be an Assistant Secretary with the status of Deputy Secretary in the Financial Department.

OBITUARY.

Major William Leonard Addington died on December 15 at Exmouth, at the age of sixty-three. He was formerly in the 1st Battalion of the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, and saw service in the Tirah Campaign in the late nineties, for which he had the medal and clasp.

Major-General Julius M. Boyd, an Indian Mutiny veteran, has died at his residence, Upton Dene, Coombe Road, South Croydon, at the age of eighty-two. Besides his Mutiny service, he took part in the Abyssinian Expedition and the Afghan War, and was mentioned in despatches and received the medal for both.

The death has occurred, from an accident while flying, of Sir John Alcock. Sir John will always be remembered as having been the first, with Sir A. Whitten Brown, to fly across the Atlantic. During the war he did much good service with the R.N.A.S. on the Turkish Front. There he gained the D.S.C. In 1917 he was made a prisoner by the Turks.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

Film production has already begun in Palestine.

Emir Said has left Marseilles for Nice, where he will spend the winter.

A decree has been signed adjourning the Skupshtina until February 15.

The River Front Hotel at Busreh, which was opened last January, has been completely gutted by fire.

A Serbian Military Mission has arrived at Odessa with instructions for the Commander-in-Chief from the Serbian Government.

M. Antonescu, Roumanian Minister in Paris, confirms the announcement of his resignation. He is returning to Roumania.

Foreign coins are to be accepted at the State Treasuries of Yugoslavia on the same terms as Serbian coins of corresponding value.

General Protogeroff, the leader of the Bulgarian komitalsjis, who was imprisoned on a charge of committing various crimes during the Bulgarian occupation of Serbia, has escaped.

It is estimated by the Palestine department of the Zionist organization that the preparations for the work to be done in Palestine in order to start colonization will cost £25,000,000.

At a military parade to celebrate the surrender of Jerusalem, the British colours were hoisted as General Bols, Chief Administrator of O.E.T.A. (South), drove up. The crowds enthusiastically cheered the British troops.

The leading Deputies of the Minorities, representing Saxons, Slovaks, Ruthenes, and Jews, declared in the Roumanian Parliament on December 1 that they were all content with the Roumanian administration and with the rights that had been given to them.

Sir George Barnes has received the British Guiana Colonization Deputation at Delhi. They propose the free emigration of Indian agricultural families, with free passages and eventual repatriation, and with grants of land on nominal terms, without any trace of the old indenture system.

The Postmaster-General announces that mails, containing correspondence addressed to civilians in Turkey (except Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Syria), which reached the General Post Office, London, between 5 p.m. on November 18 and 5 p.m. on November 19 last, have been destroyed by fire.

The Bishops of Transylvania have addressed a letter to the Council of Five begging them to appoint a permanent Commission for Transylvania, with the power of making unbiassed inquiries, and possessing full authority to end Roumanian terrorism, "which to-day obstructs the path of all justice."

"On the occasion of the Declaration of Afghanistan's independence," says a Moscow report, the Ambassadors of Great Britain and the Russian Republic were present, and the Ameer stated that Turkey, Germany, England, Russia, Austria, and Bokhara had recognized the complete independence of the country.

TIME AND CUPID.

By Kim.

(From the Greek of Athanasius Christopoulos, 1772-1847.)

Father Time, who knows no pity,
Led me up a mountain side,
With my love so young and pretty,
And with Cupid, laughing-eyed.

But my love began to falter,
On that road so rough and rude;
Time cared not his gait to alter,
Cupid left me where I stood.

"Cupid, stay!" I cried, despairing,
"Why run on so fast ahead?
See how ill my love is faring,
See how hard the path we tread!"

Cupid paused irresolutely,
Hoping Father Time would stay,
Then the pair their wings spread mutely
And began to fly away.

"Friend," I called, "but whither flying?
Why this haste to meet with Fate?
See, ah, see, my love is dying,
Will you not a moment wait?"

In his joyous, mocking fashion,
Cupid, flying, turned to cry,
"From its birth the tender passion,
With old Father Time must fly!"

(Note.—Athanasius Christopoulos, 1772-1847, has written many very beautiful songs in the common dialect of modern Greece. The foregoing is an attempt to render one of the most beautiful of his simple and dainty lyrics into English verse. The same metre as the original has been retained, although the English language does not lend itself to it with the same facility as Greek. Consequently this rendering cannot be considered as an accurate translation, but the general sense has been retained throughout.—KIM.)

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A Council meeting was held on December 3 at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, Mr. S. G. Hough (Vice-President) being in the chair. There were also present:—Messrs. E. R. Calthrop, D. V. M. Clark, A. S. Cochrane, C. W. Laird, D. P. MacDougall, Col. W. A. MacDougall, D.S.O., Major G. B. Olivant, Capt. the Hon. George Savile, R. A. Willie, and the Secretary (the Rev. D. B. Montefiore, Islip, Oxon). The following sixteen new members were elected:—Lieut.-Col. Fredk. D. Murray Baillie, Gatehouse of Fleet, Scotland; Gerald Bloxsome, F.R.C.V.S., Davigdor Road, Hove, Sussex; Col. C. C. Clark, 107, Duke Street, Toronto, Canada; Rev. D. F. Clark, M.A., Dunterton Rectory, Tavistock; C. C. P. Clark, The Aerodrome, Renfrew, N.B.; E. V. Clark, Claremont, St. Anne's Crescent, Lewes, Sussex; Henry Clark, Constitutional Club, London, W.; Capt. L. L. S. Clark, Mining and Metallurgical Club, 3, London Wall Buildings, E.C.; Col. E. Hearne Cole, C.B., C.M.G., Coleyana, Okara, N.W.R., Punjab, India; Hon. S. Winter Cooke, Murndal, Hamilton, Victoria, Australia; G. A. Dutfield, Colonsay, Theydon Bois, Essex; S. S. Holmane, F.R.C.V.S., Park Lodge, Lee Green, S.E.; James MacQueen, F.R.C.V.S., Royal Veterinary College, Camden Town, N.W.; Col. B. W. Marlow, C.I.E., C.S.I., 61, Clarendon Road, Holland Park Avenue, W.; Lieut. Percy F. Thorn, Ansons Farm, Coopersale, Epping, Essex; Sydney Vincent, M.R.C.V.S., The Poplars, Brentwood, Essex. The final entries were accepted for the "Stud Book," Vol. I., which now goes to press. Further arrangements were made regarding the Arab classes and the Arab-bred classes at the London Show next March. The Secretary reported the generous gift of three Arab stallions from H.H. Emir Faisal of Arabia for the use of the Society. The Council adjourned till their next meeting in January at the Grosvenor Hotel, London.

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PEACE FOR THE NEAR EAST?

The Paris Conference has drawn up and imposed many treaties, but it has not been able to achieve for the world that measure of peace which was to be the goal of a protracted and devastating war. Indeed, it would seem as if it would be only when the last of the treaties for which the Supreme Council of the Allies is to be responsible is out of the way that the nations will be able to get on with the real work of peace. A year after the official termination of the great war at least three dark clouds obscure the horizon, apart from the blood-red patch which marks the chaos of Russia. Fiume, the Balkans, Syria—each embodies in varying degree the failure of the Allied Powers to rise to the responsibilities imposed upon them. They were charged with the task of adjusting principles and realities, and in these three directions they have abandoned principles, ignored realities, and have allowed themselves to flounder hopelessly in a slough of intimidation and weak opportunism. As soon as their paper attempts at settlement are brought up against the stern facts of actual conditions, the futility of their decisions is revealed. In regard to Fiume, the crucial test has already been applied. The two ports of Trieste and Fiume have flourished in the past side by side, because together they have served a vast area of Central Europe, and, as they were under one and the same jurisdiction, no attempt was made at discrimination between them. The Paris Conference proposed to allot Trieste to Italy and Fiume to the Yugoslavs, regardless of the fact that, as the hinterland of both is primarily Yugoslav, such an arrangement must sooner or later spell the doom of Trieste. The Italian Government saw only one way out of the difficulty—to insist that Fiume should also become Italian; and when the Paris Conference refused to agree to such a flagrant injustice to the Yugoslavs, d'Annunzio imagined that a *coup de théâtre* could take the place of a reasoned judgment of the Supreme Council. If the prosperity of Trieste and Fiume is to be maintained, there must be no opportunity of discrimination against either. The principle of nationality and the requirements of economic independence combine to prevent both being allotted either to Italy or to Yugoslavia. Thus the only solution of the difficulty is to place the two ports under some international authority which, while offering to each full scope for municipal development under the respective nationalities, will allow both to benefit impartially from the trade of the areas that geographically they serve.

Reluctance on the part of the Supreme Council or political considerations in Italy may prevent the adoption of such a solution for the Fiume problem; and if this should happen we may be certain that a final settlement has only been postponed at the expense of fresh trouble for Europe. It is noticeable that appreciation of the true position in regard to Fiume and Trieste is gaining ground in Yugoslavia, and, when it is realised that what is sauce for the Adriatic goose is sauce also for the Ægean gander, there will be some hope for a final settlement of the Balkan question. A Yugoslav writer has enunciated some pertinent truths in connection with the ultimate destiny of Trieste and Fiume. By the possession of both these ports, he points out, Italy would become absolute mistress of Central Europe and Yugoslavia as well. "Neither Germans, nor Slavs, nor Magyars can allow Italy to hold both gates of their prison. Force of circumstances, the necessity for self-preservation, will unite them against Italy . . . . Political liberty without economic independence is not worth having, and nations economically enslaved are entitled to defend themselves." If for Trieste and Fiume be substituted the Ægean littoral, we shall understand the unwisdom of trying to shut out the Bulgarians from the Mediterranean. The subject may not be pressing to-day, for Roumania, Greece, and Yugoslavia are together capable of dealing with Bulgaria. But the world knows quite well that nations, whether politically or economically enslaved, are going "to defend themselves"; in other words, that they will keep alive the seeds of unrest with the aim of ultimate emancipation. It is from no desire to challenge Greece's claims to the Ægean littoral that we urge the greater importance of lasting peace in the Balkans. Just as Yugoslavia would feel herself imprisoned economically with an Italian Fiume, and Roumania with a Bulgarian Constantza, Bulgaria must inevitably regard herself in a similar condition a few years hence, if she is cut off from access to the Mediterranean. To-day both Italians and Greeks are led astray by the glamour of immediate possession to ignore the potentialities of the future. They can promise with complete sincerity the most favoured treatment to their "prisoners" of the hinterland; but the instinct of the latter is sound, and no arrangement that shuts off large territories from their natural outlet on the sea can hope to be a lasting solution of an international problem. If d'Annunzio's escapade compels the Allied Powers to reconsider their blunder in regard to the Adriatic ports, we could wish that the fundamental truths lying behind the destiny of Trieste and Fiume could be applied in the interest of the lasting peace of Europe to other questions of which the Supreme Council has tried to rid itself by sheer opportunism.

The third cloud on the horizon differs essentially from the other two, for it is the method by which the Allied Powers have sought to give effect to their policy, rather than the policy itself, which is at fault. More by luck than by prescience Great Britain realised in time that the Arab race, as an outcome of the world war, has found its political manhood. France, lacking her Ally's opportunities for gauging the Arab mind, was inclined to look upon the Arabs as she did a decade ago, and was unwilling to credit them with more national experience than would be attributed to any other collection of independent tribes. They, however, have also drunk of the stream of constitutional knowledge, and although their statecraft may be defective, as judged by European standards, their aspirations have to be respected. The French Government, there is reason to suppose, has somewhat tardily conceded the point, but there has not yet been time for the change to become effective among French officials in Syria. The result is that, in spite of the joint assurances given by the British and French Governments, the Arabs mistrust the disinterestedness of France's intentions, and are up in arms against a French mandate for Syria and adjoining Arab territory. The unrest, as recent events prove, has spread to Mesopotamia, and threatens to take the form of hostility against Western control of any kind. There should be no delay in taking note of this symptom. Great Britain has made it clear that she regards any hold that she may be called upon to exercise over the Arabs as of the very lightest, and that she merely wishes to act as a co-ordinating link between the different, and often contending, sections of the Arab world until their own capacity for co-operation is more developed. The French Government must now recognise that the motives which prompted it to lay special stress on its Syrian "claims" were mistaken, and that the primary concern of the two Powers in their common interest is to gain jointly the confidence of the Arabs in regard to the scope of their mandates. If it should be too much to expect that the Supreme Council will correct its own mistakes, the best hope for the future lies in the speedy dissolution of the Paris Conference, in order that the League of Nations, or the States more immediately concerned, may take up afresh the three grave questions of Fiume, the Balkans, and Syria, with a view to laying more securely the foundations of peace in the Near East.

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MOSLEM TALES FROM JERUSALEM.*

I.—The Story of the Sultan Mahmoud and the Beggar.

Long years ago, the Sultan Mahmoud (on whom be peace!) sat one day upon his throne, surrounded by the multitude of courtiers, advisers, suppliants, and flatterers of all sorts whose privilege it was daily and hourly to behold the august countenance of their Sovereign. A wonderful scene was this, full of life and colour and richness. Wise and aged counsellors were there, and swaggering soldiers who had fought in many wars, and silver-tongued fortune-hunters whose ways were as slippery as their words—a great crowd. But he who is poor is also bold, and presently an ill-clad man, with gaunt face and hungry eyes, forced his way through the crowd, regardless of looks of scorn, as of rough words and hands that sought to bar his way, and prostrated himself before the Sultan's throne.

The Sultan was the kindest of men, the most merciful, the father of his people. He graciously demanded of the wretched beggar what his errand might be. It was a very humble request the beggar made: he wanted only a purse of one hundred pieces of gold, and what was that to the Sultan, whose wealth was as boundless as his generosity? The beggar, it seemed, had neither food nor clothes, nor money wherewith to get them. The Sultan looked grave. A shadow came upon the royal face, as a raincloud will dim the glory of the sun. It grieved him that one of his people should descend to the shame of begging. Yet how could he shut his ears to so sad an appeal? The beggar should have the money, but he must first earn it, and in this way he would be raised from the low estate of a beggar to the honourable place of a worker. "As I work day and night for my people," said the Sultan, "so shall you work one night for love of me. You must spend the night upon the terrace of my palace, naked, and if you survive the cold you will well have earned the money which it will then be my joy to give you with my own hands."

Despair drove the beggar to agree to this hard condition; and at nightfall he was stripped of his rags and taken to the terrace, there to remain until the morning. It was winter, and the wind swept down from the mountains, as strong as a giant and as sharp as a sword.

When the Sultan had leisure the next morning he bethought him of the beggar, and ordered the man to be brought before him.

"Tell me," he said to the wretched creature, "what you saw during your night's vigil upon my terrace."

The beggar had seen nothing worthy to be told in the hearing of the Sultan; the moon had shone in heaven, and the stars had sparkled like the lights in his Majesty's windows.

"But was that *all* you saw?" pursued the Sultan.

"It is true, O Commander of the Faithful," answered the man, when he had thought a while, "that I saw some lights as of fires, a great way off upon the hills."

"Wretch!" cried the Sultan, in righteous anger, "those fires, then, warmed you last night! You have miserably failed in your part of the bargain I deigned to make with you. Get you hence, for never shall gold of mine touch the hands of him who cannot keep his word."

It is vain to argue with the great. The beggar was hunted from the palace, weeping, and the Sultan kept his gold.

Time passed on, and in its flight brought wealth and good fortune to him who had once begged at the Sultan's throne. At length there broke the happy day when he was able to carry out the dearest wish of his heart and to invite the Sultan to a feast in the open air. The Sultan dearly loved such entertainment, and he graciously gave his royal promise to attend. When the evening came, he rode to the place appointed, followed by many of his courtiers, who were now all eager to be friends with the new favourite of their lord.

The noble company gathered together and waited—and waited, but the dinner came not. An hour passed—two—and still they waited. The Sultan became restless, his manner just a shade less gracious than it was before. The sun set, and a cool wind began to stir the trees under which the feast was to be served. The Sultan at last reminded his host that they had waited long; night was falling, and they still fasted.

"It is strange, I confess, O Commander of the Faithful," answered the other. "See, over yonder are the lights of the cooking-fires, and they are great."

"We will go and see for ourselves," said the Sultan, who could no longer hide his hunger; "for our time is too precious to be wasted thus over a matter of food. Is it not dedicated to the service of our people?"

So the Sultan and his host went forth from the silken tent to solve the mystery, followed by those of the guests who felt a like keen interest in the matter. A thousand servants were busy preparing the feast, and a hundred great fires burned in an open space between the trees.

"Here, truly, are the fires," said the Sultan, looking about him; "but where is the food?"

"There, O my lord," answered his host, pointing to a number of large copper cooking-vessels which were hung high up in the trees.

"O brainless one!—O son of a thousand donkeys!" cried the Sultan in a fury, "how can a fire, howsoever great, cook meat which hangs so far beyond its reach?"

And the other answered, respectfully, folding his hands and bowing low: "As well, O Commander of the Faithful, as those distant lights warmed me on an occasion we both remember, when I had the high honour and privilege of spending the night on your Majesty's terrace."

"Friend," said the Sultan, laying his hand on the other's arm, "bid them serve us at once, and ten times the sum you then desired shall be yours ere we sleep this night."

"Your Majesty's word is my law: it shall be done," replied the man.

And this time both Sultan and subject kept their word.

ESTELLE BLYTH.

* These tales were told to the writer by a Moslem servant in Jerusalem.

MIGHT OF EMPIRE.

By Ignotus.

War, such as that from which we have but lately emerged, is rightly considered to have a debasing and saddening effect upon humanity: yet, even as poverty makes us acquainted with strange bedfellows, so does war throw out unexpected and inspiriting gleams of humour, which very greatly serve to cheer the general outlook. More particularly is this so when men of an independent, individualistic point of view, such as our Colonies of necessity breed, come face to face for the first time in their lives with discipline; and though the Australians have no greater admirer of their fighting prowess than the writer, it cannot be denied that in certain respects (*e.g.*, saluting) they rather deviate from than follow the normal. An amusing instance of this came to my notice last year.

Egyptian General Headquarters with Lord Allenby were then at Bir Salem, near Ludd, about twenty-five miles south of Jerusalem, and round about us were camped many Australian regiments of Light Horse, on the horsemanship of which Australians very rightly pride themselves. One of our young officers riding forth one afternoon chanced to meet an Australian trooper, who, looking him straight between the eyes, as man to man, made no attempt whatever to salute. The young officer was decidedly taken aback, and being a lad of considerable ingenuity, determined to bring the offender to book. Calling him over to him, he said, "Why didn't you salute me when you passed just now?" an inquiry to which the man had nothing to say. "Oh, well, never mind," continued A. "I daresay you couldn't, for fear of falling off!" and passing on, left the offender gasping.

Another instance of making the punishment fit the crime occurs to me as I write. Among the heterogeneous mass of troops composing the Egyptian Expeditionary Force was a large number of Indian regiments, which, owing to the exigencies of the military situation,

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN

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were largely composed of young soldiers, who under normal conditions would not have taken the field till later in their service; and with such men, with the best will in the world, unrehearsed incidents are bound to occur. One afternoon the sentry on the quarter-guard of one distinguished unit turned out the guard in the ordinary course of routine to a passing officer, and in the ensuing fluster one of the men of the guard, who happened to be smoking a *huka*, turned out and unfortunately presented arms with it!

This caught the eagle eye of the adjutant who was near by, and who at once interrogated the wretched culprit on the subject. Seeing that the matter was one of pure accident, and not of design, he nevertheless decided it should not happen again, and forthwith ordered the man to attend at "orderly-room," the regimental law court, every morning for the ensuing week and pay proper compliments with his *huka* instead of his rifle to every officer that passed, according to rank. This doubtless had the desired effect of sharpening the recruit's intelligence.

Syria and Palestine are invariably pictured as lands of sunshine, and so in the main no doubt they are. Sufficient allowance is, however, never made for the very heavy rainfall, which in the autumn of 1917, when Jerusalem fell, turned the whole countryside into one vast quagmire, an effect well reproduced in the Palestine pictures now being shown on the film. The wet and the cold depressed the men's spirits in many cases, but not in all, notably in one Territorial battalion of the Middlesex Regiment, of my acquaintance.

The battalion had been in the forward line, and, being relieved, was marching back to bivouac when it came on to rain hard, and in a few minutes all ranks were drenched. This was bad enough in itself, but rendered worse by the fact that when they got to their back area they knew they would have nothing but the now sodden ground on which to lie for the night—an unpleasant finale to their hardships of the past few days. Nevertheless, the C.O. at their head, they plodded doggedly along, when a voice was heard from the front of the column, searching for a pal in rear. "D'yer 'ear, 'Arry, are yer there?" it said in the purest Cockney. "Yus," replied a disgusted man in the rear, "nearly swep' awy." "Never mind, ole son," said the optimist. "Turn over on yer back; side-stroke ain't no use for this 'ere!" A roar of laughter rent the ranks; the joke passed down from man to man, and the situation was saved.

Humour, the blessed salt of life, was never far absent where Thomas Atkins was concerned, as witness the readiness with which he christened two German areoplanes that, invariably working in concert, made life round railhead hideous while the line was being laid—the "Heavenly Twins."

For sheer aplomb and presence of mind when facing almost certain death, the following deserves more than a passing record:—When the s.s. Ivernia, outward bound to Egypt, was torpedoed in the Mediterranean, and subsequently sank, an officer of my acquaintance was ordered into his boat with his men, all hands having fallen in at their appointed boat stations on the alarm being sounded. When in his boat he was directed to lower away and take the water and stand by to pick up anyone he could.

The men in the boat, all soldiers, started to lower away, but the boat falls stuck fast as they came abreast of the second deck, probably owing to the listing over of the great ship, and no efforts of the men could free them. At that precise moment a stoker, the customary piece of greasy waste about his neck, emerged from the alleyway, and one of the boat's crew hailed him as follows: "'Ere, you're a sailor; wot's the matter with these 'ere ruddy falls?" "Sailor? I ain't no sailor; I'm a stoker, that's wot I am." "Stoker, are yer?" said the soldier without a moment's hesitation. "Well, yer'll ruddy soon be adoin' yer job!" and with that the conversation closed. For contempt of death and absolutely cheery, dauntless courage the little incident would be hard to beat; indeed, in miniature, it is an example of the spirit that won the war.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PALESTINE CAMPAIGN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—While in England in October this year I took a relation to hear the lecture "With Allenby in Palestine." I had some knowledge of the lecturer's subject, having been with the Australian Light Horse during the Desert campaign, the Jerusalem "stunt," and the Damascus "stunt."

I would not quarrel with what he said about the drive which led to the capture of Jerusalem. Later in his lecture, however, he made two astonishing and erroneous statements:—(1) He said: "During the interval between the capture of Jerusalem and the victory which ended the campaign, most of the fighting on the Palestine front was done by the Royal Flying Corps!" (2) He made the assertion that the Arab troops under Colonel Lawrence were the first to enter Damascus, and that [they?] received the surrender of that city.

Taking No. 1 first:—During the period alluded to there took place the first attack and capture of Es Salt by the 60th Division, the Anzac Mounted Division, and the Camel Corps, followed, as everybody knows, by our retreat. From April 29 to May 4 occurred the second capture of Es Salt and the second retreat from that town. These operations were followed by summer in the Jordan Valley for the Australian troops. The horrors of this summer "spell" are too many to relate. Suffice it to say that the temperature reached 120 deg. F. in a bell tent for days at a time (taken at 3rd L.H. Field Amb.). This at a level of 1,290 ft. below that of the Mediterranean. During this period also took place the attack of 1,400 Germans and two Turkish divisions on Musselabah and Abu Tulleil. This attack was repulsed by the 1st Australian L.H. Brigade.

We were bombed by hostile aircraft numbers of times in "The Valley," air protection being very bad, as no planes could be kept there. The main aerodrome was at Ramleh, forty miles away.

I speak only of the sector on which I served. By common consent it was designated one of the worst sectors of any front of the war—possibly the worst.

Does this bear out the assertion that most of the fighting was done by the Royal Air Force? Certainly not in this sector!

With regard to (2):—I here quote from the official narrative of the 3rd L.H. Brigade, but would like to say that I was with this brigade at the time of the events detailed. "On entering the north-west suburbs a good deal of rifle shooting was indulged in by the inhabitants. Some of the shooting was sniping at the column. In a few cases the snipers were observed, and the fire was returned. To discourage the sniping the vanguard moved on at the gallop until it arrived in front of the Town Hall, where it halted. The time was now between 6.30 and 7.0. Major A. C. L. Olden, second in command of the 10th L.H. Regt., was up with the vanguard. Accompanied by Major Timperly, he entered the Town Hall. A large assembly of notables and persons in uniform was in attendance. The civil governor was asked for. Emir Said stepped forward and said: 'In the name of the civil population of Damascus I welcome the British,' and then made a speech of welcome."

(I arrived upon the spot only a few moments too late to witness this event.)

"A guide to the North-east or Aleppo road was asked for. Emir Said detailed an officer named Teki Bey to act as such."

The advanced guard moved on, followed by the rest of the brigade. The narrative continues:—

"The 3rd A.L.H. Brigade were thus the first Allied troops to enter Damascus. I understand that it has appeared in the press that the Sherifian forces were the first to enter. This is not so. His force had been moving up from Deraa with the 4th Cavalry Division. Colonel Lawrence of the Sherifian Army, with an escort, pushed on to Damascus on the morning of October 1. They were seen to enter the city a few minutes before 8 o'clock." [This I can corroborate as I saw them myself.] "As there were none of our troops left in the city at 8, their absence may have given rise in the minds of the Sherifians to the erroneous belief that they were the first to enter the city. Up to the time (about 7 o'clock) that this brigade completed its passage through the city, no member of the Sherifs' army was visible in any part of the town within view of this brigade."

Do these facts bear out the statement that the Sherifian troops captured Damascus? Personally, I don't think so. I believe the readers of THE NEAR EAST will be glad to know the facts, and to give honour where honour is due.—I am, etc.,

J. E. SHELLEY, M.B., B.S.,
Late M.D. to 9th A.L.H. Regt., 3rd Brigade.

Jerusalem, November 20, 1919.

INDIAN EDUCATION.

Mr. P. J. Hartog, Academic Registrar of the University of London and a member of the Calcutta University Commission of 1917-19, lectured on December 16 at the Society of Arts on problems of Indian Education. At present, he said, for the vast majority of Indians the only way to a career lay through the University, hence an increasing pressure on those institutions and on high schools. The serious element in the situation was that while the Government colleges and a few others resisted the pressure of numbers, the pressure was growing. Unless drastic measures were taken the education itself would grow not better, but worse. At this turning-point in the history of India the part that the Indian Universities would play could scarcely be exaggerated. India's political and social future depended on her Universities.

Sir William Duke, Permanent Under Secretary for India, presided.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Old Baghdad.

In the *Treasury* of December, Mr. Donald Maxwell relates how he came upon Baghdad by night.

Suddenly we came upon a scene of strange beauty and dramatic effect. A turn in this narrow and cloister-like way brought us to an arched opening, with some steps leading to the water. It was a sheltered inlet from the surging and swirling stream of the Tigris, a kind of pocket built round by crazy old balconied buildings. This was filled with goufas, the weird round boat of the upper river, and the animated scene of people either embarking or disembarking, made a strange picture. We saw this scene for a few moments only, as we made our way through the crowd at this point. I have since wondered where all these goufas were going. They could not have intended to cross the river under present conditions. I think the rapidly rising river must have upset all calculations as to mooring boats at this point, and their owners were making sure that they were secure. The noise and apparent excitement was probably nothing but the usual Eastern custom of making a great fuss about nothing.

At last, after much marching and counter-marching, we struck the main thoroughfare leading to the Maude bridge, which we crossed. The thick, seething waters foamed and struggled against the pontoons and swept down between them like roaring devils. We were very glad to get over, for it looked as though a little more force would have carried the whole thing away. Once clear of the bridge, we found ourselves in New Street, the thoroughfare made since the British occupation, and incidentally we ran into a cheery naval officer, who picked us up and deposited us again at Navy House, whither he was bound. Had we not received this timely aid I think we should have gone on looking for Navy House all night. A more amazing situation for it could not have been found if you searched the world over. Wedged in, cheek by jowl, with buildings that might have figured in the tall streets of old London, it lay nowhere near the water, down a very narrow and crooked lane, where mules and men, camels and beggars, jostled each other on their lawful occasions.

When we had settled down there and had fine weather for several days, Brown, loath to waste the romance of old Baghdad during glorious moonlight nights, insisted on some mysterious expeditions, which were for the purpose of adventure, but ostensibly arranged to give me an opportunity of sketching. He produced an Arab, arrayed in strange garments, to carry a light, and generally act as a guide. We called him the slave of the lamp. I am quite certain that he thought Brown was mad, but this belief on the whole was rather an advantage, as he treated him with all the more respect because of his affliction, which he regarded as a special visitation of Allah.

I was surprised that he seemed to take great delight in my sketching, and several times, when I was making notes of some quaint latticed windows overhanging the narrow road, so that they nearly met, he became quite excited, chuckling and laughing to himself, as if in the enjoyment of some tremendous joke. I discovered afterwards that Brown's native servant had been pulling the leg of our worthy slave by telling him that these nightly expeditions were for the purpose of carrying off some ravishingly beautiful lady from one of the harems. No doubt he thought my sketching merely a blind. Measurements with a pencil were obviously part of some mystic language. Night after night we sallied forth and roamed about the narrow ways and tortuous turnings of old Baghdad. . . .

On one occasion we embarked in a goufa, and floated down the rapidly flowing river, keeping close to the left bank, and taking advantage of every eddy and corner of slack water made by projecting buildings, lest we should be swept down too far and lose control of our curious and difficult craft. The level of the water was far above the usual height, and came up to the very thresholds of these riverside houses. We floated on, sometimes under the walls of dark gardens, sometimes getting glimpses of interiors —interiors which in this glamour of night romance suggested something of the splendour of Baghdad's old glory:—

"By garden porches on the brim,
The costly doors flung open wide,
Gold glittering through lamplight dim."

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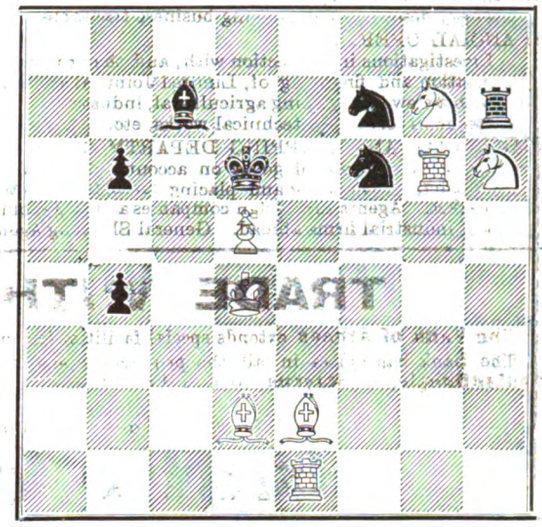
CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 7.

Black.

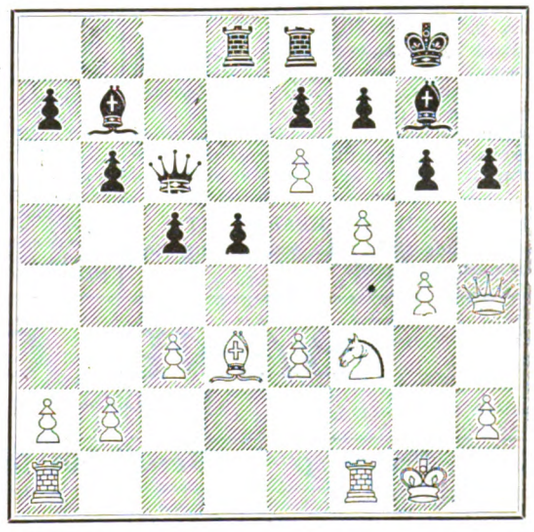


White.

White to mate in two.

The following game was played in the City of London championship last week. Opening, Queen's Pawn:—1, P—Q4; KKt—B3 (1); 2, P—K3, P—Q3; 3, P—KB4 (2), QKt—Q2; 4, Kt—KB3, P—B3 (3); 5, P—B3, P—KKt3; 6, Q—Kt3, B—Kt2; 7, B—B4, 0—0; 8, 0—0, Q—R4; 9, Kt—Kt5, P—Q4; 10, B—Q3, P—B4; 11, Q—Q (4), Q—B2; 12, Kt—Q2, P—Kt3; 13, Kt (Kt5)—B3, B—Kt2; 14, Kt—K5, QR—Q; 15, Kt (Q2)—B3, Kt—K5; 16, Q—K, Kt (Q2)—B3; 17, Q—R4, B—B; 18, B—Q2 Kt x B; 19, Kt x Kt, Q—Q3; 20, P—KKt4, Kt—Q2; 21, Kt (Q2)—B3, Kt x Kt; 22, QP x Kt (5), Q—QB3; 23, Kt—Kt5, P—KR3; 24, Kt—B3 (6), KR—K; 25, P—B5, B—Kt2.

Position after White's 26th move. P—K6.



26, P—K6, BP x P; 27, P x KtP, P—Q5 (7); 28, PB x P, P x P; 29, P—K4 (8), P—K4; 30, Kt x P (9), Q—K3; 31, B—B4, B—Q4; 32, B x B, R x B; 33, P x R, Q x Kt.; 34, QR—K (10), Q x P; 35, R x P, R—QB; 36, R x B (ch) (11) resigns.

(1) Tchigorin's Defence.

(2) The stonewall variation, which is not the least effective method of meeting this defence.

(3) Black wishes to play P—K4, and with that end in view concentrates on that square, but white, by attacking the king's bishop's pawn, is able to force him to play P—Q4 instead.

(4) Q—B2 would be followed by P—B5, and ultimately B—KB4, giving black a strong game.

(5) Much stronger than BP x Kt.

(6) R—B3 leads to very complicated positions, and just falls short of being sound.

(7) Black endeavours to break through in the centre.

(8) And black's queen's pawn is as good as an additional piece to white.

(9) If B x Kt, Q x P.

(10) The rook comes into play with decisive effect.

(11) There is a forced mate in five.

CARO-KANN.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The announcement that Sir Henry Babington Smith, K.C.B., has been elected a director of the British Trade Corporation, and has been appointed deputy-governor as from January 1, is of special interest in view of the fact that Sir Henry has been closely associated with the Near East for a considerable part of his career. It may be taken, no doubt, as an indication of the expansion of the activities of the Corporation and of coming developments that peace conditions render possible. No better choice, I am sure, could have been made of a deputy for Lord Faringdon than Sir Henry, whose experience both in official and business capacities should enable him to render invaluable service to the Corporation.

***

Among the positions Sir Henry has filled in the course of his career was that of private secretary to the Viceroy of India from 1894 to 1899, while from 1903 to 1909 he was Secretary to the Post Office. He was appointed in 1900 British representative on the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt, and was president of that body in 1900, while in 1909 he became president of the National Bank of Turkey, which is now, of course, under the control of the Levant Company. He has frequently represented the Government on conferences on postal subjects, while during the war he was a member of the financial mission of 1915 to the United States, and in the same year was made chairman of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, while he is the chairman of the Committee on Indian Currency, whose report is expected to be shortly forthcoming.

***

The rapid extension of the activities of the Abyssinian Corporation is indicated in the announcement that its agencies now cover Jibuti, Harrar, Jig-Jaggah, Dirre-Daua, Oulenketi, Hawash, Adis Abeba, Jimma, Nekempti, Gore, Bure, Sayo, Gambela, and Khartoum. This development is due, of course, to the acquisition of so many important businesses which has enabled the corporation to obtain a firm footing in the trade of Abyssinia. It may be noted that in acquiring these businesses the Corporation took over large stocks of cotton and other manufactured goods at prices very greatly below those at which they could now be bought. Extensive purchases of hides and coffee have been made in Abyssinia, and with a view to utilising to the best advantage the organisation that is being built up, the second call of 5s. per share is now being made, and the third, it is stated, will be made in March.

***

I am very glad to learn—from the *Times* special correspondent in the Middle East—that "there is no present intention of embarking on any ambitious scheme of irrigation in Mesopotamia which would involve large expenditure and heavy borrowing." My own view is that in regard to irrigation Mesopotamia should go easy—*yawash, yawash*, as the natives are so fond of saying. The engineers must consider not only the character of the land but that of its people; and though I am told that the regulation of the water supply would be a comparatively easy matter, it remains to be seen whether the people would turn it to the best advantage if they got practically unlimited quantities of it at once. The subject of "salting" of the land is perhaps not so troublesome *to the right engineer* as it is generally supposed to be; but if he cannot control the users of the water his delicate work may all be thrown away. And there are many other factors to be taken into account. Happily, the intention seems to be to "make haste slowly," and the works to be executed at once are clearly well chosen. It always seems to me that one of the most important things to do is to keep the Tigris between Baghdad and Busreh open to navigation; and that means keeping water *in* the river instead of letting it run to waste in the marshes. This, I suppose, is now being done. If not, the work should surely be put in hand at once.

***

As will be seen from the article which appears on page 736, Mr. Ainscough has some very interesting things to say regarding American and Japanese competition in the Indian market. Of the two countries he makes it clear that competition from America is likely to be much the more serious from the point of view of British manufacturers and exporters. The war, it seems, has awakened American manufacturers and export houses to the neglect of foreign trade in the past, owing to the value of the home market, and they have entered the Indian market in a spirit which is best exemplified in Mr. Ainscough's comment that they have adapted themselves to its requirements in a most remarkable way. His view is that American competition has come to stay, and that the course of the future depends on the ability of British makers to quote competitive rates, and that in turn means, of course, that labour has the solution in its hands.

***

With regard to Japan the case is very different. There is no question as to the energy with which Japan has taken advantage of the opportunity afforded by war conditions, but the methods and practices of Japanese traders have, it appears, been far from satisfactory, and the consequence is that they and their wares "have earned a rather unenviable reputation in the market." People are bound to look askance at traders when, as in the present case, there are "complaints on all sides" that shipments after the first one "are below the quality of the basis sample." It seems that, in addition, the Japanese have succeeded in gaining for themselves in general a reputation for extremely unbusinesslike methods. During the war Japanese trade with India went on increasing despite these things, because the conditions were such that buyers literally had to take goods where they could get them. But it will be another matter as regards the future when normal competition obtains. In the circumstances Mr. Ainscough's forecast of a considerable decline in the trade during the next few years is thoroughly justified.

***

It is not only in regard to the Indian market that there have been complaints with regard to Japan. During the war, as my readers are well aware, Japan attempted, with very considerable success, to develop trade with the Near East. But Japanese goods have not given satisfaction, and I do not think that her war-time markets in that region are much more satisfactory from her point of view than the Indian market.

***

One further point in regard to the first article on Mr. Ainscough's report requires reference, and that is his remarks on the trade of Germany and Austria with India. The extraordinary position which Germany was allowed to obtain in the Calcutta hides trade has been the subject of several articles in these columns, and it is stated that it appears to have been the profits made in this trade "which enabled the leading German houses to maintain such large establishments, and so to obtain a footing in the import trade." Happily, so far as can be judged, there is no likelihood that Germany or any other country will ever again be allowed to obtain such a commanding hold over one of the staple trades of the Empire.

***

On the whole, it seems to be clear that outside the hides trade Germany found the Indian trade unremunerative. According to Mr. Ainscough, there was nothing illuminating in the German methods in the case of Calcutta, and "they were doing business on conditions and for a remuneration which would have been held to be unsound and inadequate by any British firm of similar standing." In so doing they were no doubt merely preparing the ground for the time when they hoped to have a large share of the Indian trade. But in this case, unlike the Near East markets, it was fated that the time should not come.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Indian Market.

Changed Methods Essential.

The position with regard to the import trade of India is a matter of vital concern to the manufacturers of the United Kingdom since our great Dependency provides the most important market in the world for British manufactures. Thus, in the last pre-war year of the total shipments of manufactured articles 16 per cent., of the value of £67,000,000, were exported to India. During the war very considerable changes have taken place in the character of the import trade; new factors have been introduced, and other countries have had an opportunity to establish a substantial footing in this market. The new position is the subject of a very able survey in the "Report on the Conditions and Prospects of British Trade in India," of H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India and Ceylon, Mr. T. M. Ainscough, O.B.E., which has just been published. The aim of the report is to impress upon British manufacturers and exporters the recent important and far-reaching alterations in the conditions, and the need for special efforts and revised methods and organisation in order to meet them. The report is divided into five sections, the first of which is a general survey of the present trade position and a study of the most important factors which have contributed to it. In the other sections changes in the leading import trades are examined, the methods of representation and distribution in India are reviewed, the development of Indian industries and its significance are discussed, and an account is given of the prospects for the sale of Canadian produce and manufactures in India. The present article will be devoted to some of the main features in Mr. Ainscough's general survey.

German Methods.

India's imports from Germany and Austria together for the pre-war year amounted to £11,000,000, a total which does not look very formidable compared with the figures for the United Kingdom, but Mr. Ainscough point out that there was some fear that, with the cheaper goods having gained a footing in the bazaars, increased competition would later be experienced in the staple articles of import from the United Kingdom. A small, but increasing share of the import and export trade, was also handled in India by German and Austrian merchants; and it is satisfactory to know that careful investigation has shown that the United Kingdom distributors have little to learn from German methods, except the example of their infinite capacity for taking pains. Their position in the hides trade was a great asset to German merchants in India, and it is stated that it appears to have been the profits which were made in the hides business which enabled the leading German houses to maintain such large establishments, and so to obtain a footing in the import trade! This did not prove particularly lucrative; indeed, in most cases, they took great risks for a totally inadequate remuneration. Speaking generally, the conclusion arrived at from the study of German methods in the case of Calcutta is that these methods should be avoided.

Mr. Ainscough makes a few suggestions, based largely on the methods of former German competitors, for United Kingdom makers and exporters who wish to secure a fair share of the miscellaneous bazaar trade in sundry articles, which may be summarised as follows: (1) Cheapness and outside appearance are far more important in the Indian market than quality and lasting properties; (2) in quoting import merchants or dealers for goods, it should be remembered that a price c.i.f. Indian port will be intelligible at once to nearly every trader; whereas a f.o.b. rate will convey but little to his mind as to the price of the goods by the time they reach his godown; (3) attempts should be made to manufacture what India requires, and if it is thought that the dealers who buy the goods require educating this should be done by means of fresh samples, after having established a name in the line for which they ask.

American Competition.

In 1913-14 American shipments to India amounted to no more than £3,000,000; for the past year the total was over £9,000,000. Mr. Ainscough points out that the primary reason for the increased shipments of American manufactures has been the inability of the established British exporters to supply the market owing to war conditions. Before the war there were practically no American merchant importers of high standing in India, but the last few years have witnessed the opening of a few large firms, who are already doing a considerable trade. Then the war has awakened American manufacturers and export houses to the fact that, owing to the value of their home market, they had neglected the possibilities of foreign trade in the past. Banks and shipping companies are giving greater facilities to the export trade, and every effort is being made to study the requirements of overseas buyers, while American manufacturers and merchants have recently adapted themselves to the requirements of the Indian market in a most remarkable way. In the motor-car trade the policy of standardisation of cars and spare parts, the personal attention given to importers by representatives and mechanics, and the allowances for advertising and general propaganda work have had a most favourable effect on sales.

There is no doubt whatever, Mr. Ainscough says, that American competition in India has come to stay, and he adds that it is impossible at present even to estimate the probable future success of American firms when the usual United Kingdom suppliers are in a position to quote normal prices and deliveries, and when the usual channels of trade are opened up. It will depend upon the ability of our makers to quote competitive rates.

Japan.

The enormous expansion in imports from Japan was the most remarkable and significant feature of India's import trade during the war. Commercial travellers and business men have visited India in large numbers, and have been very active in furthering the development of Japanese commerce. In 1911 there were only thirty-two male Japanese in India, but it is stated that to-day their number must considerably exceed 2,000. In every fair-sized town in India, Japanese retail stores are now noticeable, and individual Japanese are to be found in the most remote parts of India. It is further pointed out that not only are Japanese goods entering the country in large quantities, but Japanese merchant houses are taking up a prominent position as general distributors of imports from all over the world, and as shippers of Indian produce.

Mr. Ainscough states that one of the most remarkable features of Japanese organisation is the way in which all their branches of activity abroad pull together as one unit for the furtherance of the national cause, and, by means of preferential treatment to their own people, *vis-à-vis*, foreign competitors contrive to place business in the hands of each other and keep out competing interests. Despite the great increase in trade, the general impression is that Japan has not made the most of an unique opportunity. It is at least significant that complaints are heard on all sides regarding Japanese methods. The first shipments against orders, it is stated, are usually a fair tender, but succeeding shipments are below the quality of the basis sample. Then importers state that they have had endless trouble owing to late shipments, failure to comply with packing, marking, or shipping instructions, mistakes in drafts and documents, late arrivals of documents, failure to answer business letters, failure on the part of travellers to keep appointments, and, generally speaking, most unbusinesslike methods. The Trade Commissioner's opinion is that the figures for 1918 indicate the high-water mark of Japanese imports into India for some time, and that during the next year there will be a considerable decline in the trade.

CYPRUS WHEAT SHORTAGE.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

The shortage of wheat, both for food and seed corn, causes some uneasiness. Papers propose that the Government should direct that until more flour can be imported no bread should be made except in the proportion of half wheat and half barley flour. It is now generally sold with 75 per cent. of wheaten flour. As regards flour, the Receiver General, Mr. Bowring, called to his office some of the principal merchants who import it to ascertain why larger quantities were not imported. They replied that as regards India and Egypt exports were not allowed without Government permission, which was hard to obtain. With regard to Australian flour, it could only be obtained through England and Egypt in small quantities. To charter vessels with full cargoes would involve expenses beyond their powers in present circumstances. A request was made that Government would take measures to facilitate business in India and Egypt. Mr. Bowring agreed to represent the matter. Hopes are expressed that the authorities will undertake both the importation and control of prices in order that relief may be given for the supply of bread, which is reported as far too scarce in parts of the island, and a liberal supply of seed corn on equitable terms to the peasantry.

YUGOSLAV CURRENCY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BELGRADE, December 6.

The restamping of krone is proceeding. It is watched in Serbia with a rather academic interest, for this currency is virtually out of circulation now south of the Save and the Danube, not by any official action, but owing to the attitude of the people themselves; for the past month or so, more and more peasants have refused to accept krone in payment for commodities, and to-day in Belgrade krone are scarcely negotiable. Krone are now officially banned in the Podrinje Province. North of the rivers, of course, they are still the current coinage, and in some districts have almost maintained their pre-war purchasing power. Two more wagon loads of the new paper dinars have arrived from Paris, and it is hoped that in a few weeks they will be issued and the old dinar and krone notes recalled.

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The Egyptian Cotton Boom.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 8.

There have been remarkable happenings on the Alexandria Cotton Bourse, where cotton this week attained the unprecedented price of 100 dollars per kantar. Several landowners were fortunate enough to secure even higher prices for their crop, and Egypt stands to make something in the neighbourhood of one hundred millions from this one crop alone. It is surely without precedent that a country in one season should gain from even its most important crop an amount far in excess of its public debt.

It is, of course, very satisfactory that this country should find such a remunerative market for its staple crop, but there are two regrettable features about this great accession of wealth. In the first place, it is to be feared that it may have a bad moral and social effect on the population, and that it will bring in its train a further rise in the local cost of living, which is already at a very high level. The fact that the people, especially the rural population and the absentee landlords, will have in their hands so much more than they have ever obtained from their cotton crop will mean that they will not exercise the economy in consumption which the low level of cotton prices some four years ago compelled them to practise, and which is so essential at the present moment, when the world's output is still far below its requirements. As a consequence, local consumption of the necessaries of life will increase, and there will be still great stringency in supplies, with the inevitable result that prices will soar up during the coming months, to the detriment of the urban population, which will be very hard put to it to make both ends meet.

That is one unfortunate feature of the present rise. The other is that no part of this great accession of wealth will go to the State. It is true that while the foreign cotton firms will, as usual, make large profits, the people will also gain their share; but in view of the extra expenditure of the Government and the probable need of doing something more to assist the lower order of Government servants and to meet the shortage in supplies which will, it is to be feared, exist for some little time, it would have been more in keeping with things if the Government could have provided itself with the necessary funds by tapping the present increased wealth instead of having to content itself with the relatively small increment that will fall to it from Customs duties, etc.

A golden opportunity for the State to build up its financial position against the demands for capital expenditure which the future will bring is indeed being lost, owing to the inability of the Government to impose any further taxation than that already in force, which did not anticipate such an increase in national wealth as the present, and which for some time has been quite out of proportion to the taxable capacity of the people and the requirements of the country as a whole. Of course, when the international obstacles are removed, it will be possible for the Government to introduce the necessary taxation, etc.; but that eventuality is still far off, and even if it were to come within the realms of practical politics in the very near future, it is to be feared that the taxable income will meanwhile have been for a great part dissipated in unremunerative objects, as has been the case with previous accessions of wealth, and that by the time such taxation is imposed the new sources of revenue will have become very much shrunken by comparison with what they are to-day.

EGYPT'S TRADE IN AUGUST.

Increased Exports.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 4.

The August Customs returns, just published, show a further reduction in the volume of imports, but a corresponding increase in exports. During the month imports amounted to £E3,737,811 and exports to £E5,293,116, as compared with £E5,289,384 and £E3,615,416 respectively during the corresponding month the previous year. For the eight months the total imports came to £E26,842,444, and the exports to £E32,020,159; these figures are respectively a reduction of £E3,527,621 and £E540,522 on those for the same period of 1918, and in consequence there is a welcome swing round in the trade balance in favour of the country.

The principal imports during August were coffee, £E112,733; kerosene, £E117,130; bleached cotton piece goods, £E199,840; printed cotton piece goods, £E149,041; cotton piece goods dyed in the piece, £E284,534; cotton piece goods dyed in the yarn, £E140,335; jute sacks, £E116,594; tobacco, £E328,662; the most important decreases being in meat, £E305,126; benzine, £E106,340; coal, £E174,773; cotton piece goods, printed, £E173,750; cotton piece goods dyed in the piece, £E217,005; cotton piece goods dyed in the yarn, £E105,513.

Under exports the principal item was, of course, cotton, which accounted for £E4,621,586, as against £E3,131,737 during August, 1918, the quantity rising from 404,034 to 570,075 kantars. Cotton seed amounted to £E82,528, refined sugar to £E50,646, gum to £E34,916, and cigarettes to £E84,561.

Re-exports continue to expand, as a consequence of the resumption of trade with the adjoining countries in the Levant. During the month the value came to £E280,774, an increase of 60 per cent. on August, 1918, and bringing the total for the eight months to £E3,354,603, compared with only £E749,169 on August 31, 1918. The most important items are cotton piece goods, vegetable oils, kerosene, hosiery, woollen goods and sacks, of which large quantities are required by Syria and Turkey.

Great Britain's share of imports fell off by 30 per cent., but in exports it rose by over 100 per cent. In the former the decrease corresponds almost exactly with the general diminution, but in exports the expansion is, of course, very much in excess of the general rate. This latter feature is accounted for by cotton, of which Great Britain took over 70 per cent., as against only 50 per cent. a year ago. Other countries showed a reduction in imports, with the exception of China, whose share doubled, France, whose share rose slightly, and the United States, which jumped from £E33,000 to £E236,000; whilst the only countries to show any notable increases under exports were France, by 100 per cent., and the United States, from nil to £E918,990 (due to cotton). During the month Palestine made larger purchases and sent larger consignments than the previous year, and that country is, in fact, working up quite a considerable trade with Egypt.

The figures for traffic between the Sudan and Egypt continue to be satisfactory. During the months imports amounted to £E141,504 and exports to the Sudan to £E318,894; for the eight months the totals are £E1,120,264 and £E1,840,263. The chief imports into Egypt were livestock £E48,360, sesame £E23,431, gum £E15,439; whilst the main items in the opposite direction were wheat and wheat flour £E37,751, refined sugar £E77,454, cotton textiles £E88,292, and tobacco £E20,767.

Sir Christopher Thomas Needham, a director of the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank and the Manchester Ship Canal, has joined the board of the Guardian Eastern Insurance Company.

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Engineering.

MOTOR SHOW REFLECTIONS. VI.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Another remarkably fine six-cylinder car, also typical of all that is best and most up-to-date in British automobile practice, was to be seen on the stand of the Lanchester Motor Co., Limited, one of the oldest and best-known of motor manufacturing firms. The pre-war design of Lanchester was familiar to every road user, but the new design has little in common with its predecessor. As a matter of fact, in outward appearance it is much the same as any other car of its size; it is in construction and essentials that it is replete with novel features.

The engine is of 40 horse-power, although here it should be explained that according to Royal Automobile Club rating it only develops 38.4 horse-power, the cylinders being 4-in. bore by 5-in. stroke. The Treasury rating is 38.7 horse-power, but, on the other hand, according to another equally well-known formula, the engine is of 47 horse-power, so that it may be taken that this car has an engine of ample power for its work.

The cylinders are cast in two blocks of three, and here we have distinct evidences of aero-engine design as the valves are of overhead type, actuated by means of rocking arms of small size and neat design, from an overhead cam-shaft. From an engineering point of view, it is interesting to note that both these valves, inlet and exhaust, are slightly inclined from the vertical. This design enables the cam-shaft to lie between them, which gives a very neat finish and adds in no small degree to the efficiency and appearance of the engine. The appearance is enhanced by enclosing all the valves and valve mechanism by an aluminium cover, which gives a very clean look to the engine.

The car exhibited on the Lanchester stand was a "V"-fronted limousine, which was painted in pale grey as far as the waist line and finished above in jet black. The bonnet, as shown, was of polished aluminium, but, of course, this could be enamelled or painted to suit the requirements of the owner, or the finish of the body. The wheels were in grey, and the interior was upholstered in black Morocco leather.

A very fine 4-cylinder and a handsome 6-cylinder car were shown by the Sunbeam Motor Car Co., Limited, and the comparatively long stroke of the engines adds greatly to their power and flexibility. The bore is 80 and the stroke 150 millimetres, sizes which have commended themselves to the firm for many years. It will be remembered that their 30-h.p. model 6-cylinder car of 1915 had engines of 90 by 160 stroke and bore, and proved itself quite the equal of any car on the road for general service. Personally, I have a decided preference for a fairly long-stroke engine, and have yet to be convinced that the "square," or nearly square, engine is its superior in any way. (A square engine is the trade term for an engine which has a bore equal to the length of its stroke.)

Of the Sunbeam models the smaller is rated at 16 and the larger at 24 h.p., and in the latter there are four speeds and reverse, and the final drive is helical bevel. The cooling water is pump circulated, and whilst the engine and chassis are as light as possible, in no respect has strength been sacrificed to secure reduced weight. The springing is by means of semi-elliptic springs, and the steering is by worm and sector. Brakes act on the transmission and rear wheels, and the propellor shaft is enclosed. The wheel base is 11 ft. 4½ ins., and electric lighting set and self-starter are included.

The smaller chassis, of 16 h.p., has also four speeds and reverse, with leather cone clutch. The springing is similar to that of the heavier model, and the propellor shaft is also enclosed, with helical bevel final drive. The brakes act in the same way and the steering is on the same principal. Electric lighting and starting is provided, and the wheels are fitted with Dunlop tyres, 880 by 120 mm.

A British firm who carried out an exceptional amount of research work during the years before the war, and who were engaged later in building cars which were called upon to undertake the most arduous of duties during the war, are Vauxhall Motors, Limited, and a close examination of their products at the show proved that whilst in general appearance their cars resembled the pre-war productions, in reality they had been considerably improved. Here, again, weight has been reduced without any sacrifice of strength; indeed, the chassis are, if anything, stronger than they were before.

The two types shown were both four-cylinder models, of 25 and 30 h.p. respectively, the engines being of four-cylinder, monobloc construction. In the smaller model the bore and stroke are 95 by 140 mm., and in the larger, 98 by 150 mm. Each of these engines has been designed to secure high efficiency and a large reserve of power, which can be brought into use when high speeds are required or stiff gradients have to be negotiated. The larger model, in particular, combines great power with exceptional speed, and possesses a power of smooth running and a freedom from vibration which places it almost in a class by itself.

The smaller model has fan and pump combination for cooling, Vauxhall plunger pump system lubrication, high-tension magneto with variable ignition, and a White and Poppe carburettor. The gear-box allows of four forward speeds and a reverse; there is a gate-change, multiple-disc-type clutch and spiral bevel final drive. The wheels take the usual 880 by 120 tyres, and the wheel base is 10 ft. 10 ins., and the wheel track 4 ft. 8 ins. The car is fitted with a C.A.V. dynamo lighting set and a starter by the same well-known firm. A particularly handsome model shown was the Vauxhall-Arundel car which had a cabriolet body with interior drive, seating five persons. Altogether, the Vauxhall had a very fine show, and I anticipate this firm doing a big overseas trade amongst buyers of discernment.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

An Air-Propelled Car.

In recent notes we referred to the experiments that were being carried out in Algiers, or elsewhere in North Africa, by French officers with a vehicle which, mounted on six wheels, and with a 50 h.p. engine, was propelled by air. It was called the "new ship of the desert." It is interesting to see in recent British patents the inclusion of a British air-propelled car, which, judging from descriptions, seems to be more practical and efficient than the "new ship of the desert." The British car's chassis is fitted with a tractor air screw, and is devoid of the usual automobile transmission. The inventor's scheme is that at low speeds the car shall run with all four wheels upon the road. As the engine is accelerated up to high revolutions, he considers sufficient lift will be obtainable for the front wheels to rise clear of the ground, when two side planes should be hoisted to an angle of incidence affording maximum lift. The car will then skim along with its front wheels in the air and its rear wheels on the ground, somewhat after the fashion of a hydroplane. It is calculated that the vehicle can be very lightly built, since the wheels are all trailers, and require no tractive adhesion, whilst contact with the ground at high speeds will be so light that a journey over rough ground will entail little shock or vibration.

Self-Cleaning Wind Screen.

Considerable interest is being taken by sea-captains, locomotive engineers, motorists, and others in an ingenious use of centrifugal force, which is seen in a revolving screen used in motor-cars, aeroplanes, locomotives, ships, motor-boats, etc., to protect the observer from the weather, and always give him a clear view in snow or rain. The screen is a glass disc driven at high speed by a tiny electric motor. Any snow, water, or dust that may settle on it is immediately thrown off. So efficient is the type used on sea that, if drenched with a bucketful of water, perfect definition is restored to a powerful pair of binoculars behind it in a couple of seconds.

Sugar from Sawdust.

In view of the scarcity of sugar, a few notes on a very interesting discovery may be of interest to some enterprising firms or others in the East. By a new process and a special plant, sugar can be manufactured from sawdust! In its natural state wood contains no sugar, but when sawdust has been submitted in a closed retort to treatment with a weak solution of sulphuric acid under pressure of six to seven atmospheres—that is, 90 to 100 lb. to the square inch—a very remarkable transformation takes place. The resulting product, which is termed "sacchulose," contains about 25 per cent. sugar, and a number of volatile products are formed in the process, including acetic acid, furfurol, and formaldehyde. It is claimed that the new product is a valuable fodder for horses, cattle, and sheep. Draught horses, in whose daily rations 4 lb. of "succhulose molasses" were substituted for 4 lb. of oats, were kept under observation for seven months, and were all found to have increased in weight; while a colt which was in so weak a condition that veterinary surgeons advised its destruction, was submitted to the same treatment, and put on 260 lb. in six months. Many other uses, it is stated, could be found for this converted wood substance, as, for instance, in the manufacture of spirits, explosives, margarine, and, in virtue of its characteristics as a non-conductor of heat, as packing for refrigerators, incubators, ice-chambers, and so on. A factory capable of treating 200 tons of sawdust per week could, it is claimed, turn out between 300,000 and 400,000 gallons of proof spirit per annum. This would also give by-products of 50 tons of acetic acid, ten tons of furfurol, and 2,000 gallons of methyl-alcohol for recovery. The spirit produced is of high quality, being free from fusel oil.

A Crossley Brochure.

Crossley Motors, Ltd., of Manchester, have just issued an illustrated brochure showing their productions from the "Manchester" touring car to their luxurious saloon limousines. Since this well-known company issued its last catalogue under peace conditions it has passed through a period of rapid development. There has been an increase in production from 30 cars per month to hundreds, an addition in works acreage from 2½ to 10 acres, and an increase in the number of hands from 500 in 1914 to 5,000. The brochure, which is in every way an admirable production, contains besides the illustrations of motor-cars, photographs of the engines, etc., and views of Crossley cars on active service with the R.A.F. in Arabia. "There were no roads except those we made ourselves," wrote a sergeant mechanic in charge of a fleet of Crossleys in the Arabian desert, "and we had to go over boulders and rough country day after day, not forgetting the soft sand, of which there was plenty, and I'll back a Crossley against any other car for getting across and out of it; they are marvels."

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a telegram from H.M. Ambassador at Paris reporting that, according to telegraphic information received from the Resident-General, the export of beans and lentils from the French Zone of Morocco is now free.

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The Eastern Light Castings Company, Limited, has been registered as a private company, with a capital of £200,000, in £1 shares, to carry on in the United Kingdom, India, Burma, and elsewhere, the business of ironfounders, founders in brass and other metals, engineers, manufacturers of all kinds of light and heavy casting, forgings, stoves, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—A. W. Steven, Laurieston Iron Works, Falkirk, ironfounder; T. M. Waugh, Grange Iron Works, Falkirk, ironfounder; J. Brown, Sunnyside Iron Works, Falkirk, ironfounder; J. Cameron, South Bank Iron Works, Kirkintilloch, ironfounder. The first directors are A. W. Steven, T. M. Waugh, J. Brown, J. Cameron and W. T. Maclellan. Qualification, £100. Registered office: 142, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.

Sudan Cotton Fuel and Industrial Development.

The Sudan Cotton, Fuel, and Industrial Development Company (1919), Ltd., was registered on December 9 with a capital of £250,000. Objects: To acquire from Wells Vegetable Fuel Power Company, Ltd., the exclusive benefit for the Sudan of certain inventions relating to the carbonisation of wood and other substances and the generation of power; to carry on the business of planters, charcoal manufacturers, merchants, shipowners, etc. Subscribers (one ordinary share each):—T. J. Smith, 72, The Drive, Golders Green, N.W.; J. E. Ward, 44, Bedford Row, W.C., C.A.; G. F. Fawcett, 4, Rashleigh House, Thanet Street, W.C.1, chief draughtsman; W. J. Williams, 42, Osborne Road, Stroud Green, N.4, draughtsman; G. H. E. Goodman, Northesk, Carew Road, Wallington, Surrey, chartered secretary; F. T. Smith, 4, Trigon Road, S.W.8, clerk. Three of the first directors are to be appointed by the subscribers and two by the Wells Vegetable Fuel Power Company, Ltd.

Caucasian Trading.

The Caucasian Trading Company, Ltd., was registered as a private company on December 10, with a capital of £100,000. Objects: To carry on in Eastern Europe and Asia the business of general merchants, importers, and exporters of all kinds of goods and merchandise, shipowners, and builders, etc. Subscribers (one share each):—M. Skidelsky, 24, Holborn, E.C., merchant; W. E. Rickerd, 20, Gamage Buildings, Holborn, E.C., solicitor. First directors, M. Skidelsky and W. E. Rickerd. Registered office, 24, Holborn, E.C.

E.E. Pappadimitriou and Co., Ltd.

E. E. Pappadimitriou and Co., Ltd., was registered as a private company on December 10 with a capital of £50,000 (£10,000 seven per cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To take over the business of shipping merchants carried on by E. A. Eason and G. E. Pappadimitriou at 2 and 4, Beaver Street, Manchester, as E. E. Pappadimitriou and Co. Subscribers (one share each): E. A. Eason, 26, Dickinson Street, Manchester, merchant; W. H. Eason, 26, Dickinson Street, Manchester, merchant; G. E. Pappadimitriou, 2 and 4, Beaver Street, Manchester, merchant. First directors: E. A. Eason, W. H. Eason, and G. E. Pappadimitriou.

Bagdad Persia Transportation.

The Bagdad Persia Transportation Company, Ltd., was registered as a private company on December 17 with a capital of £50,000 (45,000 preferred ordinary shares of £1 each and 20,000 management shares of 5s. each). Objects: To carry on in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Persia, and other countries in the East the business of running a motor and other transport service, warehousemen, wharfingers, forwarding agents, etc. Subscribers (one share each):—C. S. Crosse, Kennans House, Crown Court, Cheapside, E.C., solicitor; E. J. White, Lismore, Rockleigh Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, solicitor's clerk. First directors to be appointed by subscribers.

Howden Overseas Trading.

The Howden Overseas Trading Company, Ltd., was registered as a private company at Edinburgh on November 22 with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. Objects: Commercial, shipping, engineering, financial, sales, commission and general agents, merchants and contractors, shipowners, etc. Subscribers (one share each): J. Wilson, 61, West Regent Street, Glasgow, accountant; D. Gardiner, 86, St Vincent Street, Glasgow, solicitor. First directors: J. H. Hume, Glasgow, engineer; W. H. Howden, Glasgow, engineer; and J. B. McGillivray, 195, Scotland Street, Glasgow, commercial manager. Secretary: A. E. Thewlis. Registered office: 105, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.

ROUMANIAN OIL PRODUCTION.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest reports that the petroleum pipe line from Ploesti to Constantza viâ Cernavoda has now been repaired and is in use. The best authority states that the capacity of the line is about fifty to sixty wagons daily, or five to six hundred tons of oil. For the present the line is being used to pump distilled oil—lampante—to Constantza for the purpose of completing the quantity sold to the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey by the Roumanian Government Bureau of Exportation (Birex). This is of good augury for the financial future of trade with Roumania (notwithstanding the fact that, according to the sale conditions, the whole of the foreign exchange resulting therefrom is to be handed to the Roumanian Government), as there is some hope that a part may find its way into commercial hands, and thus facilitate import trade.

GOODS "IN TRANSIT" AT SALONIKA.

It has been reported that goods shipped to Salonika in transit for Serbian destinations have been detained at the instance of the Greek customs authorities owing to the fact that the provisional manifests are frequently incomplete or incorrect in detail. In view of the irregularity of the mails, the original manifests of British steamers do not arrive at Salonika before the steamers, as would be the case under normal conditions, and the agents are therefore compelled to deposit with the customs authorities manifests drawn up in accordance with the provisional documents on board the vessel. It not infrequently happens that goods destined for Serbia are not so indicated on the provisional manifests, although all the other relevant documents confirm their Serbian destination. The customs authorities have declined to allow the necessary corrections to be made in the light of the complete and more precise information furnished by the original manifests when they are eventually received. In these circumstances, it is very necessary for shippers to provide, in the first instance, shipping documents correct in every detail and clearly indicating that the goods in question are being shipped to Salonika "in transit" to Serbian destinations; and it is also necessary that the cases should be addressed to the ultimate consignee in Serbia and marked "Transit pour la Serbie," with a view to obviating their detention and delay at the port upon arrival. Shippers should also take every precaution to advise their shipping agents at Salonika in advance in regard to all shipments made through that port for inland destinations.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The Papayanni Line s.s. Austrian for Malta and Alexandria, leaves Liverpool on January 3. The same company's s.s. Serbino for Smyrna and Constantinople, will leave Liverpool on January 10.

The Bibby Line s.s. Derbyshire, leaves Liverpool for Rangoon on January 7.

The Anchor Line s.s. Olympia, leaves Liverpool for Bombay on January 2.

The Johnston Line s.s. Wingate for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza, closes for cargo at Liverpool on January 7.

The Moss Line s.s. Amasis sails on December 29 for Gibraltar, Algiers, and Malta.

The Papayanni Line s.s. Maronian, for Malta and Alexandria (taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Mersina, Cyprus, etc), will leave Liverpool on January 3.

The Anchor Line s.s. Olympia, for Bombay, will leave Glasgow on December 23 and Liverpool on January 2.

Shipping Notes.

The s.s. Peshawar, built to the order of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, ran successful trials on the Firth of Clyde on the 18th inst. This vessel has been built to the highest class at Lloyds' Register, and has a gross tonnage of 8,000. She is fitted with all the latest modern conveniences for loading and discharging, as well as refrigerating machinery.

At the annual staff dinner of the Anchor Line, which was held in Glasgow on December 12, after a lapse of six years owing to the war, it was mentioned that the steamers of the company carried during the war 10,564 officers and 285,582 troops. In order to replace lost tonnage the steamers building number seven, five of 14,200 tons each, and two of ten thousand tons each, the latter being for the Indian trade.

There was launched on December 9 from Messrs. Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron Co.'s yard at Hebburn-on-Tyne, the ss. Gamaria, a "B" standard cargo steamer, originally ordered by the Shipping Controller, and taken over by the British India Steam Navigation Co. under Lord Inchcape's scheme. The Gamaria is 460 ft. in length between perpendiculars, her breadth, moulded, is 52 ft., and her depth, moulded, to upper deck 31 ft. Her carrying capacity is about 6,200 d.w. on a draught of 25 ft. 3 in. This is the third steamer put into the water since August last for the British India Steam Navigation Co., and the same builders have yet another building for that company, which vessel is in a forward state of completion.

The directors of the Dooars Tea Company have declared a dividend of 1s. per share on the Ordinary shares, less tax at 6s. in the £, payable January 1.

The directors of the Jetinga Valley Tea Company have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent. (being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum), free of income-tax, on the Ordinary shares, payable December 22, also the usual Preference dividend, less income-tax, payable December 31.

The directors of the Bogawantalawa District Tea Company have declared an interim dividend of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares, less tax at 6s. in the £, payable January 7.

OAKEY'S
The Original Preparation for polishing Cutlery.
Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. each.
SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, &c. Tablets, 6d.
WELLINGTON KNIFE POLISH.
"WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks, 1d., 2d., and 4d. each, and 1s. Boxes.
Polishing Paste, Furniture Polish, Plate Powder.
Glass Paper, Emery Cloth, Black Lead Packers.
WELLINGTON MILLS, WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, S.E.1.

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SMYRNA FRUIT EXPORTS.

According to statistics published by the Smyrna Chamber of Commerce the quantity of raisins exported from Smyrna during the period May 22 to September 30, aggregated 16,992 metric tons valued at £T4,709,383; figs exported amounted to 5,324 metric tons, valued at £T1.135,875, and shipments of dried fruit totalled 180 metric tons, valued at £T105,570, says the Representative British High Commissioner at Smyrna, in a recent report. In view of the seasonal nature of the trade the major portion of these exports naturally took place in the latter part of the period reviewed above. Thus, shipments of raisins from August 14 to September 30 amounted to 10,208 metric tons of a value of £T3,249,527, those of figs totalled 2,692 metric tons, valued at £T985,229, and those of dried fruits 158 metric tons' weight and £T92,840 value. Thus, of the total weight of 22,507 metric tons of fruit, valued at £T5,950,828, exported from May 22 to September 30, 13,059 metric tons, valued at £T4,327,596, were shipped after August 13.

The United Kingdom took 7,858 metric tons, valued at £T2,479,010, of the 10,208 metric tons of raisins exported between August 13 and October 1, while 973 metric tons, valued at £T323,316, went to Trieste, 802 metric tons, valued at £T266,610, were sent to Holland, 435 metric tons, valued at £T141,305, to the United States, and 73 metric tons, valued at £T19,485, to Sweden, nearly half of the small remainder, or 29 metric tons, valued at £T8,760, going to Italy. The United States absorbed by far the heaviest proportion of the figs exported from August 14 to September 30, taking of the total of 2,692 metric tons no less than 2,488, valued at £T907,147. The United Kingdom was second, and its purchases covered only 66 metric tons, valued at £T25,345, Holland following closely with 64 metric tons valued at £T24,311. France bought 11 and Canada 10 metric tons, valued at £T4,137 and £T3,780 respectively. Trieste, Sweden and Russia each took smaller quantities.

IMPORT OF GOLD INTO INDIA.

When firms or institutions wish to import gold into India without incurring risks from possible variations in the acquisition rate they may enter into a contract for that purpose with the Controller of Currency, or, in the case of gold to be delivered at Bombay, with the Accountant-General, Bombay. The terms of the contract are as follows:—The Government of India will pay for gold on delivery at the acquisition rate prevailing at the time when the contract is entered into. Firms or institutions which take advantage of this arrangement must undertake to ship gold within thirty days of making contract, but failure to ship within thirty days will not operate to make a contract void or involve other penalty, provided it is shown to the satisfaction of the Controller of Currency that delay in shipping was due to no fault of importer.

Gold not ordered from India, but by offices in London or New York for branches or constituents in India, should be contracted for with the India Office, who will be prepared to make similar arrangements.

If no contract is made, gold will be paid for, as before, at the acquisition rate prevailing on the date of shipment on a through bill of lading.

Our Malta Correspondent writes (November 28):—The chief imports of the week have been cottonseed and carobs. The importation of general produce is approaching the normal, and prices show a falling tendency.

Sir Henry Babington Smith, K.C.B., C.S.I., has been elected a director of the British Trade Corporation, and has been appointed deputy-governor.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
General the HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart.

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LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
J. BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
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LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
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London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.

PARIS:
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER:
25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES:
41-45, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.
Aleppo. Beyrout.
Alexandretta. Damascus.
Caiffa.
Hamah. Saida.
Homs. Tripoli.

SALONICA. ARABIA. MESOPOTAMIA.
(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

The Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Roumanian Consolidated.

The report of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields to June 30 states that the proceedings at the annual general meeting convened for December 18, owing to the absence of accounts from Roumania, will necessarily be of a purely formal character. Possession of the company's oil properties was regained in February last, and during the four months ended June 30, 1919, there was a total production of 6,897 tons. Since that date the company's operations, in common with those of all other oil producers in Roumania, were suspended for six weeks by a general strike of the workers in the petroleum industry. The strike came to an end on August 22, and development work was actively resumed. Production for the present is restricted by the absence of export facilities. Storage accommodation throughout the country is full to overflowing, and the company's extensive tank reservoirs, which were destroyed by the British Military Mission in November, 1916, have not yet been replaced. Plans have been approved for the erection of a new refinery at Ploesti, and it is intended to push forward this important work with the least possible delay. In order to provide funds for the purchase of certain new machinery and plant and for proceeding with the work of development an issue of capital was made to existing shareholders in July, 1919, and 204,166 shares of £1 were subscribed and allotted.

Egyptian Salt and Soda.

The report of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company for the year ended August 31 states that the restrictions imposed by the Government have been still more severe during the year under review. The quantity of cotton-seed allotted to the company by the Government has only been about half that crushed during a normal year, and consequently profits realised from that source were very limited. The directors have, however, continued to give every attention to the manufacture of products other than those obtainable from cotton-seed, and have been successful in increasing the profits substantially in this way. On the other hand, it has been found necessary to close the soda works at Wadi Natron temporarily and to reduce expenses there to the lowest minimum. Large stocks of soda have been accumulated during the war by our competitors in Europe, and these stocks, since transport facilities have again become available, are now thrown on the market at prices with which it is impossible to compete owing to the prohibitive cost of fuel compared with fuel in Europe. The gross profits are £E227,667,089. General administration expenses amounted to £E4,638,158, and interest on debentures £E3,209,375, leaving a net profit of £E219,819,556. The directors have set aside for depreciation £E19,303,696, leaving a profit of £E200,515,860, which, with balance carried forward, £E141,847,380, makes £E342,363,240. The directors propose a dividend representing 45 per cent. on the share capital (9s. per share), and that £E123,957 be carried forward.

Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway.

The report of the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway Company includes the audited home accounts for half-year ended September 30, and detailed accounts of the working of the railways in India for the half-year ended March 31. The gross earnings for the half-year ended March 31 last were Rs.4,73,18,682, increase Rs.59,67,269; expenditure Rs.2,27,48,825, increase Rs. 40,85,721; net earning Rs.2,45,69,857, increase Rs.18,81,548. The result of working for the whole year, on cabled advice from India, show total net earnings amounted to Rs.5,33,39,700. From the company's share of these earnings the stockholders received a total payment, including the guaranteed interest of 6½ per cent. on the capital stock, comparing with 6½ per cent. for 1917-1913. As the profits of the undertaking are calculated on the results of working for the complete financial year, no statement of profits for the half-year ended September 30 can be made, but information from India justifies the directors in recommending the payment in January next of an interim dividend in respect of the current financial year of £1 per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest then due.

Eastern Extension Telegraph.

The report of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company for the year ended December 31, 1918, states that the revenue amounted to £2,070,111, from which are deducted £405,347 for the ordinary expenses and £214,009 for maintenance of cables and other special expenditure, leaving a balance of £1,449,762. After providing £250,511 for income-tax and excess profits duty payable in England and £30,000 for interest on Mortgage Debenture stock, there remains £559,055, to which is added £72,261 brought forward, making a total available balance of £631,316, out of which the directors have placed £350,000 to general reserve fund. Four dividends of 1½ per cent each and a bonus of 2 per cent. have been paid, making a total distribution for the year 1918 of 8 per cent., free of tax, leaving a balance of £41,316 to be carried forward.

Northumberland (Ceylon).

The report of the Northumberland (Ceylon) Rubber and Tea Estates for the year ended June 30 states that the balance at credit of profit and loss account, after writing 10 per cent. from values of machinery and buildings, is £4,810, with which the directors propose to pay a dividend of 4 per cent., to write off coast advances £1,000, and to carry forward £812.

East India Distilleries.

The directors of the East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories announce that, owing to the late arrival of the accounts from India, they will be unable to submit the profit and loss account for the year ended September 30, 1919, within the statutory limit. A proposal will be made at the meeting to adjourn to a convenient date. The directors state that the result of the year's working, after paying the interest on and providing for the redemption of debenture stock, will show a satisfactory margin of profit. In the circumstances they feel justified in recommending a distribution on the preference shares of 3½ per cent., payable January 1, to complete the payment of the preference dividend to September 30.

ABYSSINIAN CORPORATION.

The following circular letter is issued to the shareholders of the Abyssinian Corporation, Ltd.:—In making the second call of 5s. per share, the board are able to report that the agencies of the corporation now cover Jibuti, Harrar, Jig-Jiggah, Dirre-Daua, Oulenketi, Hawash, Adis Ababa Jimma, Nekempti, Gore, Bure, Sayo, Gamtela, Khartoum, and that in these centres trade is being actively carried on by the traders who built up the prosperous businesses which were taken over by the corporation. In acquiring these businesses large stocks of cotton and other manufactured goods have been taken over at prices very greatly below those at which they could now be bought. Extensive purchases of hides and coffee have been made in Abyssinia, and in order to utilise to the best advantage the organisation now being built up the board consider it necessary that the second call should be made now, and the third call in March. The corporation has been fortunate in acquiring the services of Mr. E. A. Pilcher, late joint manager of the Eastcheap branch of the London Joint City and Midland Bank, Ltd. Mr. Pilcher, who will take over the post of London manager on January 1, 1920, has had wide experience for many years in banking and merchandise, and will shortly proceed on a visit to Abyssinia to study the business of the corporation in that country.

TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN MOROCCO.

H.M. Representative at Tangier reports that the Bulletin Officiel of October 20 contained a Dahir, dated October 7, regulating the cultivation of tobacco in the French Zone of Morocco, the principal provisions being as follows:—No person may cultivate tobacco without first obtaining a special licence from the Régie Co-interessée des Tabacs. In granting these permits the Régie will take into consideration the necessities of its business, the results of previous cultivations, and the suitability of the applicant. The seeds to be sown will be supplied by the Régie, who will purchase the entire crop of a quality up to standard at a price fixed beforehand for each quality of leaf. Elaborate precautions are provided to prevent any of the leaves, plants, or seed getting into unauthorised hands, penalties being enacted for infractions of the regulations. According to the Morocco Order-in-Council, 1889, any person who, "without a proper licence, sells or attempts to sell, or offers for sale in Morocco, any goods whereof the Government of Morocco has by Moorish Law a monopoly," is guilty of a grave offence against the Order.

Swansea Harbour Trustees have granted a further lease of land to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, who are expending six millions at Skewen and Swansea. It is expected the first oil cargo to arrive at Swansea will be about April. Crude oil will be pumped direct from the company's own steamers on arrival at Swansea through six miles of pipe track to Skewen, where extensive refineries are now nearing completion. The refined oil will then be pumped back to Swansea for distribution.

It is officially announced, says a Reuter message from Belgrade dated December 18, that in pursuance of a decree of the Cabinet of the 5th inst., the Minister of Finance orders that Bulgarian nickel coins of 5, 10, and 20 centimes and Greek coins of 5, 10, and 20 lepta shall be legal tender throughout the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes until further notice on the same footing as Serbian nickel coins of the same nominal value. Foreign coins will be accepted at the State Treasuries and other public caisses on the same terms as Serbian coins of corresponding value.

The directors of the Del Rey Tea Company recommend a final dividend of 11 per cent., less tax at 6s. in the £ on the ordinary shares, making 15 per cent. for the year, transferring £2,000 to reserve, £2,000 to debenture redemption fund, and £60 to debenture premium account.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter),

13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put export advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

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ON 'CHANGE.

THROGMORTON STREET, Tuesday.

The brighter tendency for Egyptian securities at the end of last week has continued this week, and in certain instances we have had some large buying orders from Egypt with a very fair improvement in prices. The buying is still by far in larger volume than the selling, and, in fact, in certain shares there is practically no supply at all.

In Government stocks some fairly large transactions have been carried through in Egyptian Unifieds and 3½ per cent. prefs., the former closing ½ higher to-night at 73½. There is a slight decline of half a point to be recorded in Turkish Fours, 1891, and 3½'s, to 68 and 58 respectively. Turkish Unifieds have also dropped a point to 39.

In Bank shares Nationals have kept steady, with some fair transactions, but Agriculturals have been in strong demand throughout the week, and are closing to-night ¼ higher at 5⅝. Anglo-Egyptian Banks are exceptionally ⅛ easier at 16⅛. Land Banks have almost recovered the dividend at 6 xd.

This company pays a final dividend of 6s., making 9s. for the year, as against 8s. 6d. for the previous year.

In Railways, Delta Lights finish strong at 6¼, after being easier.

Land shares have been active, and a fairly large business has been put through. Aboukirs are closing strong to-night at 32s., a rise of 2s. 3d., and the debentures are two points up at 110½. Some business has been done in Béhéras round the current level, with buyers still about and no sellers. Egyptian Agriculturals debentures are about a point higher at 71½, and are being quietly picked up. New Egyptians have been a very strong market; large transactions have taken place, and the shares are finishing 1s. up at 28s. 3d. Sudan Plantations, after dropping down to 7¼, are closing only ⅛ lower at 7½. Union Foncières have been a strong market, and just at the close have had a sharp jump of ¼ to 4¾, at which price some small business was put through, with buyers still about.

Among the Miscellaneous descriptions, Abyssinia Corporations are 6d. down at 6s. 6d. on the fresh call just made, and Alexandria Waters have relapsed 5-16 to 10 11-16. Egyptian Hotels are ¼ higher at 2. Salts and Sodas are ⅛ down at 2⅞, although the report is generally considered entirely satisfactory, and the dividend of 9s. gives the investor a very high yield at the present price.

In Oil shares, Anglo-Egyptian B have dropped back 3-16 to 4¾, and Roumanians are fractionally easier at 22s. 9d.

In Greek securities there has again been a further tumble all along the line, but at the close the floating supply of the old loans has been absorbed, and the market wears a much harder appearance. The 1881, 1884, Monopolies, and 1890 Loans are all closing at 49, a drop of one point, after business at lower prices. The 1889 Loan is four points lower at 39, after having been done at a still lower price. Funding has dropped three points to 47, after business as low as 46. The 1902 Loan is two points down at 56, and the 1910 Loan a point lower at 49.

The total gross sea and land Customs revenue of India, excluding the salt revenue, for the eight months April to November, amounted to 1,308 lakhs of rupees, compared with 1,197 lakhs of rupees for the corresponding period last year.

STRANGERS' HOME FOR ASIATICS,

WEST INDIA DOCK ROAD, LIMEHOUSE, LONDON, E.

"I was a stranger and ye took me in."

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD; 4, LOMBARD STREET E.C.

AYAHS' HOME,

26, King Edward Rd., South Hackney, London.

ESTABLISHED 1825.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE LONDON CITY MISSION.

Hindustani spoken. Ayahs boarded and lodged at 18s. per week each until their Return Passage is paid or a Situation secured for them to return. Ayahs met at any Dock or Railway Station in London. Experienced, well-recommended Ayahs taken entirely off Ladies' hands for a certain payment, which differs according to time of year. Ladies proceeding to India or China requiring an Ayah can generally obtain one by applying to Mrs. FLETCHER, Matron.

INDIAN STOCKS AND SHARES.

INDIAN FUNDS.

Interest Due.	Name.	Dec. 17	Dec. 24
Ja. Ap. Jy. Oc.	India 3½% Stock,* 1931 ..	60½	60⅜
Various dates..	Do. Rupee Paper 3½%	68	65⅜
	* Redeemable.		
	CORPORATION STOCKS.		
	Bombay Imp. Trust 4% Gua. Debs. 1959	82	82
	Bombay (Port) 4% Stg., Debs., 1909-10, 1939-40	73½	73½
	Calcutta (Port of) 4% Stg. Debs., 1938....	75	74⅜
	BANKS.		
	Chartered of India	82	82
	Eastern	7 1/16	7 1/16
	Mercantile of India A.	40	40½
	National of India	57	57
	MINES.		
	Balaghat Gold Mining	6/-	6/-
	Do. 10% Non.-Cum. Pref.	11/4½	11/6
	Burma Corp.	13 1/16	13
	Burma Ruby Mines Ord.	13/6	14/-
	Champion Reef Gold	4/-	3/6
	Mysore Gold Mining	3/32	3/32
	Nundydroog	15/5	14/9
	Ooregum Gold Mining Ord.	17/-	15/9
	Do. 10% Min. Non-Cum. Pf.	21/2	21/3
	Do. do. do. (2s. 6d.)	24/3	24/3
	OIL.		
	Assam Oil	2 7/16	2 7/16
	Do. Cum. 7% Part Pref.	2⅛	2⅛
	Brit. Burmah	2⅜	2 3/16x
	Burmah Oil Co. Ord.	17⅜	17⅛
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	1⅜	22/6
	Do. 6% Cum. 2nd Pref.	10	10
	RAILWAYS.		
	Assam Bengal	56	56
	Bengal and N.-Western Ord.	142⅜	142⅜
	Do 3½% Cum. Pref.	57	57
	Bengal-Nagpur	119½xd	119½xd
	Bombay, Baroda and Cent. India	106	106
	Burma Railways	114	114
	Darjeeling Himalayan 3½% Deb.	—	—
	E. Indian Ann. "A," 1953	13	13
	East Bengal Ann. "A," 1957	12⅜	12⅜
	Gt. Indian Pen. Ann. "A," 1948	13xd	13xd
	Madras and S. Mahratta	108½xd	108½xd
	Rohilkund and Kumaon Ord.	132⅜	132⅜
	Nizam's Guaranteed State	85	85
	MISCELLANEOUS.		
	Bengal Iron and Steel Ord.	11 3/32	40/-
	Do. 6% Cum. Pref.	10	10
	P. and O. Steam Navigation 5% C.P.	85xd	85xd
	Do. Deferred	575x	575x
	TEA, COFFEE AND RUBBER.		
	Assam Co.	77	77
	Bengal United Tea Ord.	16⅜	16⅜
	British Indian Tea Ord.	9⅜	9⅜
	Cachar and Dooars Tea Ord.	16⅜	16⅜
	Ceylon (Para) Rubber Ord.	12/3	11/9
	Ceylon Tea Plantations Ord.	7⅞	7⅞
	Consolidated Estates	7	7
	Darjeeling Co.	27/-	27/-
	Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Ord.	3⅛	3⅛
	Dooars Tea Ord.	4	4
	Doolgalla (Ceylon) Rub. Est.	19/-	1/8
	Gen. Ceylon Rubber and Tea Est.	65/6	66/10½
	Grand Cent. (Ceylon) Rubber	34/6	34/9
	Hewagam Rubber Co.	21/10½	1 1/16x
	Jhanzie Tea Association	12	12
	Jokai (Assam) Tea Ord.	24⅛	24⅛
	Kepitigalla Rubber Estates	19/-	1/8
	Lanka Plantations Ord.	28/9	29x
	Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Ord.	60/6	60/6
	Malayalam Rub. and Produce	47/6	2⅛
	Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Ord.	14½	14½
	P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber Estates	31/3	1⅛

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON DECEMBER 6.

Supplied by G. L. Morters, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	£	21⅛
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	79
" " Div.	Frs.	103
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	15½
" priv.	£	4 1/32x
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	111
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1½ 1/32
Building Lands of Egypt	£	3/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte	£	4 5/32
Société des Immeubles	£	7 1/16
Bonded Stores	£	15 5/32
Unifiée	£	74⅛
Privilégiés		61½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6 5/32
Nungovich Hotels	£	7⅛
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5½
" " Fond.	£	445
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3 1/32x
" Ord		104/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	24 3/32
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6⅜
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	111⅜
" Jouissance	Frs.	154
Egypt & Levant SS. Co. Ord.		32/-x
Egyptian Markets		24/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	480
" Div.	Frs.	420
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	324
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	6½
Egyptian Salt and Soda		59/3
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	698
" Fondateur	Frs.	970
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	432
" 1903 "	Frs.	296
" 1911 "	Frs.	286⅜
Consolidated Land	P.T.	6
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	£	31/32

STOCKS AND SHARES ON INDIAN EXCHANGES.

	Nov. 13. Rs.	Nov. 20. Rs.
GOVERNMENT LOANS.		
3½% Government Paper	64½	66
4% Government Paper, 1916-17	80	80
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank of Simla	300	300
Bank of Bengal	1900	1925
Bank of Bombay	2360	2350
Bank of Madras	1350	1350
Bank of India	150	150
Tata Industrial Bank	70	62
COAL.		
Baraboni	19	19
Bengal	900	894½
Burrakur	56	54
East Indian	38⅜	38⅛
Equitable	50⅜	50⅛
Pench Valley	370	370
Raneegunge	72	71½
Standard	71	71
COTTON.		
Bengal Nagpur	314	300
Bombay Dyeing, etc.	2380	2375
Bowreah	625	706
Buckingham	1425	1425
Carnatic	680	680
Cawnpore	75	75
Century	822½	805
Central India	3252½	3235
Elgin	1626	1617½
Gold Mohur	125	125
Khatau Makanji	1300	1300
Muir	5600	5600
New Ring	120	120
Phœnix	190	190
Svadeshi	845	850
	3085	3035
JUTE.		
Alliance	790	750
Barnagore	206	225
Budge Budge	725	705
Clive	320	260x
Dalhousie	570	520x
Delta	730	705
Fort Gloster	1087	1080
Gourepore	1365	1497½x
Howrah	53½	46½x
Kamarhatty	994	958
Kanknarrah	784	784
Khardah	620	540x
Kinnison	1095	990x
National	475	470
Standard	779	660x
Union	965	865x
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Bengal Paper Mills	92	92
Bengal Timber Trading	600x	652x
Burn and Co.	330	350
Carew and Co.	98	98
Cawnpore Sugar	226½	245
Cawnpore Woollen	150	150
Champaran Sugar	200	210
Howrah Oil Mills	40	40
India General St'm.	165	165
Indian Iron and Steel	110	110
	97	93
Marshall Sons and Co.	16½	16⅜
Titaghur Paper	410	382

The directors of the Galaha Ceylon Tea Estates and Agency Company, Ltd., have declared an interim dividend of 8 per cent., free of tax, on the Ordinary shares on account of year 1919.

The directors of the Associated Tea Estates of Ceylon have declared an interim dividend on the Preference share capital of 3 per cent. on account of the season ending June 30, 1920, payable December 31, less tax at 6s. in £.

The Eastern Telegraph Company announces a third quarterly interim dividend of 1½ per cent. on the ordinary stock, free of tax, in respect of profits for the year ending December 31, 1919.

Greek Loans.—The coupons falling due January 1, 1920, will be paid in gold at the stated percentage of their face value, in accordance with instructions received from the International Financial Commission, Athens:—Five per Cent. Loans of 1881 and 1884, 32 per cent.; Four per Cent. Monopoly Loan of 1887, 43 per cent.; Five per Cent. Funding Loan of 1893, 32 per cent.

Land Bank of Egypt.—The Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris have received instructions to pay coupons due January 1, 1920, of the Four per Cent. and Three and a-Half per Cent. bonds.

Egyptian Markets.—An interim dividend of four per cent. (less income tax at 6s. in the £) for the year ended December 31 has been declared on the ordinary shares, payable on and after December 22, at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 27, Clements Lane, London, E.C.4.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended November 29 amounted to £7,456.

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